

Baptism of Jesus – 9th January 2022

Read Luke 3.15-17,21-22

You may like to use this material as a basis for discussion in your family.

It's not long since Christmas when we celebrated the birth of Jesus. But in today's reading Jesus is a grown man and is baptised by John in the River Jordan. John was calling people to repent and start a new life – in other words, to say that they were sorry for the bad things that they had done or said and to live a better life in the future. Baptism was the sign of starting a new life, and a way of asking God to be present in that new life.

Baptism is still used as a sign of new life. When a person (child or adult) is baptised in church they become members of the church. In the baptism service the priest or minister will ask the Holy Spirit to be with them throughout their lives. This is a sign of their new life with God and a reminder that God loves them and cares for them.

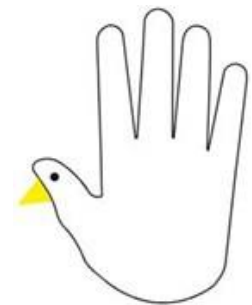


When Jesus was baptised there was a voice from heaven saying “You are my beloved son, and I am pleased with you.” How do you think Jesus felt when he heard God saying that he was loved? We all want to know and feel that we are loved by others. How do members of your family show that they love you? Is it through hugs and kisses, or cooking good meals for you, or taking care of you when you are ill. or praising you when you achieve something? How does it feel to know that you are loved?

God loves each one of us, just as he loved Jesus. What experience do you have of feeling loved by God? How does it feel to know that God loves you?

Activities

- Make a family/household poster on a large sheet of paper. In the centre, write: ‘We are loved’. Then ask each person to draw a self portrait around the words. Invite each person to say one thing they especially love about each of the others, and write or draw these under the portraits. Use the poster as a ‘thank you’ prayer during the week.
- Make a simple dove (a symbol of the Holy Spirit) by drawing around your hand onto white paper. Draw a small circle on the thumb as an eye, and a yellow triangle on the outside of the thumb as a beak. The fingers are the wings. On the wings write “You are my child, my beloved”.



Prayer

Lord Jesus, forgive us for the times we forget that we are loved by you and act in ways that make you sad.

Help us to remember the story of your baptism:

may it remind us of God's love for you and for us. Amen