



**Sacred Heart Cathedral  
Hamilton**



**St Joseph's  
The Junction**



**St Mary, Star of the Sea  
Newcastle**



**Immaculate Heart of Mary  
Tighes Hill**



**St Laurence O'Toole  
Broadmeadow**



**Christ the King  
Mayfield West**



**St Peter-in-Chains  
Stockton**

# THE CATHOLIC PARISHES OF THE CITY PASTORAL REGION

**SUNDAY, 10TH JANUARY 2021**  
**THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD, Year B**

*Incorporating the Parishes of St Benedict's, Inner Newcastle, St Columban's, Mayfield, and St Peter-in-Chains, Stockton, our mission is to proclaim Christ in the inner suburbs of the City of Newcastle.*

*Our Parishes incorporate suburbs located on the traditional country of the Awabakal and Worimi peoples. We acknowledge their cultural heritage, beliefs and continuing relationship with the land, pay respect to their Elders past and present, and commit ourselves to work together for reconciliation and justice.*

## **Our Clergy**

Fr Andrew Doohan  
Fr John Vo  
Fr Peter Street

Fr Matthew Muller  
Fr Peter Thoai  
Deacon Lawrence Caelli

## **Regional Office—St Benedict's Centre**

25 Farquhar Street, The Junction  
PO Box 6, The Junction 2291  
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E: [newcparish@mn.catholic.org.au](mailto:newcparish@mn.catholic.org.au)  
W: [www.newcastlecatholic.org.au](http://www.newcastlecatholic.org.au)  
W: [www.sacredhearthamilton.org.au](http://www.sacredhearthamilton.org.au)

## **Our Staff**

Margaret Cox (*Reception & Administration*)  
Debbie Ryan (*Reception & Administration*)  
Anne Warren (*Business Manager—Interim*)  
Dr Anne Millard (*Director of Music, Liturgy & Sacramental Program*)

## **Other Contacts**

<b>Lingard Hospital Team</b>	Contact the Regional Office
<b>Mercy Pastoral Team</b>	Sr Patricia Whitten rsm (02) 4979 1116
<b>St Joseph's Pastoral Team</b>	Contact the Regional Centre

## **Regional Bulletin**

The Bulletin is published weekly.

Prayer requests and items for the Bulletin should be received at the Regional Office by Noon on Wednesdays.

## THE PARISH DIARY...(for the week ahead)

*First Week of Ordinary Time*

Monday— 11th January

8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral

Tuesday—12th January

8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral

8:15am Rosary @ Stockton

8:30am Mass @ Stockton

9:15am Mass @ Broadmeadow

9:30am Mass @ The Junction

Wednesday—13th January

8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral

9:00am Mass @ Mayfield West

9:15am Mass @ Tighes Hill

9:30am Mass @ The Junction

Thursday—14th January

8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral

8:30am Mass @ Stockton

9:15am Mass @ Broadmeadow

9:30am Mass @ The Junction

Friday—15th January

9:00am Mass @ Mayfield West

9:15am Mass @ Tighes Hill

10:15am Mass @ The Junction

11am Exposition @ The Cathedral (until 12pm)

11am Reconciliation @ The Cathedral

12:05pm Mass @ The Cathedral

Saturday—16th January

9:30am Mass @ The Cathedral

10:10am Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help

Followed by Reconciliation @ The Cathedral

5:30pm Vigil Mass @ The Cathedral

5:30pm Vigil Mass @ Broadmeadow

6:00pm Vigil Mass @ Mayfield West

Sunday— 17th January

1st Sunday of Ordinary Time

7:30am Mass @ St Mary's

8:00am Mass @ Tighes Hill

9:00am Mass @ The Junction

9:00am Mass @ Stockton

9:30am Mass @ The Cathedral

*Live streamed via the Diocesan website:*

[www.mn.catholic.org.au/places/livestream/](http://www.mn.catholic.org.au/places/livestream/)

10:30am Italian Mass @ Broadmeadow

11:30am Polish Mass @ The Cathedral

5:00pm Mass @ The Cathedral

5:30pm Vietnamese Mass @ Mayfield West

**PLEASE ENSURE THAT YOU ARE EXERCISING  
SOCIAL DISTANCING  
BEFORE, DURING AND AFTER MASS**

## PARISH NOTICES

**PRAYING THE SUNDAY GOSPEL:** Parishioners in the City Pastoral Region are invited to connect and pray with each other from your own home. God speaks to us through the words of the Gospel and then through artist's images of the Gospel message. Each Wednesday 5.00-5.45pm.

You and your friends are welcome to join via the internet:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86560170676>

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF SURVIVORS OF ABUSE

We acknowledge the lifelong trauma of survivors and their families, the failures of the Catholic Church to protect, believe and respond justly to children and vulnerable adults, and the consequent breach of trust.



Fr John Vien Vo is from Nha Trang Diocese in Vietnam and he has been ministering in our Diocese at the Sugarloaf and East Lake Macquarie Parishes.

He joins our City Pastoral Region to minister to the Tighes Hill and Broadmeadow communities.

We welcome him to the Region and look forward to getting to know him.



### A CALL FOR DELEGATES DIOCESAN SYNOD: SESSIONS 2 & 3

On 8th August 2019 Bishop Bill convoked the Maitland-Newcastle Diocesan Synod – Building the Kingdom of God Together. Session One – Celebration – was held on 21st November 2019. Session Two – Discernment – will be held on 22nd May 2021 and Session Three – Implementation – on 20th November 2021.

Parishes are being asked to nominate delegates to receive an invitation from Bishop Bill to attend Sessions Two and Three. If you are interested in being a participant in, or contributing to the Synod, please contact the Parish Office on 4979 1101.

For further information on the role of a Delegate please go to <https://domnsynod.com.au/get-involved/delegates/>

**NOMINATIONS CLOSE 15 JANUARY 2021**

## THE RITE OF BAPTISM

Baptism is the ritual that incorporates new members into the Church. It is the first of the seven sacraments, and a celebration common to all Christian traditions.

Baptism is the first sacrament of initiation. Through baptism, Christians are washed in the waters of rebirth and given a share in God's own life. Reborn in Christ and supported by the community of faith, all those baptised are offered the promise of eternal life.

Infants and young children celebrate the Rite of Baptism of Children and complete their initiation at a later time. Those who are older celebrate Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist in one ceremony.

If possible, baptism should take place on Sunday, the day on which the Church celebrates the paschal mystery.

It is the role of the parents, accompanied by the godparents, to present the child to the Church for baptism. *The parents*, in asking that the child be baptised, are accepting the responsibility to teach the child about the practice of the faith and to bring them up to keep God's commandments as Christ taught us. During the preparation for baptism the parents will be asked to confirm their willingness and ability to give the child a Catholic upbringing; marital status does not impact on this.

The role of the *godparents* is to join with the parents in presenting the child for baptism and in supporting the child in their faith journey throughout their life. They take an interest in the child as they grow up and by example encourage them in living a life of Christian values.

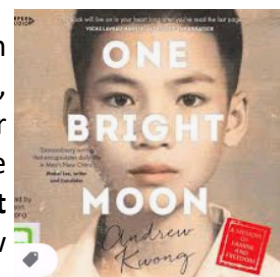
In the early Church the godparents were sponsors who taught the new Christian, usually an adult, about the faith.

Something of this role remains today. For this reason a godparent will generally be an adult (at least 16 years of age). The Church also requires that at least one godparent be a confirmed Catholic. It is permissible for a non-Catholic to act as witness to a child's baptism. However it is not possible for an unbaptized person to act as godparent or witness. In some cultures it is a common custom to allow a greater number of godparents; in Australia there are usually two.



We are continuing our 'Zoom' book club meetings.

At 6.00pm on Sunday 7 February, we will share our thoughts on the book, **One Bright Moon** by Andrew Kwong.



If you would like to participate in book club meetings, please send an email to the Regional Office, [newcparish@mn.catholic.org.au](mailto:newcparish@mn.catholic.org.au)

## CHRISTIAN FORMATION COURSE 2021

The Christian Formation Course (CFC) is a face-to-face learning experience that allows participants to explore their life's journey and their faith within the Catholic Tradition. This one-year course introduces participants to scripture, theology, church history, sacramental life, and liturgy. The course runs across twelve months and comprises of eight units. Commencing on Tuesday February 2, 2021, no prerequisite formation or qualification is required to enrol. All who complete the Course are awarded a diocesan Certificate in Christian Formation.

*Bishop Bill writes:*

The Christian Formation Course has been a very great contributor to Catholic life in this diocese. It is based on adult learning methods that involve the participants in on-going dialogue and engagement with the material and the staff. It is my hope that many, many people will take this course. I further hope that it will be just the beginning of their living more informed and engaged Christ lives.

If you would like to enrol in the Christian Formation Course in 2021 go to:

<https://www.mn.catholic.org.au/church-mission/catholic-life/adult-faith-formation/christian-formation-course/>

## ST BENEDICT'S PARISH MEN'S BREAKFAST

A planning meeting for our activities in 2021:  
Saturday 16th January 11.15 am – ALL welcome.  
Bennett Hotel - 146 Denison Street, Hamilton  
(Covid safe)

We already have some interesting guest speakers lined up. Suggestions regarding speakers or other matters welcomed.

Neil Jones 0410 572 579

## TODAY'S LITURGY

### INTRODUCTORY RITE

**Entrance Antiphon:** Cf. Mt 3:16-17

After the Lord was baptized, the heavens were opened, and the Spirit descended upon him like a dove, and the voice of the Father thundered: "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."

#### Gloria

*Glory to God in the highest,  
and on earth peace to people of good will.*

We praise You. We bless You. We adore you.

We glorify You.

We give You thanks for Your great glory.

Lord God, heavenly King, O God almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only-begotten Son.

Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father:

You take away the sins of the world,  
have mercy on us.

You take away the sins of the world,  
receive our prayer.

You are seated at the right hand of the Father,  
have mercy on us.

For you alone are the holy one. You alone are the

Lord. You alone, are the most high Jesus Christ.

With the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

**First Reading:** Is 42:1-4. 6-7

**Here is my servant, my chosen one, in whom I am well pleased.**

*We pause for silent reflection.*

**Responsorial Psalm:** Ps 28:1-4. 9-10. R. v.11

(R.) The Lord will bless his people with peace.

1. O give the Lord you sons of God,  
give the Lord glory and power;  
give the Lord the glory of his name.  
Adore the Lord in his holy court. (R.)
2. The Lord's voice resounding on the waters,  
the Lord on the immensity of waters;  
the voice of the Lord, full of power,  
the voice of the Lord, full of splendour. (R.)
3. The God of glory thunders.  
In his temple they all cry: 'Glory!'  
The Lord sat enthroned over the flood:  
the Lord sits as king for ever. (R.)

**Second Reading: Acts 10:34-38**

God anointed him with the Holy Spirit and with power.

*We pause for silent reflection.*

**Gospel Acclamation** (Please stand)

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

The heavens were opened and the Father's voice was heard: "This is my beloved Son, hear him."

**Alleluia!**

**Gospel:** Mk 1:7-11

You are my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

*We pause for silent reflection.*

#### Homily

##### The Nicene Creed

I believe in one God,  
the Father almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the Only Begotten Son of God,  
born of the Father before all ages.  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father;  
through him all things were made.

For us men and for our salvation he came down  
from heaven, and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of  
the Virgin Mary, and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate,  
he suffered death and was buried,  
and rose again on the third day in accordance with  
the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory  
to judge the living and the dead  
and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is adored and  
glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.  
I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins  
and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.



## Apostles' Creed

I believe in God,  
the Father Almighty,  
Creator of Heaven and earth;  
and in Jesus Christ, His only Son Our Lord,  
Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, (*all bow*)  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.  
He descended into Hell;  
on the third day He rose again from the dead;  
He ascended into Heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of God, the Father  
almighty; from there He shall come to judge the living  
and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Catholic Church,  
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the  
resurrection of the body and life everlasting.

## LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

### Memorial Acclamation

We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your  
Resurrection, until you come again.

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### Communion Acclamation

Behold the One of whom John said:

"I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God."

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### NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

#### Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

1 Sam 3:3-10,19

1 Cor 6:13-15, 17-20

Jn 1:35-42

Weekday and Sunday readings can be  
found at [www.usccb.org](http://www.usccb.org)

## Prayer Requests

**RECENTLY DECEASED:** Jack Evans, Maisie Owens,  
Bernard Michaelson, Annie Kelly

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Marian Bridges, Sylvia Fitzpatrick,  
Josephine Timbs, Catherine Harrington.

**SICK:** Lee Murphy

*Names may be placed here by contacting the Regional Office.  
Please refer to the Policy Document on the Regional website—  
visit [www.newcastlecatholic.org.au/downloads](http://www.newcastlecatholic.org.au/downloads)*

## REFLECTION by RICHARD LEONARD

A very drunk man stumbles upon the local Baptist minister conducting his Sunday service down by the river. He proceeds to venture into the water and stands next to the minister. The minister turns, notices the man and says, 'Mister, are you ready to find Jesus?' The man looks back and says, 'Yes Reverend, I am.' The minister then dunks the fellow under the water and pulls him right back up. 'Have you found Jesus?' the minister asks. 'No, I didn't!' replies the man. The minister then dunks him under for quite a bit longer, brings him up and says, 'Now brother, have you found Jesus?' 'No, I did not!' says the drunken man again. Disgusted, the minister holds the man under for at least thirty seconds this time, brings him up and demands, 'For the grace of God, have you found Jesus yet?' The man wipes his eyes and pleads, 'Are you sure this is where he fell in?'

One of the actions I find most consoling about the scene in today's Gospel is that John the Baptist immersed Jesus in the waters of the Jordan. Indeed the word *baptism* is derived from the Greek word, *bapto*, or *baptizo*, to wash or to immerse. Most of us were baptised with just a sprinkling of water. These days, however, the Church encourages adults and infants, where possible, to follow in the more ancient tradition of full immersion. We all know the amount of water used in the baptism does not destine the power of the sacrament – that's found in how we live our Christian commitment away from the font. What full immersion does is link the ritual of baptism more directly to the experience of Jesus and enables the symbolism of the water to be more fully realised.

There are no half measures about immersion, we are in there boots and all. In an extraordinary visual metaphor Mark tells us this is what God does for us in Christ. We don't have a detached God who only presides over us. We don't have a coaching God who sits on the sidelines barking orders at us on the field of life. And we don't have a policeman God who wants to catch us breaking the rules. We have a God who in Jesus the Lord immersed himself in our world, heart and mind, soul and divinity, boots and all.

This is why the earliest association the Christians made with the waters of baptism was that it symbolised Jesus' tomb. Because of the three days Jesus spent in the tomb, we plunge our adults and children into the watery tomb of the font three times. And as we do we call on the Trinity to enable them to die to sin, and rise to the freedom of Christ's life. In this context we can see that the deeper the font and the fuller the immersion, the more easily everyone present understands the power of the symbols.

For all those baptised in Christ, a curious thing happens. As Jesus fully immersed himself in our world, so we are fully immersed in Christ. But we are not spared from the world as if we are initiated into a reclusive religious sect. We are sent out to the world knowing, because of Jesus, that we are loved by God and are pleasing to God. We are sent out with faith, hope and joy to fall into the arms of the world and discover that here, too, is where Christ dwells.

© Richard Leonard SJ

**Richard Leonard SJ** is the Director of the Australian Catholic Office for Film and Broadcasting, is a member of the Australian Catholic Media Council and a film critic for all the major Australian Catholic newspapers. He completed a PhD in cinema studies at the University of Melbourne. He lectures in cinema and theology at the Jesuit College of Spirituality and has been a visiting lecturer in Australian cinema at the University of Melbourne, a visiting scholar within the School of Theatre, Film and Television at UCLA and is visiting professor at the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome. He is an Honorary Fellow of the Australian Catholic University, has lectured widely and is the author of numerous books.

## The Symbols Of Baptism

### Sign of the Cross

When you enter the church the priest will trace the cross on the forehead of your baby and invite the parents and godparents to do the same. The cross is a reminder of the love of Christ who gave his life for his friends. The tracing of a cross on the forehead of the person being baptised invokes God's protection and asks for entrance into the body of the Christian church.



### Baptismal Promises

Parents and Godparents present the child for baptism; by water and the Holy Spirit the child is to receive the gift of new life from God, who is love. The parents and Godparents are advised that they must make it their constant care to bring the child up in the practice of the faith; see that the divine life which God gives them is kept safe from the poison of sin, allowing their faith to grow stronger.

The parents and Godparents are then asked to renew the vows of their own baptism to: reject sin; profess their faith in Christ Jesus; profess their faith as that of the Church; and be willing to announce the Good News of Jesus Christ to people everywhere.

### Anointing

The celebrant anoints the baby with oil. He anoints the baby with the Oil of Baptism (Catechumens) and with the Oil of Chrism. The Oil of Baptism is olive oil. It relates to the days when athletes used to rub oil into their bodies



before events to strengthen them and make their skin more supple. It symbolises strengthening for the struggles of life ahead. The Oil of Chrism is a combination of olive oil and balsam. It symbolises the sealing with the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

### Baptism with Water

The celebrant pours water over the head of the baby (or immerses the baby in the water) and says "I baptise you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."

The water is a sign of cleansing. The water symbolically washes the person being baptised of all sin. It is also a sign of life. Without water nothing can grow. It is a sign of the new spiritual life into which the baptised person is entering.



### Candle

As a sign of new life, a candle will be lit, usually from the Easter Candle which symbolises the light of Christ. The candle represents moving from death to life in Christ. Light, like water, is essential to the survival of life. Without the light of the sun, nothing would exist on earth. The candle is a symbol of Christ as "the light of the world" and the Christian faith. When this candle is burning, religious faith is present.



### White Garment

The white garment is a symbol of purity and innocence. It symbolizes that the child now has a clean slate in the eyes of God. Everyone is born with "original sin" which is only washed away through baptism. The white garment symbolizes that the baptized child is now clothed in the mantle of God and will start a clean life in His eyes and in the eyes of the church.



## COVID-19-RELATED INFORMATION

### Maximum Number of Persons in Churches

Under the current Public Health Order, the limit on the number of persons who can be present in a church is now calculated by allowing 2 square metres per person within the building.

In our Region, those limits are:

Sacred Heart Cathedral	220
St Mary's, Newcastle	108
St Joseph's, The Junction	200
Mary Immaculate, Tighes Hill	110
St Laurence O'Toole, Broadmeadow	110
St Peter-in-Chains, Stockton	140
Christ the King, Mayfield West	140

The limit applies to all Masses and other liturgical celebrations, such as weddings and funerals.

### Provision of Contact Details

The Public Health Order requires the collection of contact details for those who attend any liturgical celebration in a church (e.g. Mass, weddings, funerals, Baptisms, etc.). If a 'discrete' group attends, e.g. a family, a husband and wife, people from the same household etc., only one (adult) member of the group is required to provide their contact details.

The contact details that are required are defined as a) name, b) phone number or email address, and c) the time of arrival.

A Contact Details Form will be provided at the door to permit the collection of these details. The Cathedral also provides an 'online' version via [SignIn.com.au](http://SignIn.com.au) which permits you to sign in via your mobile phone. If you have the Service NSW app on your phone, you can also use that to sign in at the Cathedral.

### General Requirements

The requirements regarding cleaning, observing physical distancing, refraining from communal singing, etc. remain in place for the time being, as does the requirement to refrain from physical acts of devotion that involve touching or kissing icons or statues.

Liturgical rituals have been adapted, and will continue to be adapted, in order to ensure the health and safety of all parishioners and visitors to our churches. We ask those who are particularly at risk – the elderly, those with compromised health, those who are sick – to refrain from returning to Mass for the sake of their own health. The dispensation from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass given by the Bishop remains in place in these circumstances.

## Requirements for Attending Mass

**Cathedral:** There is no need to register in advance to attend Mass. If you wish to return to Mass, you are at liberty to do so, though capacity limits will need to be observed at all Masses.

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### LIVE-STREAMING NOTICE – 9.30AM MASS FROM

**SACRED HEART CATHEDRAL** The 9.30am Mass from Sacred Heart Cathedral is live-streamed (and recorded) each week. The camera is located under the choir loft and faces towards the sanctuary, though it can be directed to various parts of the Cathedral if needed.

Parishioners should be aware that they may be filmed during the celebration of the 9.30am Mass. This filming will mostly capture their image from behind. We cannot guarantee, however, that their faces will not be featured on the live-stream or recording, particularly the case during the Communion Procession. The live-stream will make use of multiple camera angles to minimise the identification of individuals as much as possible, but this will not eliminate the possibility of being filmed.

Parishioners with concerns about being filmed or recorded should speak with the Cathedral Rector, Father Andrew Doohan, in the first instance.

### A PRAYER FOR THOSE SUFFERING FROM CORONAVIRUS

Merciful God, hear our fervent prayer for all who suffer because of the pandemic.

May those who are infected receive the proper treatment and the comfort of your healing presence.

May their caregivers, families and neighbors be shielded from the onslaught of the virus.

Give solace to those who grieve the loss of loved ones.

Protect and guide those who strive to find a cure, that their work may conquer the disease and restore communities to wholeness and health.

Help us to rise above fear. We ask all this through the intercession of Our Lady of Lourdes, and in the name of your Son, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

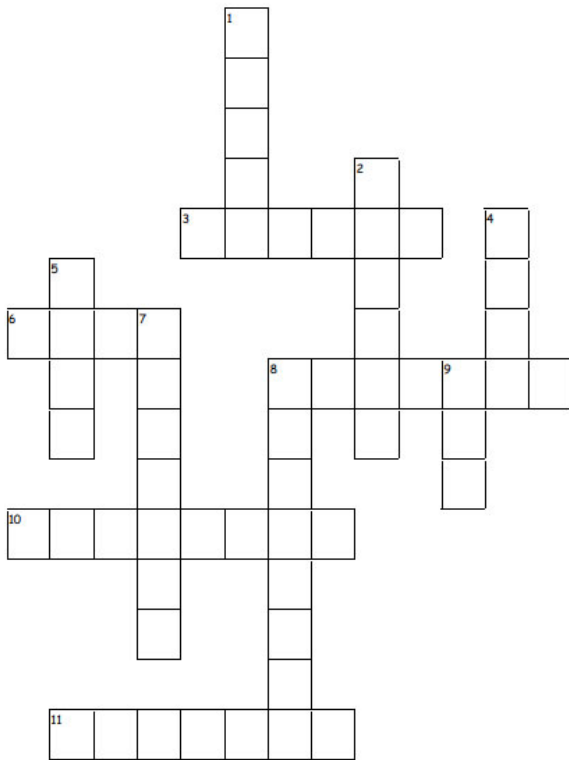
Amen.



## CROSSWORD

### You are my own dear son

Lk 3:15-16, 21-22



#### Across

- 3: the Holy Spirit came upon Jesus while he did this  
6: the Holy Spirit came upon Jesus in this form  
8: to be happy with something  
10: to become one of God's people  
11: footwear commonly worn in biblical times

#### Down

- 1: John baptised people with this  
2: a voice was heard coming from this place  
4: John told people of a man who would baptise them with the Holy Spirit and with \_\_\_\_\_.  
5: the cousin of Jesus who baptised people with water  
7: extremely happy  
8: strong and mighty  
9: the vast space above the earth

## JUNIOR WORDSEARCH

### God will bring justice to all the earth

Is 42:1-2, 4, 6-7

Ps 29:3abde-4, 3cde & 9ef-10, R, 11b Ps

Acts 10:34-38

Lk 3:15-16, 21-22

F S H W J X K K E T V P Y L O  
O E S T R O N G Y M W O A E G  
R G I N M M N W R D I W M M S  
E Q S B A P T I S E D E H E E  
I F J K L W R J O H N R E S R  
G W W B U A H D Z S B F A S V  
N L P R N S Z F C Q F U L A A  
T Z H U U B U V E J E L I G N  
Q T F F E U H W T O A D N E T  
Q J I S W H H Y K U E O G Z C  
H H O I D D E J P H Q V F N X  
P E C W O R S H I P S E Z I T  
J J B Y P S A N D A L S G I L  
T N M P J E X C I T E D T D E

Try to find these words:

baptised  
dove  
excited  
foreign  
healing  
John  
message  
powerful  
sandals  
servant  
strong  
worships