

Baptism of Jesus

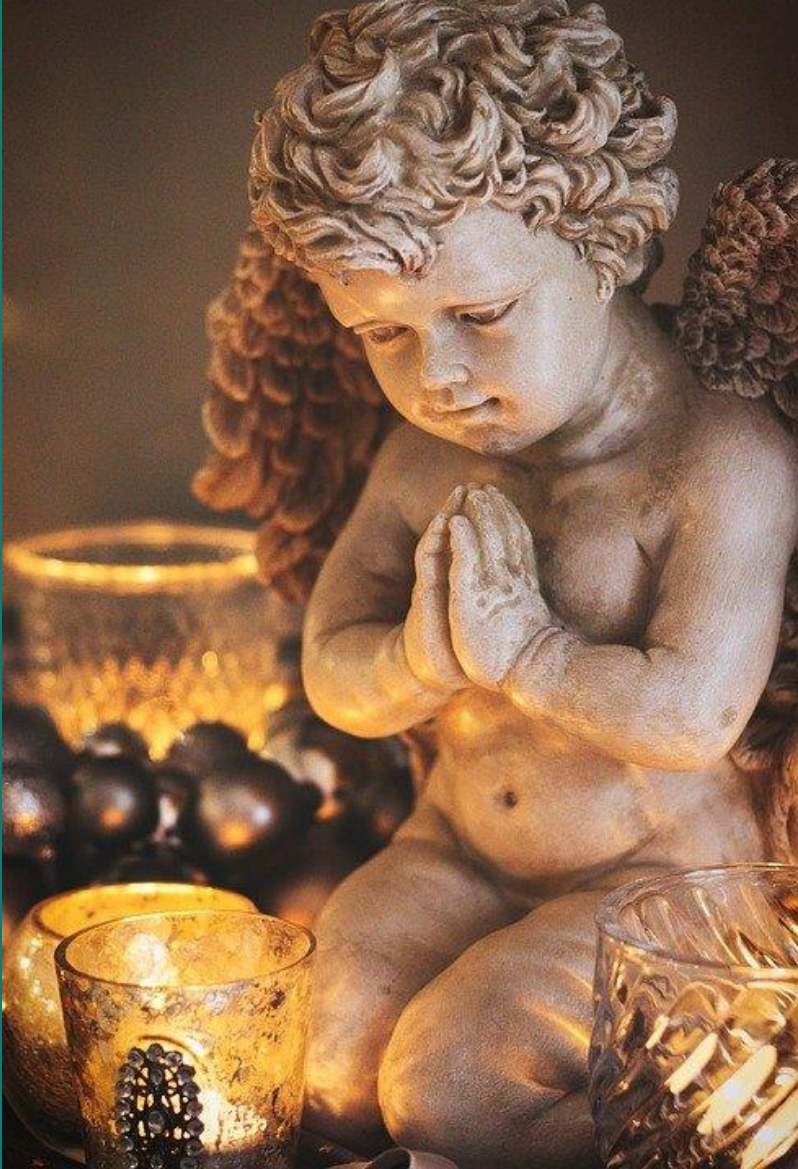


What do you remember about Baptism? Use this image to help you.



Before we begin...





When Jesus had received baptism from John in the River Jordan, “the heavens were opened” to him (Mt 3:16). This fulfils the prophecies.

If the heavens remain closed, our horizon in this earthly life is dark and without hope. Instead, in celebrating Christmas, once again faith has given us the certainty that the heavens have been rent with the coming of Christ.

And on the day of the baptism of Christ we continue to contemplate the heavens opened.

How are the heavens opened during the Christmas season?



Words from Pope Francis

As we gather together,
in person or virtually,
in real or catch-up time,
we pray for all
those who are suffering
those in times of darkness
those in need of hope
those who long to feel
the heavens opened
and Christ's loving presence
surrounding them.

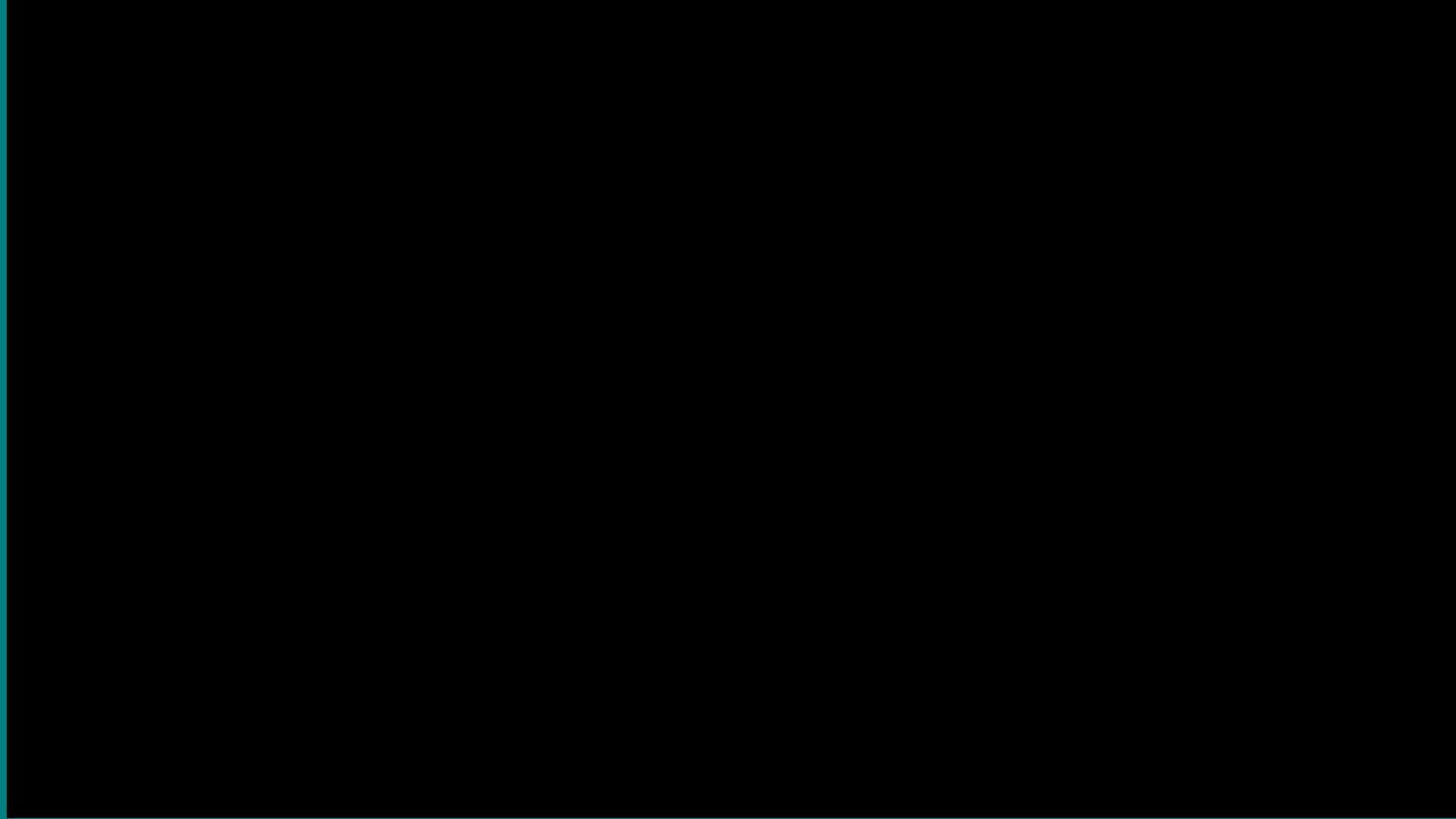
Hail Mary...



Gather



Listen to the Gospel and the sermon given by Catholic Kids in the video or read the Gospel and notes on the following slides.



Listen



[John the Baptist] announced to the people, “The man who will come after me is much greater than I am. I am not good enough even to bend down and untie his sandals. I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

Not long afterward Jesus came from Nazareth in the province of Galilee, and was baptised by John in the Jordan. As soon as Jesus came up out of the water, he saw heaven opening and the Spirit coming down on him like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, “You are my own dear Son. I am pleased with you.”

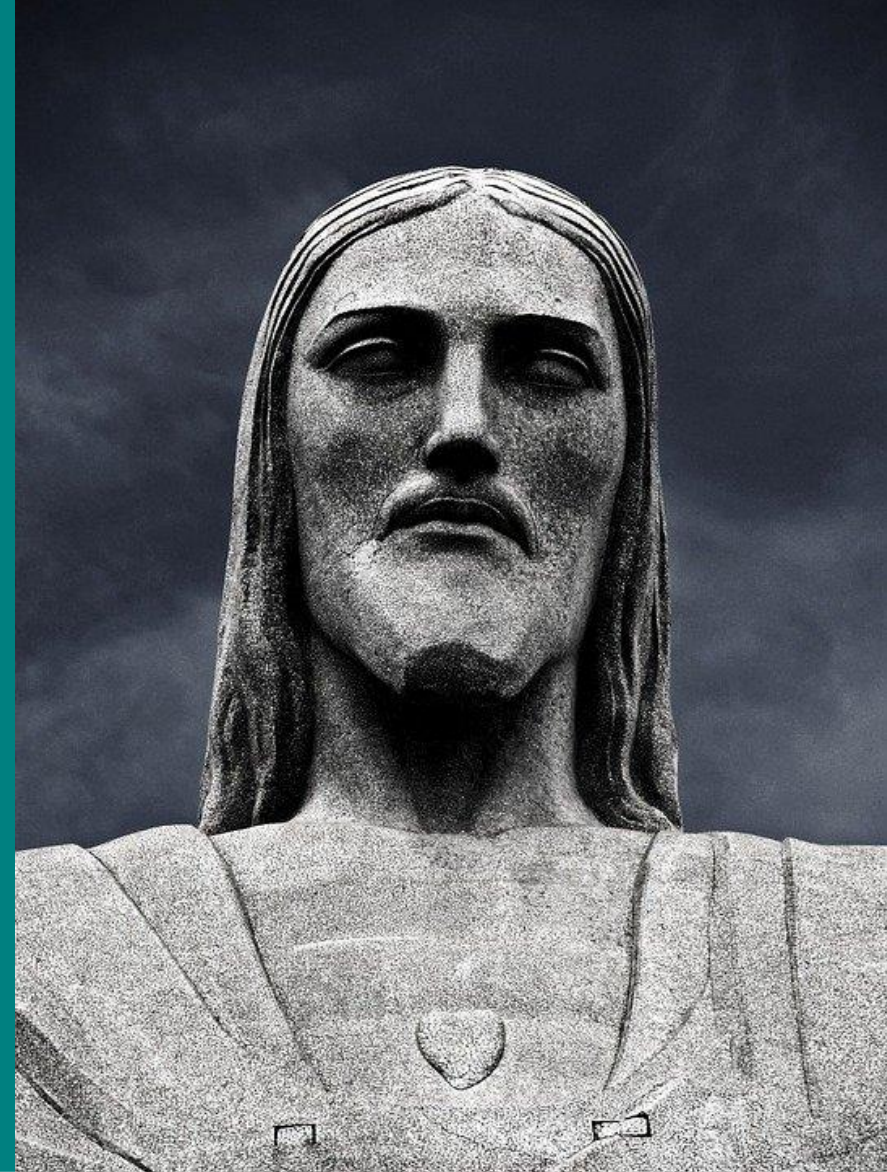


Listen (Mark 1:7-11)

Sunday was the celebration of the Baptism of the Lord, the start of Jesus' ministry that would last three years, and the last day of the Christmas season (when the priest wears white).

This season has shown us three important things about Jesus.

What do you think they are?



Reflect





First, it shows us how God became a human person when Christ was born. Jesus was a baby born to a family. He had an earthly mum and dad. It's all part of God's plan to bring us back into relationship with him as well as to save us from sin. He does this through Jesus who was born to die and be resurrected for us.



Reflect

Next, the Christmas season shows us that Jesus, a baby, is the true king. On the feast of the Epiphany, the three Magi came to see Jesus the king of the Jews.

They bring him: gold, the mark of a king; frankincense, the mark of a priest; and myrrh which foreshadows how Jesus would die the death of a prophet. Much later at the crucifixion, Jesus is given wine mixed with myrrh.



Reflect





Finally, on Sunday we celebrated the Baptism of the Lord. In the Gospel, Jesus goes to the Jordan river and gets baptised by John. This seems strange because John only baptises with water while Jesus baptises with the Holy Spirit and fire. Still John agrees and sees ‘the heavens open and the Spirit like a dove descending on Jesus. A voice came from heaven saying ‘You are my beloved Son, with whom I am well-pleased’.



Reflect

This reminds us of what God told the prophet Isaiah in the first reading: ‘Here is my servant whom I uphold, my chosen one with whom I am well-pleased’. Here at Jesus’ Baptism at the Jordan river, we see the Trinity all together. God the Father speaks from heaven, God the Son stands in the river and God the Holy Spirit comes down from heaven in the form of a dove. This shows us that God isn’t someone who sits in heaven and watches ‘stuff’ happen on earth. He became fully human so that we can know him more fully. And even though we’re only human he wraps us in the love of the Trinity in God’s love forever.

What stands out to you about today’s reading and reflection?

What does it mean to you?



Reflect



Let us
pray



We pray for the Church throughout the world: that it may continue to spread Jesus's message of love for all people. Lord, in your mercy... **Hear our prayer**

We pray for all God's children, especially those of us who are poor or ill: that we may find hope of a world free from poverty and illness. Lord, in your mercy... **Hear our prayer**

We pray for our parish, family and friends: that we may do all that we can to live the way that God wants us to – sharing with others and standing up for what is right. Lord, in your mercy... **Hear our prayer**

Loving God, you call us by our name and we are your children. Help us to share your message of love and hope with others, and to make the world a fairer place for all to live. Amen.

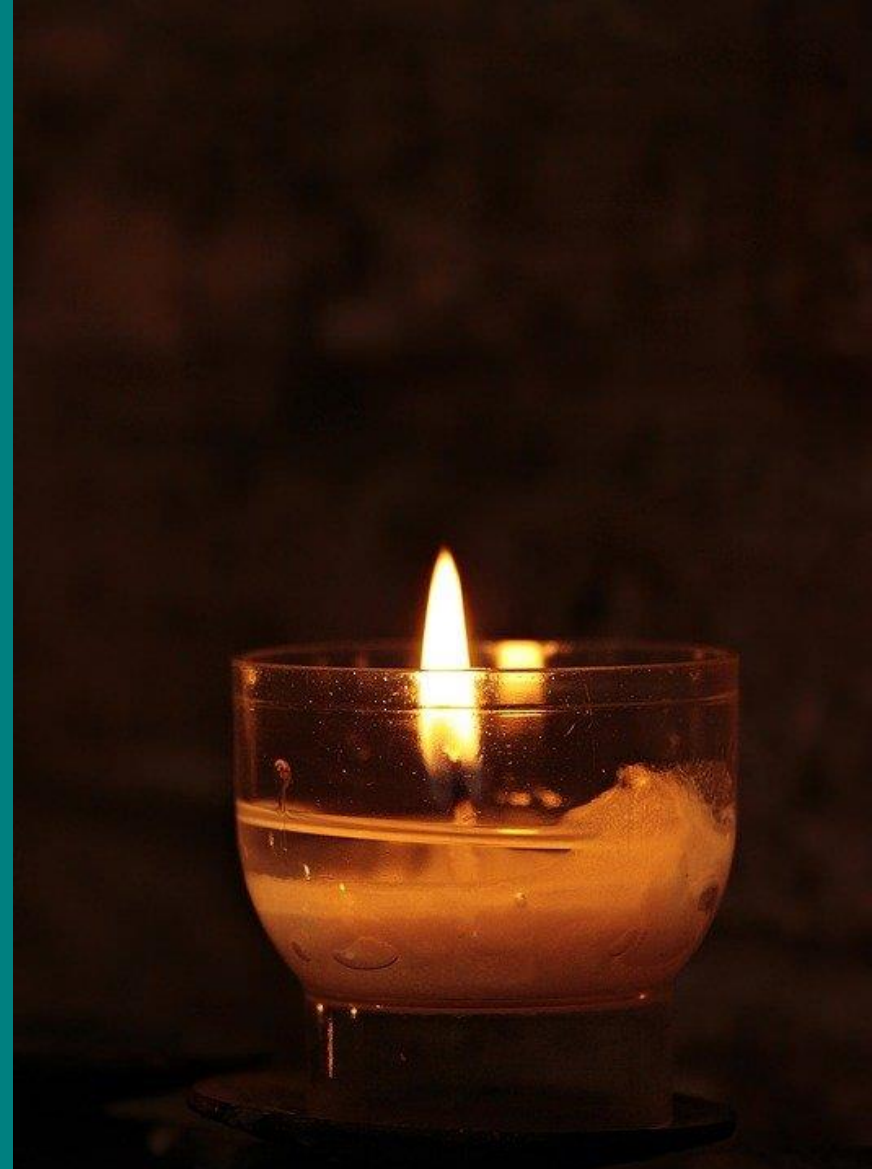
(CAFOD's Children's Liturgy prayers for the Baptism of the Lord Year B)



Let us pray

Pray for those who need hope
and a light in the darkness at
this time.

Do some kind actions and say
kind words to bring light into
your home.



Mission

