

Baptism of the Lord, Year A – 12th January 2020

Introduction

Today we celebrate the day when Jesus was baptised, by John the Baptist, in the river Jordan. In baptism we were cleansed by water and freed from original sin and like Jesus we received the Holy Spirit. We thank God for our own baptism and for all the graces we have received through this sacrament.

Make the Sign of the Cross – a sign of the love God has for us. (This is optional, as we have already done this at the start of Holy Mass, but for young children it helps to demonstrate and practice how to do this correctly.

Light the candles on the table next to the Lectionary. An adult lights the candles).

Penitential Act

Ask the children to think about how they have behaved in the past week. Ask them if they have always been kind and helpful to others, obedient to their parents, listened to their teachers etc.

Lead the children in singing the “sorry song”.

We are sorry,
Truly sorry,
Heal us Lord, (sung to tune of Frere Jacques)
In Your love,
Help us to do better,
Help us to be kinder.
Forgive us,
Forgive us.

Gloria (sung)

Choose a children's version of the Gloria from one of our listed Children's Liturgy Resource books, or you may have another CL resource. You will probably want to practice your chosen Gloria and use it every week so that everyone becomes familiar with it.

All stand to welcome the Gospel singing the **Gospel Acclamation:**

God the Father
Voice from heaven
Spoke of Jesus (same tune as above)
Saying of Him
"My beloved Son
In You I am pleased."
Alleluia, Alleluia.

Gospel

Select the correct Gospel from the Children's Lectionary. This week it's on page 19 of "Sunday. Book of Readings. The Lectionary Adapted for Children." (Year A)

Matthew 3:13-17

"A reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew".

Explain and demonstrate – make three crosses: one on your forehead, one on your lips and one on your heart (in this way we think God's word, speak God's word and keep God's word in our hearts) **as we say together "Glory to You, O Lord."**

Read the Gospel aloud to the children. At the end say:

"The Gospel of the Lord".

All reply: **"Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ".**

Ask everyone to be seated.

Lead a Discussion on the Gospel

Where did the Baptism of Jesus take place? (The river Jordan)

Jesus had never sinned and so had no need to have any sins washed away by Baptism so why did He get baptised? (Jesus was baptised in order to receive the Holy Spirit that appeared as a Dove above Him. The Holy Spirit strengthened Him to help Him in His preaching and teaching and curing the sick and performing other miracles. He was baptized so that people would realise He was the Son of God as proclaimed by the “voice from Heaven”

Why did the people come to John to be baptised?
(They wanted to make a fresh start by having their sins washed away).

Remind the children of what happens at a baptism (usually as a baby)

As the Priest pours water over the baby's head, the stain of original sin is wiped away from their soul and they receive the Holy Spirit.

The priest then anoints the baby with the oil of Chrism a Holy oil and so they become member of the church, a child of God, sharing in salvation.

The baby wears white clothes that represent purity.

The parents receive a Baptismal Candle on behalf of their newly baptised infant a symbol of the light of Christ that the child has just received.

After Baptism we are to be like lights leading others to Jesus.

Discuss with the children if they have witnessed a Baptism and what they can remember from the points highlighted above.

Prayers of the Faithful (optional/ time dependent)

You may wish to prepare some of these yourselves or ask the children for their prayers. Here are some suggestions for today:

Dear God, Thank you for sending your Holy Spirit to us in Baptism. Please help us to grow in love for You and stay close to You always.

Lord, in Your mercy.

All reply: **“Hear our prayer.”**

Dear Jesus, Help us to bring the light of Your love to others we meet, by being kind and helpful.

Lord, in Your mercy.

All reply: **“Hear our prayer.”**

Closing Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father, Through our Baptism we became your children. Look after us always we pray and lead us safely home to Heaven.

Amen.

Now ask for volunteers for the Offertory Procession. After the procession, children return quietly to sit with their families in church.

