

NEW BEGINNINGS



WORD OF THE WEEK



Luke 3: 15-16, 21-22

At that time: As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Christ. John answered them all, saying, 'I baptise you with waters, but he who is mightier than I is coming, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire.'

Now when all the people were baptised by John the Baptist and when Jesus also had been baptised and was praying, the heavens were opened, and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form, like a dove; and a voice came from heaven, 'You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.'

"You are my Beloved: with you I am well pleased."

This is a beautiful quote from this week's Gospel. God not only addresses Jesus as his beloved son but us too as his beloved children. Through our faith and baptism we are united with Jesus and share in His identity as beloved children of God.

Take a moment to think about what this quote means to you.

How do you feel knowing that God calls you His "Beloved"?

What does it mean to you to be loved unconditionally by God?

Do I truly believe that I am cherished by God, even in my imperfections?

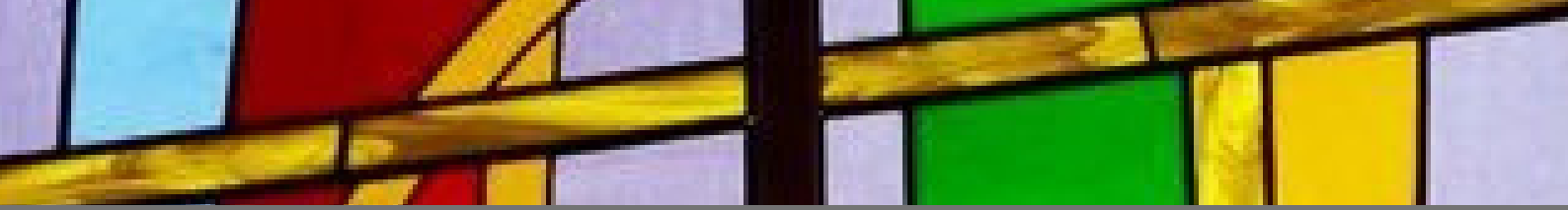


PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

Loving God, we thank you for this new year and the opportunity to learn, grow, and begin again. Just as Jesus was baptised in the River Jordan, marking the start of His mission, may we too embrace new beginning with open hearts and eager minds.

Bless each one of us as we journey through 2025. Help us to be kind to one another, to work hard, and to face challenges with courage and faith. May we always remember that we are Your beloved children, called to bring light and hope to the world.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.



THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

This week the Church celebrates the baptism of Jesus. We hear the story of Jesus' baptism in this week's Word of the Week.

Baptism represents a new beginning, a cleansing and a commitment to a life guided by the Holy Spirit. Jesus baptism marks the start of his public ministry, preparing him spiritually for the journey ahead.



"IN THE END, EVERY CHRISTIAN, MAN AND WOMEN, BY VIRTUE OF BAPTISM, HAS RECEIVED A MISSION. EACH ONE OF US HAS TO RESPOND, AS BEST WE CAN, TO THE LORD'S CALL TO BUILD UP HIS BODY, THE CHURCH."

POPE FRANCIS

THE HOLY SPIRIT

In this week's word of the week we hear about the presence of the Holy Spirit and how it descended in the form of a dove, symbolising God's presence and blessing. This reminds us that we are never alone, and that the Holy Spirit is always available to guide and support us in our daily lives.

Take a moment in silent prayer to ask the Holy Spirit to be with you as you enter 2025.



NEW BEGINNINGS

A new year offers us a fresh start. How are you going to use this fresh start to live the life God intended for you?

SOMETHING TO WATCH...



Belovedness- Sarah Kroger

[Listen Here](#)

THE STORY OF JESUS' BAPTISM

[Watch Here](#)



JUBILEE YEAR 2025: PILGRIMS OF HOPE

2025 marks the start of the Jubilee Year of Hope. When we celebrate this jubilee year we are reminded that every moment with God is an opportunity for a fresh start. A jubilee is a time of renewal, forgiveness and joy- a time to trust in the promise that God's love makes all things new.

This year is a chance to let go of past mistakes and worries. Just as Jesus invites us to cast our burdens on Him, the jubilee reminds us that God's mercy is endless and His love gives us the strength to start again.

How can you be a source of hope to others this year?
What new beginnings is God calling you to embrace?
How can you grow closer to God during this Jubilee year?

As we walk through this holy year, as pilgrims of hope, may we remember that hope is alive in our hearts because God is with us. We trust in him, and let 2025 be a year of growth, joy and new possibilities. You are His beloved, and with Him the best is yet to come!

A prayer of hope

God, our loving Father, in this Jubilee Year, you remind us of our call to love creation. Help us to work together to replant, repair, and renew.
Guide us on our journey as pilgrims of hope. Jesus, our light, In this Jubilee Year, you remind us of our call to love our neighbours and to set free those who suffer. Help us to treat everyone with dignity; to be fair, forgiving and kind.

Guide us on our journey as pilgrims of hope. Holy Spirit, our inspiration, in this Jubilee Year, you remind us of our call to grow in faith and love. Help us to hear you in scripture, to see Jesus in others, and to be united as God's global family.
Guide us on our journey as pilgrims of hope. Amen

