



Welcome to

Kangaroo Island Catholic Community

(Part of the Fleurieu and Kangaroo Island Cluster of Catholic Parishes)

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD - YEAR C

Vol 7 : No 08

KANGAROO ISLAND CATHOLIC PARISH

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NOARLUNGA DOWNS CATHOLIC PRESBYTERY

Phone: 8382 1717

PARISH TEAM CONTACTS

PARISH PRIEST

Fr Josy Sebastian (8382 1717;
in emergency - 0452 524 169)

Fr Roy John (8382 1717)

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

Mr Peter Clark (8559 5131)

PARISH NEWSLETTER

Mr Peter Clark (8559 5131,
paclark@muckra.com.au)

*(All items for the newsletter must be
received no later than Tuesday
evening.)*

MASS CENTRES

- **KINGSCOTE:** Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Cnr Giles/Todd Sts
Sunday - 9.30am
- **PARNDANA:** Uniting Church,
Cook Street
2nd Sunday - 2.30pm
- **PENNESHAW:** St Columba's
Anglican Church, Cnr North
Terrace and Fourth Street
1st Sunday - 1.30pm

SPONSORSHIP

**KANGAROO ISLAND
TRANSFERS** (0427 887 575)
generously donate transport for our
visiting Priests.

CHILD PROTECTION

Child Protection Unit 8210 8159



FIRST READING

Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11

‘Console my people, console them’
says your God.

‘Speak to the heart of Jerusalem
and call to her that her time of
service is ended, that her sin is
atoned for, that she has received
from the hand of the Lord double
punishment for her crimes.’

A voice cries, ‘Prepare in the
wilderness a way for the Lord.
Make a straight highway for our God
across the desert.

Let every valley be filled in, every
mountain and hill be laid low.
Let every cliff become a plain, and
the ridges a valley; then the glory of
the Lord shall be revealed and all
mankind shall see it; for the mouth
of the Lord has spoken.’

Go up on a high mountain, joyful
messenger to Zion.

Shout with a loud voice, joyful
messenger to Jerusalem.

Shout without fear, say to the towns
of Judah, ‘Here is your God.’

Here is the Lord coming with power,
his arm subduing all things to him.

The prize of his victory is with him,
his trophies all go before him.

He is like a shepherd feeding his
flock, gathering lambs in his arms,
holding them against his breast
and leading to their rest the mother
ewes.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 24-25, 27-30

Oh, bless the Lord, my soul!

SECOND READING

Titus 2:11-14, 3:4-7

God’s grace has been revealed, and it
has made salvation possible for the
whole human race and taught us that
what we have to do is to give up
everything that does not lead to God,
and all our worldly ambitions; we
must be self-restrained and live good
and religious lives here in this present
world, while we are waiting in hope
for the blessing which will come with
the Appearing of the glory of our great
God and saviour Christ Jesus. He
sacrificed himself for us in order to set
us free from all wickedness and to
purify a people so that it could be his
very own and would have no ambition
except to do good.

When the kindness and love of God
our saviour for mankind were
revealed, it was not because he was
concerned with any righteous actions
we might have done ourselves; it was
for no reason except his own

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Kangaroo Island Catholic Parish

Mass Roster

13th Jan:

Readers: P Clark, J Fernandez.

Gifts: Wales family.

Sp. Ministers: G Glynn, M Slagter.

Cleaning / Coffee: A Clark.

Please pray for.....

Josephine Sexton, Skyla Davidson, Noeline Thomas, Charles and Sue Gorman, John Slagter, Cheryl Scopazzi, Pat Hadland, Christian Hadland.

Mei Kuen Sexton and Elizabeth Schoolbread.

May all our sick parishioners, relatives and friends know the healing love of Christ through our actions and His healing presence.

Focusing the Gospel

Ask your parents how they met. If you haven't heard it already, you will likely hear a treasured story about an event which may have seemed quite ordinary at the time. Maybe the meeting was a function of sharing the same part of the alphabet and therefore being seated next to each other in math class. Hindsight reveals a seemingly trivial encounter to have been momentous—momentous for your parents (whose lives might otherwise have gone separate ways) but even more momentous for you (without that meeting, you would likely not have come into existence).

The baptism of Jesus at the Jordan may have been like that. The crowd of Judeans submitting themselves to John's immersion ritual may not have taken much notice of the Galilean in their midst. But all the evangelists, drawing on the hindsight of the Church's reflection, agree that this event at the Jordan was a profoundly significant moment—in the history of Israel, in the story of Jesus, and in the lives of his followers.

PARISH NOTICES

Mass next week :

Kingscote 9:30 AM [Communion service]

Confession available 30 min before mass.

World Youth Day Adelaide Mass:

5:00 pm Sunday 27 January at Sacred Heart College Somerton Park.

World Youth Day Adelaide is fast approaching, but it's not too late to be part of the action. Sacred Heart College in Somerton Park will come alive on Sunday January 27 for an event featuring live performances from some of Australia's best musicians, a range of workshops and speaker panels discussing topics including environmental protection and social justice, food vans, a rock-climbing wall, merchandise, a live broadcast from 1079 Life FM and a youth-led Mass. Tickets are only \$20 each and can be purchased online at www.cathoyouthadelaide.org.au/wyd or at the gate. For more information, please contact Peter Bierer at the Catholic Office for Youth and Young Adults, or see the blue poster at the back of the Church.

Frs Selva Raj Leenaiah and Jack Otto SJ have generously accepted their appointments to serve our Parishes under the leadership of Fr. Josy. A full list of Archdiocesan appointments for 2019 approved by Bishop O'Kelly is available from Peter Clark



Ron Rolheiser column

Ronald Rolheiser, a Roman Catholic priest and member of the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate, is president of the Oblate School of Theology in San Antonio, Texas. He is a community-builder, lecturer and writer. His books are popular throughout the English-speaking world and his weekly column is carried by more than sixty newspapers worldwide.

SENSITIVE TO COMMUNITY, BEYOND OURSELVES

Some years ago I was challenged by a Bishop regarding an article I'd written. We were talking in his office and the tone eventually got a little testy: "How can you write something like that?" he asked. "Because it's true," was my blunt reply. He already knew it was true, but now, realizing that, he became more aware of his real agenda: "Yes, I know it's true, but that doesn't mean it should be said in that way in a Catholic newspaper like ours. This isn't a university classroom or the *New York Times*. It's a diocesan newspaper and that's not the best context within which to say something like that. It will confuse a lot of readers."

I'm not immune to pride and arrogance and so my spontaneous reaction was defensive. Immediately there were certain voices in me saying: "I am only saying what's true. The truth needs to be spoken. Why are you afraid to hear the truth? Are we really doing people a favor by shielding them from things they'd rather not hear?"

But I'm glad I swallowed my pride, bit my tongue, muttered a half-sincere apology, and walked out of his office without saying any of those things out loud because, after my initial feelings had subsided and I'd had a more sober and prayerful reflection on our conversation, I realized he was right. Having the truth is one thing, speaking it in a place and a manner that's helpful is quite another. It's not for nothing that Jesus challenged us to speak our truth in parables because truth, as T.S. Eliot once quipped, cannot always be swallowed whole and the context and tone within which it is spoken generally dictate whether it's helpful or not to speak it at a given time or to a given person. Simply put, it isn't always helpful, or

charitable, or mature, to throw a truth into someone's face.

St. Paul says as much in his Epistle to the Romans in words to this effect: *We who are strong must be considerate of those who are sensitive about things like this. We must not just please ourselves.* (Romans 15, 1) That can come across as patronizing, as if Paul were telling a certain elite to tone down some of their enlightened views and actions for the sake of those who are less enlightened, but that's not what's at stake here. Undergirding this kind of admonition is a fundamental distinction that's critically important in our teaching, preaching, and pastoral practice, namely, the distinction between *Catechesis* and *Theology*, the distinction between nurturing and shoring-up someone's faith as opposed to stretching someone's faith so as to make it more universally compassionate.

Catechesis is meant to teach doctrine, teach prayers, teach creeds, clarify biblical and church teachings, and give people a solid, orthodox framework within which to understand their Christian faith. *Theology*, on the other hand, presupposes that those studying it are already catechized, that they already know their creeds and prayers and have a solid, orthodox foundation. *Theology's* function, among other things, is then to stretch its students in function of giving them the symbolic tools with which to understand their faith in a way that leaves no dark, hidden corners into which they are afraid to venture for fear of shaking their faith. *Catechesis* and *Theology* have different functions and must respect each other since both are needed: Young seedling plants need to be protected and gently nurtured; just as older, mature plants have to

be given the wherewithal to live and thrive inside all the environmental challenges in which they find themselves.

Thus the challenge coming to me from the bishop was, in effect, to be more careful with my audience so as to distinguish theology classrooms and academic periodicals from catechetical situations and church newspapers.

It carried too a special challenge to humility and charity, such as was, for example, shown by the scientist-philosopher, Pierre Teilhard de Chardin: Elderly, retired, and in declining health, he still found himself "silenced" by the Vatican in that we has forbidden to publish his theological thoughts. But, rather than reacting with anger and arrogance, he reacted with charity and humility. Writing to his Jesuit Provincial, acknowledges needs beyond his own: "I fully recognize that Rome may have its own reasons for judging that, in its present form, my concept of Christianity may be premature or incomplete and that at the present moment its wider diffusion may therefore be inopportune. ... [This letter] is to assure you that, in spite of any apparent evidence to the contrary, I am resolved to remain a child of obedience. Obviously, I cannot abandon my own personal search – that would involve me in an interior catastrophe and in disloyalty to my most cherished vocation; but I have ceased to propagate my ideas and am confining myself to achieving a deeper personal insight into them."

Recognizing the importance of sensitivity as to where and how we speak the truth, Jesus advises: "Speak your truth in parables."

You can read, or download, Ron Rolheiser's weekly columns from his website at: www.ronrolheiser.com

**REGULAR MASS TIMES IN
OUR CLUSTER CHURCHES
ALDINGA**

*Mary of Galilee, the First Disciple
cnr Quinliven and How Roads*
Saturday 5.30pm
Tuesday 9.15am

GOOLWA

St John the Apostle, 10-14 Gardiner St
Sunday 9.00am
Wednesday 9.30am

KINGSCOTE

*Our Lady of Perpetual Help,
cnr Todd and Giles Streets*
Sunday 9.30am

NOARLUNGA

*St Luke, the Evangelist,
cnr Honeypt Rd and Goldsmith Dve*
Saturday 6.00pm
Sunday 9.00am
1st Sunday 11am (Spanish Mass)
2nd Sunday 2.00pm (Filipino Mass)
Sunday (Youth Mass) 5.30pm
Monday 9.00am
Tuesday 9.00am
Wednesday 7.30pm
Thursday 8.15am (St Luke's)
Thursday 9.15am (St John's - term time)
Friday 10.00am

NORMANVILLE

St Peter, Cape Jervis Road
1st, 3rd, 5th Sundays 10.30am
2nd, 4th Sundays 8.30am
1st Friday 6.00pm

PARNDANA

2nd Sunday 2.30pm

PENNESHAW

*St Columba, North Terrace
(shared with Anglicans)*
1st Sunday 1.30pm

SEAFORD

*Seaford Ecumenical Mission,
Grand Bvd*
Sunday 10.45am
Wednesday 9.15am

VICTOR HARBOR

St Joan of Arc, 30 Seaview Road
Saturday 6.00pm
Sunday 11.00am
Tuesday 9.00am
Thursday 9.00am
Friday 9.00am
1st Friday Benediction following Mass

WILLUNGA

St Joseph, 12 St Judes Street
1st, 3rd, 5th Sundays 8.30am
2nd, 4th Sundays 10.30am
Wednesday 9.00am
Thursday 9.00am
Friday 9.00am

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compassion that he saved us, by means of the cleansing water of rebirth and by renewing us with the Holy Spirit which he has so generously poured over us through Jesus Christ our saviour. He did this so that we should be justified by his grace, to become heirs looking forward to inheriting eternal life.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Lk 3:16

Alleluia, alleluia!

John said: He who is to come is mightier than I; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Luke 3:15-16, 21-22

A feeling of expectancy had grown among the people, who were beginning to think that John might be the Christ, so John declared before them all, 'I baptise you with water, but someone is coming, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to undo the strap of his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. Now when all the people had been baptised and while Jesus after his own baptism was at prayer, heaven opened and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily shape, like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you.'

GOSPEL BACKGROUND

Today we celebrate the feast of the Baptism of the Lord. In today's Gospel, as in the other Gospel accounts of Jesus' baptism, we hear John the Baptist address the confusion of the people who thought that John might be the Messiah. In response, John contrasts the baptism that he performs with the Baptism that Jesus will inaugurate. John the Baptist says that he has baptized with water, but that someone will come and baptize with the Holy Spirit. The type of baptism that John performed was not yet a Christian Baptism; it was a preparation for Christian Baptism through which sins are forgiven and the gift of the Holy Spirit is received.

The baptism of Jesus is reported in each of the three Synoptic Gospels—

Matthew, Mark, and Luke. Clearly, it was an event of great significance for Jesus and for the early Christian community. The Evangelists Mark and Luke report the story from Jesus' perspective; the voice from heaven is addressed to Jesus. Compare this to Matthew's Gospel in which the voice from heaven speaks to everyone. In Luke, however, the Holy Spirit descends upon Jesus during his time of prayer after his baptism. Through his Gospel, Luke will show Jesus to be a person of prayer who withdraws regularly from the crowds and his disciples to pray to his Father.

The baptism of Jesus is considered a manifestation of God in Jesus, another "epiphany." On this, the last day of the Christmas season, our Gospel reveals to us Jesus' relation to God: the son of Mary and Joseph is also God's own Son. In Luke's Gospel, all three members of the Trinity are manifested here: God the Father in the voice, the Holy Spirit descending, and Jesus the Son. At the beginning of his Gospel, Luke is communicating to us important information about the identity of Jesus. In the verses that follow, Luke lists the genealogy of Jesus, tracing Jesus' ancestry back to the first person, Adam, who is also identified as the son of God. We, the children of Adam and Eve, are again made children of God through Baptism.

THIS WEEK'S READINGS

(14 - 20 January)

- **Monday, 14:** Weekday, Ord Time 1 (Heb 1:1-6; Mk 1:14-20)
- **Tuesday, 15:** Weekday, Ord Time 1 (Heb 2:5-12; Mk 1:21-28)
- **Wednesday, 16:** Weekday, Ord Time 1 (Heb 2:14-18; Mk 1:29-39)
- **Thursday, 17:** St Anthony, abbot (Heb 3:7-14; Mk 1:40-45)
- **Friday, 18:** Weekday, Ord Time 1 (Heb 4:1-5, 11; Mk 2:1-12)
- **Saturday, 19:** Weekday, Ord Time 1 (Heb 4:12-16; Mk 2:13-17)
- **Sunday, 20:** 2nd SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME (Is 62:1-5; 1 Cor 12:4-11; Jn 2:1-11)

PASTORAL CARE

If you (or someone you know) is house-bound, in hospital or in residential care and would appreciate a visit from a Priest or someone from the Parish, please let us know.
Contact: Noarlunga/Seaford (8382 1717), Willunga (0488 287 552),
Victor Harbor/Goolwa (8552 1084), Kangaroo Island (0418 819 078).