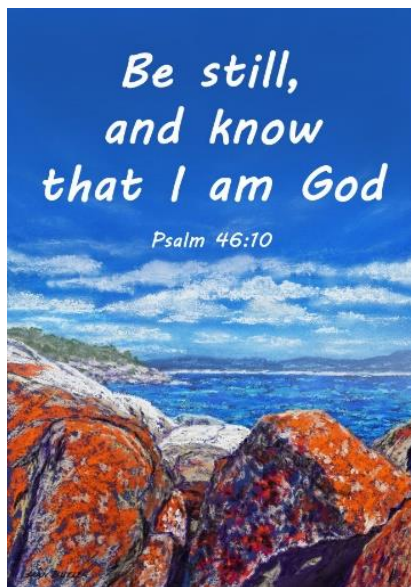


Guided by a cloud 46 (Exodus 13:21-22)

We are currently in the process of doing another jigsaw puzzle (a map of Melbourne in case you were wondering!). Whilst jigsaws may not be everyone's cup of tea they can teach us a few things. Sometimes life problems can seem overwhelming but if we work our way through bit by bit and leave the big picture to God and we eventually move forward. There are times when stepping away from a jigsaw before it goes out the window is wise. It's true in life too; making a cup of tea or leaving something until the morning can make a world of difference; but importantly, also taking a minute to offer up your frustrations to God can make a huge difference.

This week we focus on the baptism of Jesus. This is a precursor to Lent beginning in a couple of weeks, when we have the opportunity to reflect on where we fit into God's jigsaw.



Worship time

[Father God I wonder](#)

[These are the days of Elijah](#)

[Praise is rising](#)

The Baptism of Jesus - Matthew 3:13-17

Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptised by John. But John tried to deter him, saying, "I need to be baptised by you, and do you come to me?" Jesus replied, "Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfil all righteousness." Then John consented. As soon as Jesus was baptised, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."

The Baptism of Jesus marks the beginning of His public ministry. John was preparing the way for Jesus by preaching repentance of sins and baptising people in the Jordan. John also said that one greater than he would come and "baptise you with the Holy Spirit". With this in mind, it is not surprising that John resisted when Jesus asked to be baptised by him. Jesus did not need to be baptised for forgiveness of sins, since He was sinless. There was no need for Him to repent. However, in this act, He showed His solidarity with sinful humanity and gave an indication of His role as Saviour and Messiah. The opening of the heavens with the Holy Spirit descending as a dove, and God's voice declaring, "This is My beloved Son with Whom I am well pleased," reveals the mystery of the Trinity to mankind and Jesus' true identity and mission. The opening of heaven shows God's powerful intervention in human history and in the life of His Son. It is because Jesus knows who he is that he acts as he does in going to the cross.

The baptism of Jesus reminds us of our identity and mission. It reminds us of who we are and whose we are. By Baptism we become the adoptive sons and daughters of God, brothers and sisters of Jesus, members of his Church, heirs of Heaven and temples of the Holy Spirit. Halleluiah I hear you say! It can be a challenge but we are all called to follow in the footsteps of Jesus, to live as the children of God in thought, word and action.

Prayer: St Augustine of Hippo (354-430)

Breathe in me, O Holy Spirit, that my thoughts may all be holy. Act in me, O Holy Spirit, that my work, too, may be holy. Draw my heart, O Holy Spirit, that I love but what is holy. Strengthen me, O Holy Spirit, to defend all that is holy. Guard me, then, O Holy Spirit, that I always may be holy. Amen.

"Cast all your anxiety on Him because he cares for you" 1Peter 5:7