

Today's Feast of the Baptism of the Lord brings the Christmas season to a close and gently leads us into Ordinary Time. But there is nothing "ordinary" about what we are celebrating today.

The Church invites us to pause and look back at the three great moments of revelation we have celebrated these past weeks.

At **Christmas**, God comes among us in a fragile child—bringing good news especially to the poor, the forgotten, and the sinner.

At **Epiphany**, God reveals that this gift is not just for one people or one nation, but for the whole world.

And today, at the **Baptism of Jesus**, God reveals something even deeper: that God is powerfully present in Jesus, working in him and through him.

Naturally, a question arises: *Why did Jesus need to be baptised at all?*

John's baptism was a baptism of repentance. People came to him to admit their sins and begin again. Our own baptism, too, is about being washed in God's mercy and rescued from the power of sin.

But Jesus had no sin. So why step into the Jordan?

The first answer is this: **Jesus chose complete solidarity with us.**

By lining up with sinners at the river, Jesus places himself right where we are. He does not stand apart or above. He enters fully into our human condition—with its weakness, its struggles, its messiness. Though he never sinned, he shared our fears, our joys, our tears.

This is the same Jesus who was criticised for eating and drinking with sinners, for spending time with those on the margins. Despite being the Son of God, he never claimed special treatment. Most of the time, he looked just like everyone else. Even the people of his hometown struggled to recognise who he really was.

The second answer is even more powerful. Something extraordinary happens at the baptism. The Spirit of God comes down upon Jesus like a dove, and the voice of the Father is heard: **"This is my beloved Son; my favour rests on him."**

This moment is Jesus' commissioning. You could even call it his *Pentecost*. The Father publicly affirms him and sends him out to begin his mission—to teach, to heal, to forgive, to liberate, and ultimately to give his life for the salvation of the world.

And what is that mission? Isaiah tells us clearly:

to bring justice and hope,
to open blind eyes,
to free those trapped in darkness,
to be a light for all nations.

In the Second Reading, Peter makes it unmistakable: **God has no favourites.** Jesus belongs to everyone. His baptism is not just about him—it is also about us.

That is why today is a powerful invitation to reflect on **our own baptism.**

Our baptism is not just something that happened years ago, often when we were babies. It is not just a ceremony or a box ticked to “become Catholic.” Baptism is the beginning of a lifelong journey—a journey of growing into Christ and becoming part of his Body.

Baptism is never just private. It makes us part of a community. It calls us to active participation, not just quiet membership. Or, to borrow a famous line: *don't ask only what the Church can do for you—ask what you can do for the Church.*

Through baptism, each of us is called to be a living witness:
to be salt that brings flavour to the world,
light that pushes back darkness,
hope where there is discouragement.

The words spoken over Jesus today are, in a sense, spoken over us too. God looks at each baptised person and says: *You are my beloved.*

So today, let us renew our commitment to live our baptism—not perfectly, but faithfully. Let us be willing to carry on Christ's work in our homes, our workplaces, our parish, and our world.

Because the truth is this: **without our cooperation, much of God's work remains undone.**

May it be that, at the end of each day, the Lord can look at us and say:

“This is my beloved son. This is my beloved daughter. With you, I am well pleased.”

Amen.