

Kids church – Baptism of the Lord

In the Gospel today, we going to hear about Jesus’s baptism in the river Jordan. In Jesus’ baptism, he is called God’s own Son. Through our Baptism in Jesus’ name, we are made children of God. As Jesus’ baptism marked the beginning of his public ministry, our Baptism marks the beginning of our mission as Christians.

Rov Claveria

Gospel: Mark 1:7-11

John the Baptist announced to the people, “The man who will come after me is much greater than I am. I am not good enough even to bend down and untie his sandals. I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

Not long afterward Jesus came from Nazareth in the province of Galilee, and was baptized by John in the Jordan. As soon as Jesus came up out of the water, he saw heaven opening and the Spirit coming down on him like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, “You are my own dear Son. I am pleased with you.”

Some things for you to think and talk about with your children:

Gospel reflection: What do you remember from today’s reading?

Today we hear how John baptised Jesus in the River Jordan. What happened as Jesus was baptised?

The Holy Spirit came down and rested on him. And God spoke saying to Jesus, “You are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you.”

Ask the children who here has been baptised? Do you know?

Most of us are baptised when we are infant, so you might not remember it. Have you ever been to a baptism that you do remember? What happens at a baptism? *Talk the children through a baptism, the promises that are made on the child’s behalf, pouring of water, anointing with oil, lighting of a candle etc.*

Why do we get baptised?

Through baptism our sins are forgiven. It is also the way that we are welcomed as a member of the Church community – a big family that stretches all around the world. We are committed to God and to trying to live our lives the way that God wants us to.

How do you think God wants us to live our lives?

God calls us to be kind and generous, to share with others and forgive others and to try always to do what is right. God asks us to love our neighbour as ourselves.

It is not easy, but in the same way that the Holy Spirit came to Jesus when he was baptised, we are baptised with water and the Holy Spirit. The Spirit is there to help us when we find things difficult and to guide us to make the right choices.

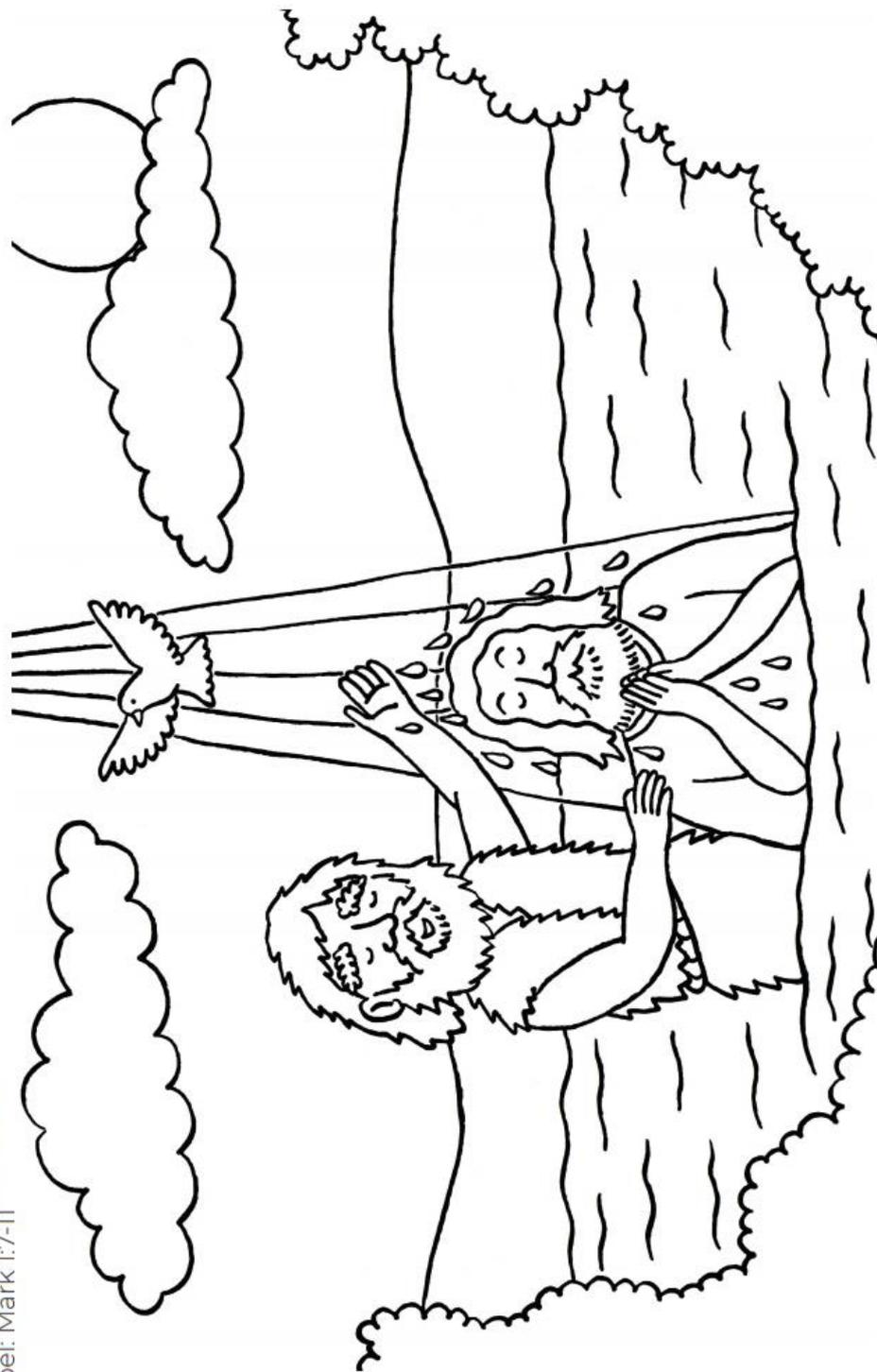
We are all children of God, so how can we try to live our lives the way God wants us to in the coming week?

Activity 1

Invite the children to colour in the accompanying illustration and to write or draw on the back how they will try to live their lives as God wants them to in the coming week.

THE CATHOLIC PARISH OF
BOGNOR REGIS AND SLINDON

We are followers of Jesus, on fire with his love,
sharing that love with each other and with the world.



The Baptism of the Lord

Gospel: Mark 1:7-11

Activity 2

Place each family member's name on a slip of paper and put the names in a bowl. Invite each person in the family to choose another family member's name and to prepare a message for that person, affirming their importance in God's eyes and in your family life. Pray together that your family will continue to support one another in your baptismal promises to be disciples of Jesus and then invite each person to read aloud the message they prepared. Conclude by praying together the Lord's Prayer.

WHAT ARE THE BAPTISMAL PROMISES?

When a child is baptized, the Parents and God parents faith speaks for the child who is too young to have explicit faith on his or her own. This is why the Church requires a reasonable hope that the parents will raise the child in the Catholic faith before a child is baptized.

Priest: Do you reject sin, so as to live in the freedom of God's children?

Parents and Godparents: I do.

Priest: Do you reject the glamour of evil, and refuse to be mastered by sin?

Parents and Godparents: I do.

Priest: Do you reject Satan, father of sin and prince of darkness?

Parents and Godparents: I do. Priest:

Do you believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth?

Parents and Godparents: I do.

Priest: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was born of the Virgin Mary, was crucified, died, and was buried, rose from the dead, and is now seated at the right hand of the Father?

Parents and Godparents: I do.

Priest: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting?

Parents and Godparents: I do.

The first part of the baptismal promises are made: renunciation of evil.

The second part of baptismal promises follows, with the *Apostles' Creed* put in question form



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The role of the parents is very important, as they are the persons who are giving assurance that they will raise the child being baptised in the Catholic faith and upon Catholic value

The role of a godparent is to help the child grow in the practice of the Catholic faith. The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* says “the godfather and godmother . . . must be firm believers, able and ready to help the newly baptized-child or adult on the road to Christian life. Their task is a truly ecclesial function (*officium*). The whole ecclesial community bears some responsibility for the development and safeguarding of the grace given at baptism” (1255). Godparents must be good witnesses to the faith and willing to share the faith with their godchildren. They should be faithful to the teachings of the Church.