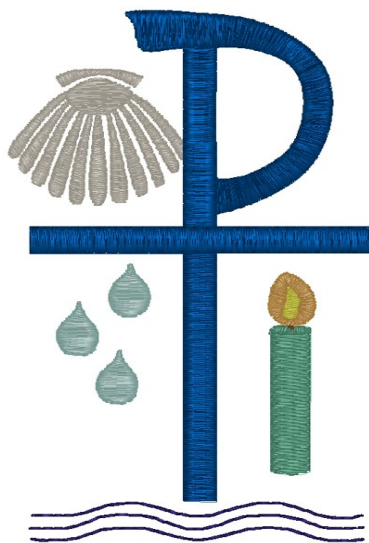





The Fourth Sunday after Epiphany, 29th January 2023



9.30am Eucharist at St. Michael's. Wangaratta with Baptism of Jasper Nathan-Gordon Woodstock

Baptism is a sacrament of the church linked to the life of Jesus. It is first and foremost a religious ceremony and should have deep significance, not only for the person being baptised, but also for those asked to be Sponsors or Godparents. Taking on this duty without understanding the aspects of Christian faith connected to the ceremony, will diminish the integrity of what baptism truly achieves. We proceed with the service on the basis of faith.

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GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

The Priest Welcomes and Greets the People

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

There is one Body and one Spirit;
there is one hope in God's call to us.

One Lord, one Faith, one Baptism,
one God and Father of all.

Opening Hymn AHB 188 [tine, Rex]

1. **Hail Redeemer, King divine!
Priest and Lamb, the throne is thine,
King, whose reign shall never cease,
Prince of everlasting peace.**
*Angels, saints and nations sing,
'Praised be Jesus Christ, our King!
Lord of life, earth, sky and sea,
King of love on Calvary.'*
2. **King, whose name creation thrills,
rule our minds, our hearts, our wills,
till in peace each nation rings
with their praises, King of kings.**
Angels, saints and nations sing ...
3. **King most holy, King of truth,
guide the lowly, guide the youth;
Christ the King of glory bright,
be to us eternal light.**
Angels, saints and nations sing ...
4. **Shepherd-king, from mountains steep,
homeward bring the wandering sheep;
shelter in one royal fold
states and kingdoms, new and old.**
Angels, saints and nations sing ...

Patrick Brennan 1877–1951 alt.

The minister may continue with these or similar words

Baptism is the gift of our Lord Jesus Christ.

When he had risen from the dead, Jesus commanded his followers to go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. We have come together today to obey that command.

Baptism with water signifies the cleansing from sin that Jesus' death makes possible, and the new life that God gives us through the Holy Spirit.

In baptism, the promises of God are visibly signed and sealed for us. We are joined to Christ, and made members of his body, the Church universal.

So we welcome you, Jasper, with your sponsors and families. We give thanks for you, and pray that you may know God's love and faithfulness for ever.

The priest says

Let us affirm our trust in God's mercy,
and confess that we need forgiveness.

Lord God,
you created this world, and made us in your own image.
Forgive us when we turn away from you.
Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy

Lord God,
through your Son you overcame evil and death.
Rescue us from slavery to sin.
Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy

Lord God, by your Spirit,
you restore us to fellowship with you and with one another.
Breathe your love and freedom into our lives.
Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

The priest says

Almighty God have mercy on you,
forgive you your sins,
and keep you in life eternal. **Amen.**

The Hymn of Praise is said or sung

**Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to God's people on earth.**

**Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.**

**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. Amen**

The Collect

Let us pray

A period of silent prayer is kept, after which the priest prays:

Living God,
in Christ you make all things new:
transform the poverty of our nature
by the riches of your grace,
and in the renewal of our lives
make known your glory;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

A reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Corinthians [1. 18-31]

For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written,

‘I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.’

Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling-block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For God’s foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God’s weakness is stronger than human strength.

Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, so that no one might boast in the presence of God. He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, in order that, as it is written, ‘Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.’

Hear the word of the Lord.

THANKS BE TO GOD

Gradual Hymn AHB 340 /TiS 428

- 1. Help us, O Lord, to learn
the truths your word imparts:
to study that your laws may be
inscribed upon our hearts.**
- 2. Help us, O Lord, to live
the faith which we proclaim,
that all our thoughts and words and deeds
may glorify your name.**
- 3. Help us, O Lord, to teach
the beauty of your ways,
that all who seek may find the Christ,
and live a life of praise.**

The Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ According to Matthew [5. 1-12]

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him.

Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

‘Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

‘Blessed are those who mourn,
for they will be comforted.

‘Blessed are the meek,
for they will inherit the earth.

‘Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
for they will be filled.

‘Blessed are the merciful,
for they will receive mercy.

‘Blessed are the pure in heart,
for they will see God.

‘Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they will be called children of God.

‘Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

‘Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

For the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

Sermon

THE PRESENTATION

The priest invites the sponsors to stand in view of the congregation.

The priest may say these or similar words.

Children are baptised in response to God’s all-embracing love. Parents and godparents who have responded to that love come now to bring their child for baptism.

Before this congregation they must express their own trust and commitment to the promises of God, and their intention to bring up this child in the faith and practice of the Church. In due time this child should make his own response to God, and be prepared for confirmation.

The priest says to the sponsors

Will you accept the responsibilities placed upon you in bringing Jasper for baptism?

I will.

Are you willing to answer on behalf of Jasper?

I am.

By your own prayers and example, by your friendship and love, will you encourage Jasper in the life and faith of the Christian community?

I will, with God's help.

THE DECISION

The priest says

Before God and this congregation, you must affirm that you turn to Christ and reject all that is evil:

Do you turn to Christ?

I turn to Christ.

Do you repent of your sins?

I repent of my sins.

Do you reject selfish living, and all that is false and unjust?

I reject them all.

Do you renounce Satan and all evil?

I renounce all that is evil.

Almighty God deliver you from the powers of darkness, and lead you in the light of Christ to his everlasting kingdom.

Amen.

The priest says to the sponsors and the congregation

Let us together affirm the faith of the Church:

**I believe in God,
the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father;
from there he will come to judge
the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

The priest says to the candidates and sponsors

Do you affirm this faith as yours?

I do.

Will you each, by God's grace, strive to live as a disciple of Christ, loving God with your whole heart, and your neighbour as yourself, until your life's end?

I will, with God's help.

The priest says to the congregation

You have heard these our brothers and sisters respond to Christ. Will you support them in this calling?

The congregation answers

We will.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Let us pray.

Grant, merciful God, that Jasper may be so buried with Christ in baptism that the new nature may be raised up in him.

May the fruit of your Spirit grow and flourish in him.

God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Give to his sponsors, Anthony and Belinda,
and his parents Jaimee and Trent,
the desire to share with him
what you have revealed in your holy gospel.

God of grace,
hear our prayer.

May he know Christ's forgiving love
and continue in the fellowship and service of Christ's Church.
May he proclaim, by word and example,
the good news of God in Christ.

God of grace,
hear our prayer.

We pray for the world in which we live,
for peace and harmony among all people.
Bring healing and wholeness to the sick,
and to those who mourn and to all in need.

We pray especially for those commended to our prayers,
and those we name in the silence now;

God of grace,
hear our prayer.

We thank you for the ministry we have in your world
and to each other in the household of faith.
Hasten that day when the whole creation
shall be made perfect in Christ.

God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Accept our prayers through Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught
us to pray,

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

**Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

THE BAPTISM

The Baptismal party moves to the Font and this prayer is said

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God:

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

We give you thanks that at the beginning of creation
your Holy Spirit moved upon the waters
to bring forth light and life.

With water you cleanse and replenish the earth;
you nourish and sustain all living things.

Through the waters of the Red Sea
you led your people out of slavery into freedom,
and brought them through the river Jordan
to new life in the land of promise.

We give you thanks for your Son Jesus Christ:
for his baptism by John, for his anointing with the Holy Spirit.
Through the deep waters of death
Jesus delivered us from our sins
and was raised to new life in triumph.

We give you thanks for the grace of the Holy Spirit
who forms us in the likeness of Christ
and leads us to proclaim your kingdom.

And now we give you thanks that you have called Jasper
to new birth in your Church through the waters of baptism.

Pour out your Holy Spirit in blessing and ✚ sanctify this water
so that he who is baptised in it
may be made one with Christ
in his death and resurrection.

May he die to sin, rise to newness of life,
and continue for ever in Jesus Christ our Lord,
through whom we give you praise and honour
in the unity of the Spirit, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Priest baptises, saying

Jasper, I baptise you in the name of the Father,
and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

the priest makes a cross on the forehead, saying

Jasper, I sign you with the sign of the cross
to show that you are marked as Christ's own for ever.

Live as a disciple of Christ:
fight the good fight,
finish the race,
keep the faith.

and the congregation responds, saying

**Confess Christ crucified,
proclaim his resurrection,
look for his coming in glory.**

the priest says

Jasper, God has brought you out of darkness
into his marvellous light.

and the congregation joins the minister in saying

**Shine as a light in the world
to the glory of God the Father.**

the priest says

Jasper, God has called you into his Church.

The congregation joins the minister in saying

**We therefore receive and welcome you
as a member with us of the body of Christ,
as a child of the one heavenly Father,
and as an inheritor of the kingdom of God.**

THE GREETING OF PEACE

In baptism, God has made us one in Christ.

His Spirit is with us.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

*All may Greet one another with a
COVID Safe Greeting of Peace
(if you don't live with the person you are greeting,
do not touch them)*

Offertory Hymn, AHB 439.

- 1. Hallelujah! sing to Jesus,
his the sceptre, his the throne;
hallelujah! his the triumph,
his the victory alone;
hark, the songs of peaceful Zion
thunder like a mighty flood:
'Jesus out of every nation
has redeemed us by his blood.'**
- 2. Hallelujah! not as orphans,
are we left in sorrow now;
hallelujah! he is near us,
faith believes, nor questions how;
though the cloud from sight received him
when the forty days were o'er,
shall our hearts forget his promise,
'I am with you evermore'?**
- 3. Hallelujah! bread of heaven,
and on earth our food, our stay;
hallelujah! here the sinful
flee to you from day to day;
intercessor, friend of sinners,
earth's redeemer, plead for me
where the songs of all the sinless
sweep across the crystal sea.**
- 4. Hallelujah! King eternal,
you the Lord of lords we own;
hallelujah! born of Mary,
earth your footstool, heav'n your throne:
you within the veil have entered,
robed in flesh, our great high priest;
you on earth both priest and victim
in the eucharistic feast.**

William Chatterton Dix 1837–98

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING PRAYER

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Loving God,

we thank you for this world of wonder and delight.

You have given it to us to care for,
so that all your creatures may enjoy its bounty.

Lord our God,

we give you thanks and praise.

We thank you that when we turned away from you,
you sent Jesus to live and work as one of us,
and bring us back to you.

He showed us how to love you

and set us free to love and serve one another.

Lord our God,

we give you thanks and praise.

We thank you that on the cross Jesus took away our sin,
all that keeps us from each other and from you.

He frees us from hate and fear,
from all that destroys love and trust.

Lord our God,

we give you thanks and praise.

We thank you that in baptism you have united us to Jesus
and brought us out of darkness into light.

You pour your Spirit upon us, filling us with your gifts,
and call us to serve you as a royal priesthood.

Lord our God,

we give you thanks and praise.

And so with everyone who believes in you,
with all the saints and angels, we rejoice and praise you, saying/
singing:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.**

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

And now we thank you for these gifts of bread and wine;
may we who receive them, as Jesus said,
share his body and his blood. ✠

On the night he was betrayed,
Jesus took bread and gave you thanks.
He broke the bread and gave it to his friends, and said,
'Take and eat. This is my body given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me.' ✠

After supper he took the cup and gave you thanks.
He shared the cup with them and said,
'This is my blood poured out so that sins may be forgiven.
Do this in remembrance of me.' ✠

You have gathered us together to feed on Christ
and to remember all he has done for us:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Fill us with your Spirit
that we may follow Jesus in all we do and say,
working for justice and bringing your peace
to this world that you have made.

Accept our prayers through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Blessing and honour and glory and power
be yours for ever and ever. Amen.**

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD AND THE COMMUNION

We who are many are one body,
for we all share in the one bread.

Agnus Dei—sung

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,
grant us your peace.**

Invitation to Communion

Come let us take this holy sacrament of the body and blood of
Christ in remembrance that he died for us, and feed on him in
our hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

***Communicant members of any Christian church
are welcome to share Holy Communion here today.***

***If you want a blessing and not Communion,
please keep your hands by your side
when you are at the Communion Rail.***

Reflection Hymn—AHB 497

Just as I am, without one plea but that thy blood was shed for me,
and that thou bidst me come to thee, O Lamb of God, I come.

Just as I am, though tossed about with many a conflict, many a doubt,
Fightings within, and fears without, O Lamb of God, I come.

Just as I am, thou wilt receive, wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve:
because thy promise I believe, O Lamb of God, I come.

Just as I am, of that free love
the breadth, length, depth and height to prove,
here for a season then above, O Lamb of God, I come.

Charlotte Elliott 1789--1871

THE SENDING OUT OF GOD'S PEOPLE

Let us pray.

Gracious God,
in baptism you make us one family in Christ your Son,
one in the sharing of his body and his blood,
one in the communion of his Spirit.
Help us to grow in love for one another
and come to the full maturity of the body of Christ.

**Most loving God,
you send us into the world you love.
Give us grace to go thankfully and with courage
in the power of your Spirit.**

Notices

Concluding Hymn—AHB 520 [tune, Savannah]

- 1. Take my life, and let it be
consecrated, Lord, to thee.
Take my moments and my days;
let them flow in ceaseless praise.**
- 2. Take my hands, and let them move
at the impulse of thy love.
Take my feet, and let them be
swift and beautiful for thee.**

3. **Take my voice, and let me sing
always, only, for my King.
Take my lips, and let them be
filled with messages from thee.**
4. **Take my silver and my gold;
not a mite would I withhold.
Take my intellect, and use
every power as thou shalt choose.**
5. **Take my will, and make it thine;
it shall be no longer mine.
Take my heart, it is thine own;
it shall be thy royal throne.**
6. **Take my love: my Lord, I pour
at thy feet its treasure-store.
Take myself and I will be
ever, only, all for thee.**

Frances Ridley Havergal, 1836-79

Blessing

Go forth into the world in peace;
be of good courage;
hold fast that which is good;
render to no one evil for evil;
strengthen the faint hearted; support the weak;
help the afflicted;
give honour to all; love and serve the Lord,
rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord:
In the name of Christ. Amen.