

Gospel Reflection

This is the first of three times in Matthew in which God expresses his direct approval of Jesus in these terms. In Matthew 12:14, conspiratorial forces surround Jesus and begin threatening his life. Jesus flees the threat but continues to heal everywhere he goes. 12:17-21 sees in all this a confirmation of the Isaianic oracle which is the first reading this Sunday. Once again, God's soul is pleased. Finally, God's voice again commends Jesus' fealty during the transfiguration scene (17:5). This is the consistent witness of God concerning the Son, a witness further confirmed in the resurrection and perpetuation of the body of disciples in all the nations.

John plays a dual role in these verses. Having proclaimed the power of the one who is to come, he is also faithful to concede to a baptism whose necessity he may not fully understand. In submitting himself to John, Jesus combines great power and acquiescence. Jesus is not a king who won't deign to tread the humble paths of his servants. Jesus' hold on his power is not so tenuous that he must zealously hold on to it at all times. For Jesus, power and humility, authority and submission, power and relationship are not at odds.

BAPTISM PREPARATION

If you wish to make preparations for your child to be Baptised you should telephone Fr Simon to arrange to see him after an 10am Mass on Sunday morning.

Following this there are Meetings on the first Friday of each month at 7:30pm that you will need to attend, where you will meet Mrs Gerri Doherty and Deacon Tony Ford.

NEWSLETTER

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Diocese of Shrewsbury Registered Charity No 234025



"United in conviction and united
in love, with a common purpose
and a common mind"
Philippians 2:2

8th JANUARY 2023 **BAPTISM OF THE LORD (CYCLE A)** **MASS & SERVICE TIMES**

Saturday 7th January	5:15pm	Mass
Sunday 8th January	10:00am	Mass (Livestreamed)
Monday 9th January		
Tuesday 10th January		
Wednesday 11th January		
Thursday 12th January		
Friday 13th January		
Saturday 14th January	5:15pm	Mass
Sunday 15th January	10:00am	Mass (Livestreamed)

If Fr Simon is unobtainable and you urgently need a Priest please phone the parish mobile: **07548 222133** Please use this number for emergencies only i.e. where a priest is needed urgently.

200 CLUB DRAW

Winner: £40 Prize
This week – Mrs Maria Redfearn

**WHY NOT JOIN THE 200 CLUB
AND HELP THE PARISH?**

Coffee morning

The next Coffee Morning is on Tuesday 17th January at 10:30am, everyone is welcome. There will be a Eucharist service at 10am before the coffee morning.

Christmas Cards

Please bring in your Christmas Cards as they can be recycled and put to good use.

PARISH CENTRE BOOKING ENQUIRIES

If you are interested in hiring the Parish Centre for a function, please contact Phil Martin on 07720 807162

Prayer for our Parish:

Father, pour out your Spirit upon the people of this parish
and grant us a new vision of your glory,
a new experience of your power, a new faithfulness to your word
and a new consecration to your service,
that your love may grow among us and your kingdom come,
through Christ our Lord.

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St Joseph pray for us

Gospel

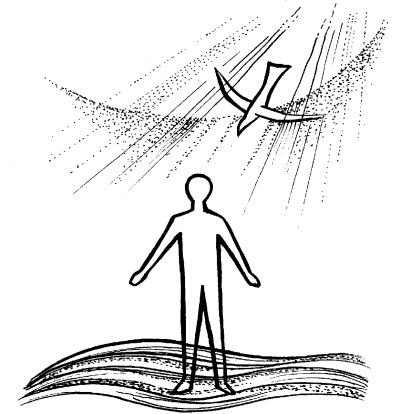
Matthew 3 13 – 17



Jesus then appeared, arriving at the Jordan River from Galilee. He wanted John to baptise him. John objected, "I'm the one who needs to be baptised, not *you!*"

But Jesus insisted. "Do it. God's work, putting things right all these centuries, is coming together right now in this baptism." So John did it.

The moment Jesus came up out of the baptismal waters, the skies opened up and he saw God's Spirit—it looked like a dove—descending and landing on him. And along with the Spirit, a voice: "This is my Son, chosen and marked by my love, delight of my life."



"Preach the Gospel always, if necessary use words"

St Francis of Assisi

Prisoner Outreach

Do you – like me – find carrying round small coins a waste of time? The Prisoner Outreach Organisation is a Christian network of volunteers who have been voluntarily working in HM Prisons and supplies copies of the BIBLE ALIVE booklets to prisoners. Drop your loose change into the bottle on the table in the porch and help to support this good cause.