

## The Baptism of the Lord Year B

SUNDAY January 11 2015

### A Ring of a Sandal

The wide range of marriage proposal styles shows the diverse creativity of people for this special event. A few months ago I saw a very different one on the Internet. It happened in Milan. The young man organised a large crowd for his girlfriend in one of the biggest squares of the city. More than a hundred people were involved for the sake of one simple question: **will you marry me?** A traditional choice is during a special dinner, better if it is in an Italian Restaurant with Italian music. The “big” question is accompanied by a ring.

In the Bible we read many love stories. Maybe the marriage proposals were not Hollywood style like today. They were traditional and straight to the point. In the history of salvation the marriage of the patriarchs was related to their descendants and future generations. This was the sign of God’s covenant with Abraham and the entire humanity: *I will shower blessings on you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars of heaven and the grains of sand on the seashore (Gen 22:17)*. This special promise was fulfilled in Jesus Christ the Messiah.

In one of the shortest books of the Old Testament - only four chapters, we read the interesting, easy to follow story of **Ruth**. It is an account of family loyalty. Elimelech, his wife Naomi and two sons had left their country, Bethlehem, because of a severe famine. They arrived on the Plains of Moab. In this foreign land the two sons marry two Moabite women: Orpah and Ruth. Suddenly the three men die and Naomi was left with the two daughters in law. She was sorrowful and decided to go back to her country. Naomi thanked the two women and she invited them to go back to their home. She didn’t have any more sons to marry them. The line of descendants from her and her husband was finished. It meant that God hadn’t fulfilled his promise through them. It seemed that Naomi and Ruth were outside God’s blessing. However, Ruth was faithful to her mother in law. She left her land and followed Naomi saying: **wherever you go, I shall go, wherever you live, I shall live. Your people will be my people and your God my God.**

In Bethlehem Ruth worked and begged for her mother in law. The people recognised in this stranger a great example of charity and faithfulness. Boaz, a kinsman of Naomi’s husband wanted to marry and care for this woman. However, the right of redemption was through the eldest kinsman. He chose not to marry Ruth and passed his right to Boaz with a special sign: **he took off his sandal**. This strange marriage proposal was not with a ring but with a sandal. Boaz married Ruth and they conceived a son, Jesse. Their son became the father of King David. The faithful Ruth redeemed by Boaz gave a great contribution to our salvation.

Like her, we need someone to redeem us because we are barren and not able to bear fruit by ourselves. Today’s gospel tells us about a sandal and not a ring. The Baptist is the precursor and the friend of the groom. Nevertheless, he couldn’t redeem us: *I am not fit to kneel down and undo the strap of his sandals*. Jesus has that right for us, because, he is our Messiah and Redeemer. In the water of the Jordan a special wedding was celebrated: **the marriage between heaven and earth, divine and human**. Jesus came and we are saved for ever.

Ciao, Ciao!!!  
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Parish Priest

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### **St Joseph the Worker Church**

44 Imperial Parade, Labrador

#### Sunday Mass

7.00 am

8:30 am

#### Weekday Mass

Monday -7.00am

Wednesday-7.00am

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**Each Friday-10.30am  
Mass at Gold Coast  
University Hospital**

### **Guardian Angels’ Church**

99 Scarborough St

Southport

#### Saturday

6.00pm

#### Sunday Mass

7.00 am

10.00 am

#### Weekday Mass

Friday 12.30pm

#### Reconciliation

Saturday - 4.30pm

### **Mary Immaculate Church**

31 Edmund Rice Drive Ashmore

#### Sunday Mass

8:30 am & 6.00pm

#### Korean Mass

Sunday 3.00pm Last Saturday  
of the Month 6.00pm

#### Weekday Mass

Tuesday - 9.00am

Thursday - 5.30pm

Holy Hour. First Thursday  
of the Month 4.15pm



8  
**You are invited to celebrate  
World Marriage Day  
At St Benedict's Church, Mudgeeraba  
on Sunday February 8, 2015 at  
11.00am**

**Mass, including renewal of vows, will  
be followed by a shared lunch.**

**Please bring a plate, and feel free to  
invite your family and friends.**

**For more information call Sue and Bren Milsom:  
55 224 880 or [milsoms@outlook.com](mailto:milsoms@outlook.com)**

### **Our Baptism like Christ's Baptism**

Many of the incidents which accompanied Christ's baptism are symbolical of what happened at our Baptism. At Christ's baptism the Holy Spirit descended upon Him; at our Baptism the Trinity took its abode in our soul. At His baptism, Christ was proclaimed the 'Beloved Son' of the Father; at our Baptism we become the adopted sons of God. At Christ's baptism the heavens were opened; at our Baptism heaven was opened to us. At His baptism Jesus prayed; after our Baptism we must pray to avoid actual sin.

### **The Francis Effect**

Solidarity must be lived as the decision to restore to the poor what belongs to them... convictions and habits of solidarity, when they are put into practice, open the way to other structural transformations and make them possible. Changing structures without generating new convictions and attitudes will only ensure that those same structures will become, sooner or later, corrupt, oppressive and ineffectual.

*Pope Francis 2013*

### **Our Journey of Faith**

Faith is not something you achieve. If you try to nail it down, it gets up and walks away with the nail. Faith works this way: Some days you walk on water, other days you sink like a stone. You live with a deep secret, the poet Rumi says, that sometimes you know, and then not, and then you know again. Sometimes you feel the real presence, and sometimes you feel the real absence. Why? Because like love, faith is a journey, with constant ups and downs, with alternating periods of fervour and darkness, with consolation giving away to desolation and with graced moments where God feels tangibly present eclipsed by dark nights where God feels absent. It's a strange state: sometimes you feel riveted to God, steel-like, other times you feel yourself in a free-fall from everything secure, and then, just when things are at their lowest, you feel God's presence again.

### **New Year Resolutions!**

Have you made all your New Year Resolutions yet?

Please consider joining the wonderful team of parishioners who prepare and present Children's Liturgy each Sunday during school term.

Children are organized into three groups depending on their ages. New team members will be provided with a Blue Card and receive training and could join an experienced facilitator with a group of children early in the new term.

Our first Children's Liturgy for 2015 will be **Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> February**, so please contact me before then to join our team and share this important ministry in our parish.

Thanks Sister Helen [helenw@scp.org.au](mailto:helenw@scp.org.au)

### **Catholic Charismatic Community**

#### **3C Prayer Meeting resumes this 3rd Sunday.**

Everyone is invited to start the year praising and glorifying God through our very own Parish-based Catholic Charismatic community. Meet people from all walks of life: single, married, widow, widower, separated and divorced. You don't have to feel alone and lonely, just come and you will be surrounded by loving Parishioners who will welcome you for who you are! Guardian Angels Church, Southport, after morning tea from 11:30-1:00pm. Shared lunch to follow.

Contact Len for more info: 0438 724 057

### **Pope's Prayer Intentions for January 2015**

**Universal: Peace.** That those from diverse traditions and all people of good will may work together for peace.

**Evangelization: Consecrated Life.** That this year dedicated to consecrated life, religious men and women rediscover the joy of following Christ and strive to save the poor with zeal.

### **What is Required to Receive Communion**

To receive Holy Communion one must be fully incorporated into the Catholic Church and be in the state of grace, that is, not conscious of being in grave sin. Anyone who is conscious of having committed a grave sin must first receive the sacrament of Reconciliation before going to Communion. Also important for those receiving Holy Communion are a spirit of reconciliation and prayer, observance of the fast prescribed by the Church, and an appropriate disposition of the body (gestures and dress) as a sign of respect for Christ.

### **Our Lady of Fatima Requests**

In her final appearance Our Lady identified herself as the Lady of the Rosary. Why did she repeatedly insist on the praying of the Rosary? First of all we should note that praying this devotion is much more than the automatic repetition of words. It is primarily a mental prayer. This is why one of the 20 mysteries—joyful, sorrowful, and glorious—is announced at the beginning of each decade of the Rosary.

**Celebrate Fatima Day** at Marian Valley Canungra on Tuesday, January 13. Bus will leave Sacred Heart Church, 50 Fairways Drive, Clear Island Waters at 8.15am. For bookings call Viviane on 55 359 623.

### **Hospital Calls and Emergencies**

For Gold Coast University and Allamanda Hospitals call Southport Parish **55 102 222**

Robina Hospital call Burleigh Heads Parish **55 766 466**

Pindara Hospital call Surfers Paradise Parish **55 725 433**

John Flynn Hospital call Coolangatta-Tugun Parish on **55 982 165.**

### **St Michael's College—Pilgrimage 2015**

Friends of the College, staff, parents and senior students are invited to join the inaugural St Michael's College Pilgrimage from September 17 to October 1, 2015. Highlights of the 15 day pilgrimage through France and Italy include Paris, Mont St Michel, Assisi, La Verna, Greccio, Vatican City and Rome.

The pilgrimage will explore the story and role of St Michael in the Catholic tradition starting in Paris, the City of Light, with its world famous cathedrals, cafes, museums and art galleries before travelling to the UNESCO World Heritage site of Mont St Michel. In Italy, the places and people will come alive through the Franciscans who will guide us, not only through the country, but also live with us the remarkable story of St Francis of Assisi and St Clare, culminating in our final destinations of Vatican City and Rome.

The pilgrimage has been planned to give a balance of whole group activities and time where individuals and small groups have freedom to explore, engage with the culture and people or reflect. As a pilgrim each participant will be invited to journey, not only to distant places of interest but also to journey within, and to enjoy a very special experience with the other pilgrims.

Please contact Margaret Petherbridge on 0414450163 for further information or expression of interest.

### **Ministers Rosters**

We are about to start preparing Ministers Rosters for the next three months, **March, April and May.** If you are unable to take your place on this roster, or you were not on the current roster and wish to again be included please contact the Parish Office no later than Monday, February 9.

## **YOUR PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED FOR THOSE WHO HAVE JOURNEYED TO THE FATHER.**

### **RECENTLY DECEASED:**

**ANNIVERSARY:** Noel Jensen, Luciano and Carlo Giretti, Francesco and Maria Meilak, Christina Harkins

**ALL PARISHIONERS AND FRIENDS WHO ARE SICK AND IN NEED:** Pat Wehmeier, Rita Tessari, Trudi de Vries, Tim Howard Gary O'Connell, Merv Pfeiffer

**Immaculate Heart of Mary we trust to your gentle care and intercession those who we love and those who are sick or lonely or hurting. Help all of us Holy Mother to bear our burdens in this life until we share eternal life with God**

### **This Week's Saints**

Tomorrow **Monday, January 12.** Beginning of Ordinary Time.

#### **Tuesday, January 13, St Hilary, Bishop and Doctor.**

Hilary (Hilarius) of Poitiers was Bishop of Poitiers and is a Doctor of the Church. He was sometimes referred to as the "Hammer of the Arians" and the "Athanasius of the West" his name comes from the Latin word for happy or cheerful. His optional memorial in the General Roman Calendar is January 13. In the past, when this date was occupied by the Octave Day of the Epiphany, his feast day was moved to January 14.

#### **Worth a Smile**

After a meeting several days ago, I couldn't find my keys. They weren't in my pockets. Suddenly I realized I must have left them in the car. Frantically, I headed for the parking lot. My husband has scolded me many times for leaving my keys in the car's ignition. He's afraid that the car could be stolen. As I looked around the parking lot, I realized he was right. The parking lot was empty. I immediately called the police. I gave them my location, confessed that I had left my keys in the car, and that it had been stolen. Then I made the difficult call to my husband: "I left my keys in the car and its been stolen." There was a moment of silence. I thought the call had been disconnected, but then I heard his voice. "Are you kidding me?" he barked, "I dropped you off!" Now it was my turn to be silent. Embarrassed, I said, "Well, come and get me." he retorted, "I will, as soon as I convince this cop that I didn't steal your car!"

#### **Name Badges**

Are you wearing your Parish name Badge? If not, why not? Name Badges are very important when meeting new parishioners or greeting old ones, you can call them by name. If you have lost yours or have never had one, there are sheets on the table at the entrance to all three churches. Just add your name to the list and one will be ordered for you. Cost \$10.

#### **Faith on Tap**

Come along and meet a Pontifical Swiss Guard and his Australian wife: Talk about life inside the Vatican. Corporal Dominic is in service guarding the Holy Father Pope Francis and has been a guard for nearly 10 years.

He will be accompanied by his new wife, Gold Coast girl, Joanne, also employed in the Vatican for more than five years. They are in Australia for their honeymoon and are happy to speak about life inside the Vatican and answer any questions.

When: Tomorrow Monday January 12, at 7.30pm.

Where: The Pineapple Hotel, 706 Main Street, Kangaroo Point.

Come along from 6.30pm and enjoy a meal in the Park Bar.

More Info: Call Lizzie 0430 198 971. Davis 0431 956 753

#### **Large Crowds met Pope**

The Prefecture of the Papal Household reports that during 2014 more than 5,900,000 faithful participated in the various encounters with Pope Francis.

**Quote:** Every time you smile at someone, it is an action of love, a gift to that person, a beautiful thing.'

*Mother Teresa*



### **PARISH DATE CLAIMERS FOR 2015**

**First Sunday of each month,** Morning Tea at the "Annex" after 8.30am Mass at St Joseph the Worker, Labrador.

**Each First and Third Sunday of the Month,** 11.30am Charismatic prayer Meeting, Guardian Angels Church.

**Bridge,** every Wednesday 9.30am to 12 noon in the Meeting Room at Mary Immaculate. Beginners welcome.

**Rosary and Novena** at 6.00pm every Wednesday, followed by Mass at 7.00pm on the First Wednesday of the month at St Joseph the Worker.

**Catholic Women's League,** Meeting Second Friday of each Month, 11.00am Guardian Angels Church, Meeting Room, followed by Mass

**Care and Concern,** Meet Fourth Monday of each month, Mary Immaculate Meeting Room, 10.30am

**Young Adults Group,** Meet in the Parish Resource Centre every second Wednesday at 7.00pm

**SPY.** Southport Parish Youth. Meet in the meeting room at Mary Immaculate on the last Friday of each month. 6.30pm.

Wednesday **January 28,** School Resumes at Guardian Angels. Prep Students: **Girls** on Wednesday 28. **Boys**

Thursday January 29.

Wednesday, **February 18,** Ash Wednesday, Beginning of Lent.

Sunday, **April 5,** Easter Sunday.

Thursday, **June 4 2015,** Confirmation.

Sunday, **June 7 2015,** First Eucharist

#### **Mary Immaculate Bridge Club**

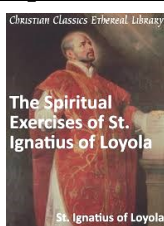
Offers a new Beginners Course for 2015. For more information and to enrol for lessons

**Telephone: Cheryl 55 38821**

Bridge is easy to learn; you get lots of help!!

Learn to play in a small social group with no pressure and meet lots of new friends.

#### **Experience St Ignatius Spirituality**



Full Spiritual Exercises of St Ignatius of Loyola over 30 weeks in Daily Life.

Discover God's unique love and desire for you through a journey of scripturally based prayer and individual direction. Application are now being received for commencement in March 2015.

For more information phone 3368 2450 or [www.faberspirituality.org.au](http://www.faberspirituality.org.au) or our parish contact: Helen Goldsmith 0412 894 356.

#### **Words of Wisdom**

The Holy Bible is like a mirror before our mind's eye. In it we see our inner face. From the Scriptures we can learn our spiritual deformities and beauties. And there too we discover the process we are making and how far we are from perfection.

*Pope St Gregory*

# HYMNS

## COME TO THE WATER

**Refrain**  
*Come to the water, you who are thirsty!*  
*Though you have nothing,*  
*I bid you come*  
*And be filled with the goodness*  
*I have to offer! Come listen! Live!*

Why spend your money on what cannot fill  
 The emptiness deep in your heart?  
 Listen to my word and you will enjoy  
 Goodness and peace in your heart! **R**

Just as the heavens are high above earth,  
 My ways and thoughts beyond you!  
 Call me your Father and know I am near!  
 I will be Father to you! **R**

## GLORLY TO GOD

**Refrain:**  
*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. **R**

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. **R**

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. **R Amen**

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

You will draw water joyfully from the  
 springs of salvation.

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (to be said)

Alleluia, Alleluia,  
 John saw Jesus approaching him, and  
 said: this is the Lamb of God who takes  
 away the sins of the world  
 Alleluia

Response: (Organ/SATB)

Capo 2: (D) (Bm) (D) (G) (A7) (D) (Bm) (G) (A7) (D)  
 E C#m E A B7 E C#m A B7 E

You will draw wa - ter joy - ful - ly from the springs\_ of sal - va - tion.

## GIFTS PROCESSION

### WATER OF LIFE

**Refrain:**  
*Water of Life,*  
*cleanse and refresh us;*  
*Raise us to life in Christ Jesus.*

All you who thirst,  
 come to the waters,  
 And you will never be thirsty again.

As rain from heav'n, so is God's word,  
 It waters the earth and brings forth  
 life.

Dying with Christ,  
 so we shall rise with him,  
 Death shall no longer have pow'r  
 over us.

Turn to the Lord, cast off your  
 wickedness,  
 You will find peace in his infinite love.

### HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
 God of pow'r and might,  
 Heaven and earth are full of your glo-  
 ry.

Hosanna in the highest.  
 Blessed is he who comes in the name  
 of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest

### MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

When we eat this Bread and drink  
 this Cup, we proclaim your Death, O  
 Lord, until you come again

### AMEN

Amen, Amen, Amen.

### LAMB OF GOD

(Shalom)  
 Lamb of God, you take away the sins  
 of the world: Have mercy on us.  
 Lamb of God, you take away the sins  
 of the world: Have mercy on us.  
 Lamb of God, you take away the sins  
 of the world: Grant us peace.

## COMMUNION PROCESSION

### BAPTIZED IN WATER

Baptized in water,  
 sealed by the Spirit.  
 Cleansed by the blood of Christ  
 our King:  
 Heirs of salvation,  
 trusting his promise.  
 Faithfully now God's praise we sing.

Baptized in water,  
 sealed by the Spirit.  
 Dead in the tomb with Christ  
 our King:  
 One with his rising,  
 freed and forgiven,  
 Thankfully now God's praise we sing

Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit.  
 Marked with the sign of Christ our King:  
 Born of one Father, we are his children.  
 Joyfully now God's praise we sing.

## TABLE OF PLENTY (D Schutte)

**Refrain**  
**Come to the feast of heaven and earth!**  
**Come to the table of plenty!**  
**God will provide for all that we need,**  
**Here at the table of plenty.**

O, come and sit at my table,  
 Where saints and sinners are friends.  
 I wait to welcome the lost and lonely  
 To share the cup of my love. **R**

O, come and eat without money;  
 Come to drink without price.  
 My feast of gladness will feed your spirit  
 With faith and fullness of life. **R**

My bread will ever sustain you  
 Through days of sorrow and woe.  
 My wine will flow like a sea of gladness  
 To flood the depths of your soul. **R**

## RECESSIONAL HYMN

### LORD, THE LIGHT OF YOUR LOVE (Graham Kendrick)

Lord, the light of your love is shining, in the  
 midst of the darkness, shining:  
 Jesus, Light of the World, shine upon us.  
 Set us free by the truth you now bring us.  
 Shine on me. Shine on me.

### **Refrain:**

Shine, Jesus, shine, fill this land with  
 the Father's glory;  
 Blaze, Spirit, blaze, set our hearts on fire.  
 Flow, river, flow.  
 Flood the nations with grace and mercy:  
 Send forth your Word, Lord,  
 and let there be light.

Lord, I come to your awesome presence,  
 from the shadows into your radiance;  
 By the blood I may enter your brightness.  
 Search me, try me,  
 consume all my darkness.  
 Shine on me, shine on me. **R.**

### THE WORD OF THE LORD FOR

#### NEXT SUNDAY

**Isaiah 55:1-11**

**1 John 5:1-9**

**Mark 1:7-11**