



# Gosford Parish

The Communities of St Patrick's East Gosford,  
St Francis of Assisi Somersby & Holy Trinity Spencer  
Neighbourhoods of Grace, entrusted to the  
care of the Salvatorians.



## Community

### GOSPEL REFLECTION

Today's gospel begins with a level of expectancy among the people that John the Baptist may be the Christ; the Messiah. This seemingly throw away introductory comment confirms the fact that the Jewish expectation of the Messiah was particularly heightened at the time of John and Jesus. At the time of the ministries of John and Jesus, the Romans had been the occupying force in Judaea for about 80 or 90 years. Throughout most of their lives the infamous Galilee area had been relatively peaceful and free of revolutionary activity but that changed from about 26 CE. With the anti-Roman sentiment on the rise, the ancient yearning for a Messiah resurfaced.

This Messianic expectation stretched back hundreds of years and was richly associated with the sovereign line of King David. The Davidic line ruled for more than 400 years until it was ended in the early 6th Century BCE by the Jewish people being exiled in Babylon for about 50 years.

The term, Messiah, literally means anointed one. In ancient Israel, the king was designated by being anointed with oil on his head. Following the exile in Babylon, the people longed for another great king, in the style and from the line of David. Over time, this expectation grew into an ideal that one day a perfect king would rise up again and be the anointed one; the Messiah. As the years grew into decades and centuries, this expectation took on more and more significance. When the Messiah came, the whole world would be put to right; a period of justice and peace would prevail; the oppressed would be liberated.

Whilst the people longed for the Messiah to appear, the gospels reveal that they had difficulty believing Jesus was the one for whom they hoped.

#### Historical context – Baptism

John makes clear to the people that the baptism he performs is with water but the baptism by Jesus is with the Holy Spirit. John preached a baptism of repentance. In keeping with his Jewish tradition, John called upon the people to make a public declaration of their wrong-doing and commitment to be washed clean of this sinfulness and desire to live in right relationship with God and others. The baptism to which he refers is the complete change of heart and mind that comes through the Holy Spirit and results from a person accepting the message of Jesus.

#### Gospel focus – My Son, the Beloved

'You are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you.' This declaration by the voice from Heaven – the voice of God – is an amalgamation of two earlier pieces of scripture: 'You are my son; today I have begotten you' (Ps 2:7) and 'Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights' (Is 42:1). The fact that it is uttered before Jesus has begun his ministry is a sign to all of us that God delights in us for who we are, not for what we have achieved in our lives.

#### Have you thought? Trinity

The baptism event in the gospels is a moment of revelation of the Trinitarian nature of God. The Holy Spirit descends upon Jesus in the form of a dove whilst the voice of God is heard to declare of Jesus, 'You are my Son.' It is a unique moment in the scriptures where the three persons of God are individually and collectively revealed. Although the scriptures do not explicitly name God as Trinity, by the time of Paul's early writings, blessings in the name



of Jesus, God and the Holy Spirit are frequent. Despite this, Trinity continues to be a difficult concept for many Christians.

In Mark and Matthew, we are told that Jesus came out of the water and then the heavens opened and the Spirit came down on him. Luke omits this detail and so Jesus is standing in the water when the Spirit descends. This deliberate change to Mark indicates Luke's presentation of Jesus' baptism as a new creation. In Genesis 1:3, we read that the Spirit of God moved over the face of the waters. This same Spirit now hovers over the waters of Jesus' Baptism. This marks the dawn of a new era in Luke's theology. In Luke 16:16 we read, 'The Law and the Prophets were until John; since then the good news of the kingdom of God is preached.' Across Luke's two-volume work, there is a particular time schema:

- The time of Israel (the Law and the Prophets)
- The time of Jesus and the Kingdom (The Gospel)
- The time of the Church (the Acts of the Apostles)

Each of these eras begins with the outpouring of God's Holy Spirit. The one Spirit provides continuity between the time of Israel, seen in such characters as Zechariah, Simeon, Anna, the time of Jesus, and the time of the Church.

I consider the scene of Jesus' baptism as his vocational call. From this moment, his life changes dramatically and he begins a public ministry to proclaim the in-breaking of God. This, in fact, is his experience here. He knows God as Abba, and knows himself as beloved son. From this spiritual insight, Jesus shifts his perception of God as one who reaches out with kindness and compassion to those in need, particularly the most vulnerable. It is false to imagine that Jesus comes to us with full knowledge of his calling, as if he has somewhere a heavenly diary to consult telling him all he needs to know and do. Jesus is fully human and fully divine, and to be fully human means being open to the mysterious call of God and needing to carefully ponder this mystery and work out the details in solitude and prayer.

© Greg Sunter -

Greg Sunter has worked in Catholic Education (Brisbane) for many years, most recently as a member of the Religious Education team and Mission and Formation team. He has extensive experience of praying with young people and forming others to lead prayer with young people. He is the author of books on adolescent faith, is a regular speaker at youth and evangelisation conferences, and is a retreat and reflection facilitator and presenter. His areas of interest include religious education, theology, scripture, spirituality, Catholic ethos, prayer, and ministry with young people.

76 York St East Gosford NSW 2250

Tel: 4325-1042 ♦ email: [patsgos@acs.net.au](mailto:patsgos@acs.net.au) ♦ Web: [www.bbcatholic.org.au/gosford](http://www.bbcatholic.org.au/gosford)

# Readings for Sunday, 9th JANUARY

## THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

### 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.

### FIRST READING

**IS 40:1-5. 9-11**

**A reading from the prophet Isaiah**

**The glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it.**

'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 all 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. R. V.1**

**(R.) Oh, bless the Lord, my soul!**

1. Lord God, how great you are, clothed in majesty and glory, wrapped in light as in a robe!

You stretch out the heavens like a tent.

**(R.) Oh, bless the Lord, my soul!**

2. Above the rains you build your dwelling.

You make the clouds your chariot, you walk on the wings of the wind, you make the winds your messengers and flashing fire your servants.

**(R.) Oh, bless the Lord, my soul!**

3. How many are your works, O Lord!

In wisdom you have made them all.

The earth is full of your riches.

There is the sea, vast and wide, with its moving swarms past counting, living things great and small.

**(R.) Oh, bless the Lord, my soul!**

4. All of these look to you to give them their food in due season.

You give it, they gather it up:

you open your hand, they have their fill.

**(R.) Oh, bless the Lord, my soul!**

5. You take back your spirit, they die, returning to the dust from which they came.

You send forth your spirit, they are created; and you renew the face of the earth.

**(R.) Oh, bless the Lord, my soul!**

### SECOND READING

**TI 2:11-14; 3:4-7**

**A reading from the letter of St Paul to Titus**

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 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

**LK 3:15-16. 21-22**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

When Jesus had been baptised and had been praying, the heavens were opened and the Holy Spirit came upon him.

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.'

### COMMUNION ANTIPHON

**JN 1:32,34**

Behold the One of whom John said:

I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God.

### THIS WEEK

**Mon 10th** Weekday of Ordinary Time  
Mass at St Patrick's 9:00 am\*

**Tue 11th** Weekday of Ordinary Time  
Mass at St Patrick's 9:00 am\*

**Wed 12th** Weekday of Ordinary Time  
Mass at St Patrick's 11:30 am\*

**Thu 13th** Weekday of Ordinary Time  
Mass at St Patrick's 9:00 am\*

**Fri 14th** Weekday of Ordinary Time  
Mass at St Patrick's 12:00 pm\*

**Sat 15th** Weekday of Ordinary Time  
Mass at St Patrick's 9:00 am\*

**Saturday 15th Vigil**

Mass at Spencer 4:00 pm 2nd  
Saturday of Month  
Mass at St Patrick's 5:00 pm  
Mass at Somersby 5:30 pm

**Next Sunday 16th Masses**

Mass at St Patrick's 7:30 am  
Mass at St Patrick's 9:30 am\*  
Mass at St Patrick's 9:00 pm

\* Designates Mass is Live-streamed

### NEXT WEEKS READINGS

**2ND SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME**

1st: Is 62:1-5

Ps: 95:1-3, 7-10

2nd: 1 Cor 12:4-11

Gos: Jn 2:1-11

**WELCOME MATEUSZ AND  
DIANA NOGA**

**who are having their daughter  
Anastasia baptised at the 9.30am Mass**



## PARISH OFFICE CLOSED FOR CHRISTMAS BREAK

The office staff will be taking the Christmas break from the afternoon of 24th December until 17th January.

**During that time the office will only be opened on Monday 10th Jan and Thursday 13th Jan from 9am-1pm**

### GET INVOLVED IN THE LIFE OF THE PARISH!

#### MINISTRIES

- Eucharistic ministers
- Acolytes & Senior altar servers
- Junior altar servers
- Musicians / Choir
- Readers
- Hospital visitation
- Altar society (flowers)
- Welcoming committee
- Piety shop
- Catechists
- Children's liturgy
- Counters
- Gardeners and caretakers
- AV presentation

If you would like to involve yourself as a volunteer in any of the ministries in the parish, please contact the parish office for more details. Ph: 02 - 4325 1042

#### SOCIAL EVENTS

- Community dinners such as international food night, Italian night, bush dance and more!
- Movie nights 3rd Saturday of the month.
- Coffee shop – every Saturday morning at the Jordan room after 9am mass.
- Breakfast every 1st Sunday of the month after morning masses at the Jordan Room
- Seniors lunches (as above)
- Parish picnics at various times throughout the year
- Morning tea and coffee after 9:30 mass on 3rd Sunday of the month
- Sausage sizzle once a month (4th Sunday) after youth mass

#### ONLINE

- **Live-streamed Masses** - See YouTube below.
- **Rosary every evening** at 9:00 pm
- **Facebook:** - <https://www.facebook.com/StPatricksParishGosford>
- **YouTube:** - [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC44NSRmeB1mg\\_EKIJUFJpvg](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC44NSRmeB1mg_EKIJUFJpvg)
- **Instagram:** - [https://www.instagram.com/st\\_patsparishgosford](https://www.instagram.com/st_patsparishgosford)
- **Email:** [patsgos@acs.net.au](mailto:patsgos@acs.net.au)
- **Website:** - <https://www.bbcatholic.org.au/gosford>

#### SERVICES

RCIA – program for adults who want to become Catholic or complete their sacraments  
 Contact Chris Paget: [cpaget01@gmail.com](mailto:cpaget01@gmail.com) or the Parish Office [4325 1042].  
 Faithful counselling: Contact the Parish Office [4325 1042]  
 St Vincent de Paul Society: 4322 5861



### CHRISTMAS AT ST PATRICK'S IN PHOTOS:



### COVID UPDATE

#### MASKS AND COVID-19 CHECK-IN

The current rulings from NSW Health relevant to places of worship like churches states.

- **COVID-19 QR-code check-in is still mandatory**
- **Masks are mandatory indoors again as of Midnight 24 December 2021**

# BOUTIQUE



REAL ESTATE CENTRAL COAST

Has the keys to buying and selling with First class Services

Call Madeline  
0410 654 494

# BRYAN J REID FUNERAL SERVICES

**100% Australian Owned & Family Operated**

Freecall 1800 032 225

Head office: 4341 5000

Serving all the Central Coast, Sydney and Newcastle ares.

Sponsoring St Patrick's Planned Giving Envelope Programme

## NEED A PAINTER?

Call Joe Fatone  
0405 020 988

### Contempo Painting Services

Specialising in Residential Interior and Exterior Colour matching and advising High pressure cleaning No job too big or small. All work guaranteed

## RELAX



WE SERVE THE "NERVOUS" ERINA FAMILY DENTAL

Ph: 4367 5066  
72 KARALTA RD ERINA  
[Before the turn off to Erina Fair]  
Parking available on site.



Come walk the red carpet... At Flooring 4U, everyone is a VIP!

Quality Work Guaranteed.

Shop 1, 78 York St, East Gosford  
Phone: 0416 336 318

Carpet  
Floating Floors  
Hybrid Flooring  
Vinyl  
Rugs  
Marine/Outdoor  
Flooring  
Home visits available



## BRICK & BLOCK LAYER

### MARK BENNETT

30 Years' Experience  
Residential Specialist  
Give me a call  
on 0410 057 197  
to discuss your job!



We are a migration agency based on the Central Coast

We help with:

- Partner Visas;
- Parent Visas;
- Employer Sponsorship visas – Temporary and Permanent;
- Distinguished Talent;
- General Skilled Migration; and
- Regional Visas.

Contact us for a free 15-minute phone consult!

(02) 8329 7924

amber@unitemigration.com.au

www.unitemigration.com.au

## YOUR ROSTER - JANUARY 16, 2ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

MASS	VIGIL 5:00	7:30am	9:30am	6:00pm	Somersby - 5:30pm	
DATE	15.01.22	16.01.22	16.01.22	16.01.22	Function	15.01.22
<b>Audio/Visual</b>	Cheryl Parry	Ron Begg	Greg McBride	Thomas Werner	<b>Audio/Visual</b>	Michael Xuereb
<b>Acolytes</b>	Bernie Pannell Alberto Torres	John Ryan Peter McLean	Katrina Pratt Peter Cho	Kevin O'Donnell Joseph Nicholls	<b>Altar Society</b>	Michael Monaghan
<b>Commentator</b>	Hilary Pope	Eunice Dal Busco	Frances Mathey	Barbara McCarthy	<b>Commentator</b>	Dakota Xuereb
<b>Lectors</b>	Nicole Murphy Val Dibben	Chris Golden Susana Lindaya	Liz Malik Frances Mathey	Anna Llige Robyn Nevin	<b>Lectors</b>	Nai Herford Marisa Xuerrb
<b>Extraordinary Ministers of The Eucharist</b>	Rosemary Lee	Lucy Price	Keith Quinn	Rick Llige		Mary Luci  Michael & Janelle Monaghan
<b>Altar Servers</b>	Taz Parry	Amelia Eager Laura Eager	Yuna Iwasaki Shiho Iwasaki Helen Shiju	Vito De Toffol Remi De Toffol Luca De Toffol Xavier Werder		Jessica Xuereb  Nai Herford
<b>COUNTERS</b>	<b>ALTAR LINEN</b>	<b>ALTAR SOCIETY</b>	<b>CHILDRENS LITURGY</b>	<b>PARISH BUS</b>	<b>FRIDAY HOSPITAL VISITATION</b>	<b>SUNDAY HOSPITAL VISITATION</b>
10/01 Gary Smith Diana Addis Marie Cradock 17/01 Eunice Dal Busco David Slingsby Ron Begg	P/Up 10/01 Thea Dowsett Ret'n by 15/01	Sat, Jan 09 Fran Thompson Audrey Morris Thea Dowsett Barbara Mills	Postponed until after School Resumes	Postponed	21/01 Christina Miller Colleen Drummond John McCrae Coleen Martin Denise Nicholson Sandra Petith Gary Wills	23/01 Robyn McBride Patsy McCaskie