



THE CATHOLIC PARISH OF IVANHOE

*St Bernadette's Church, 89 Bond St, Ivanhoe West
Mary Immaculate Church, 4 Waverley Ave, Ivanhoe
Mother of God Church, 56 Wilfred Rd, Ivanhoe East*

Parish Priest:	Fr. Thang Vu	63 Wilfred Rd, Ivanhoe East	9499 5440
Priest in Residence:	Fr. Thanh Tran	Parish Secretary: Mrs Ruth Villani	
Parish Office:	4 Waverley Ave, Ivanhoe 3079	Phone: 9499 1515	Fax: 9499 9959
Parish Website:	www.ivanhoecatholics.com	Email: catholicparishofivanhoe@bigpond.com	

Masses:

Weekend: Saturday: 6.30pm St Bernadette's **Sunday:** 9am Mary Immaculate; 10.30am Mother of God
Weekday: 9.15am **Tuesday:** Mother of God **Wednesday:** Mary Immaculate **Friday:** St Bernadette's

No. 2

11 - 12 January 2014

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD: YEAR A

THE WORD

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: After the Lord was baptized, the heavens were opened, and the Spirit descended upon him like a dove, and the voice of the Father thundered: This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: The Lord will bless his people with peace.

- V. 1. O give the Lord you sons of God, give the Lord glory and power;
Give the Lord the glory of his name. Adore the Lord in his holy court. **R.**
- V. 2. The Lord's voice resounding on the waters, the Lord on the immensity of waters;
The voice of the Lord, full of power, the voice of the Lord, full of splendour. **R.**
- V. 3. The God of glory thunders. In his temple they all cry: 'Glory!'
The Lord sat enthroned over the flood; the Lord sits as king for ever. **R.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Alleluia, alleluia! The heavens were opened and the Father's voice was heard: this is my beloved Son, hear him. Alleluia!

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL: We pray:

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: Behold the One of whom John said: I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God.

PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY:

We remember Jack Mullane, Leo Milesi, Merle Howe, Nora Brown, Nancy Gibb, Nita Meagher, Raffaella Danza, Sheila Ryan and Mary Bezzina who are in need of prayer at this time. We remember those who provide care and support for those in need.

We remember those who have died recently. We remember Linda Omizzolo and Robert West whose anniversaries occur at this time.



Baptism: We welcome Alexis Widjaja who is baptised into the faith community of the Catholic Parish of Ivanhoe this weekend. We welcome her family, relatives and friends who have come to share this special occasion, one of many steps in the lifelong journey of faith.

News from Parish Office:

- Ruth will be on a week's leave 6 - 10 January 2014. The Parish Office will be attended at different intervals.
- A brief newsletter for 11 - 12 January has been prepared and collected in advance. Notices, anniversaries and prayer requests received after 6 January will be placed in the newsletter for 18 - 19 January 2014.
- Notices and items can be left in the locked letterbox near front door of the Parish Office at 4 Waverley Ave, Ivanhoe. Contact details: phone 9499 1515, fax 9499 9959; or email: catholicparisfofivanhoe@bigpond.com

From Fr Thang: I will be on leave from 13 - 24 January 2014 and sincerely thank Fr Len Thomas and Fr Peter Carrucan who will celebrate weekend Masses 18 and 19 January whilst I am absent. Communion Services will be available for parishioners in each church during this two week period. I thank all concerned who lead and facilitate Communion Services as part of their ministry to each of our church communities.

No Reconciliation available at Mary Immaculate Church on Saturday 18 January

Reflection: The Baptism of the Lord

These days there are some young Catholic parents who wonder whether baptism is the proper thing for them to seek for their children. One argument they sometimes offer is that it would be better to defer baptism until their child reaches adulthood and then he or she has the opportunity to choose it. As appealing as this argument might seem on the surface, the problem is that the reasoning behind it is so inconsistently applied.

Young Catholic parents do not give their children any choice about eating vegetables, learning to read or write and living out a moral code. They enforce these things because they know that nutrition, literacy and ethics are essential for adulthood. If we recognise that, from birth, a child has spiritual as well as educational, moral and physical needs, it strikes me as inconsistent to relegate this constitutively otherworldly element of a child's character to a 'must be decided on later' category.

Baptism is not brainwashing. Adults can come and go from the practice of their faith as they feel drawn. Sadly for us, they can even choose against belief. To grow up, however, with no religious foundation or no basis on which to make spiritual choices seems to limit freedom rather than promote it. In our culture baptism of infants by their parents is an entirely proper thing to do.

In today's Gospel we hear that Jesus was baptised by John in the Jordan because it was 'the proper thing to do'.

This can seem all quaintly odd to us today because we seem to accept that our only convention is to flout convention. The done thing today is to undo what we've done before.

We hold very strongly, however, to the idea that God always does the 'proper thing'. It's called 'appropriateness' in theology. We believe, for example, that God decided it was proper to become incarnate when he did, how he did and where he did. Over the centuries there's been endless debate about what would've happened if the Word had come to us as a woman, in another era, on another continent. While these are interesting enough matters on which to speculate, they are not what God thought proper – or what, in fact, happened.

In line with the right action of God, Jesus does the proper thing in being baptised by John's baptism of repentance, even though he had nothing of which to repent. Jesus is not baptised, however, simply because it was expected of him, just a fulfilment of his duty. Jesus' experience of baptism starts with John's baptism as an admission of guilt and then reveals that baptism is primarily about the Father's love. To this day our baptismal ritual holds these two realities in a healthy tension. When we are baptised in Christ, we acknowledge both Original Sin and Original Grace. God's love comes alive in us even though we are aware of how far from that love we stray.

The Baptism of Jesus and every baptism done in his name ever since, is the moment when we hold together the greatness of God's love, that calls each of us by name to be his son or daughter, with the reality of our human frailty. What more appropriate way of welcoming anyone into the world than having a community of frail, human believers initiate its members by reminding them that Original Sin does not have the last word. For those of us baptised in Christ, the Father's love always and everywhere has the final, appropriate, say on every matter.

May this Eucharist make us worthy of the love lavished on us in baptism and give us the courage to keep doing the appropriate things for the coming generations.

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ROSTERS FOR WEEKEND: 18 – 19 January 2014

ST. BERNADETTE'S:

Saturday 6.30pm

Lector

C. Dixon

Special Ministers

B. Jowett, E. Crawley

MARY IMMACULATE:

Sunday 9.00am

Leader

As available

Reader

As available

Mass Coordinators

M. Gilbo

Counters

M. Rocco, P. Shannon

MOTHER OF GOD:

Sunday 10.30am

Sacristan

E. Mount

Lector

E. Mount

Special Ministers

As available

Altar Society:

I. Chiera

Choir Coordinator: School Holidays

INCLUSIVENESS

HOSPITALITY

SERVICE

MISSION