

UPLIFTED BY FEAST OF THE BAPTISM OF JESUS DURING LOCKDOWN
THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD (YEAR B) – 10 January 2021



Baptême de Jésus - James Tissot | public domain | edited www.stjosephsbrackenridge.com

WELCOME

Welcome to our pre-recorded weekend Mass.
It is available on our [parish website](#) and [parish Facebook](#).

Our Parish Mass of Joseph's and St Anthony's Parish this weekend was pre-recorded on Friday, some hours before Lockdown.

This weekend is the *Feast of the Baptism of the Lord* – the Baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan by the prophet, John the Baptist.

An essential part of our baptismal calling, is to pray.

There has been so much happening in the world, and so much to pray for in the New Year.

Our parish **LIGHT·A·CANDLE** is open 24 hours a day, every day.
LIGHT·A·CANDLE is available at <https://lightacandleatstjosephsbrackenridge.com/>

All are invited to Light a Candle during these 3 days of lockdown, and pray quietly for ourselves and those in need.

USA

With civil strife problems in Washington DC and a very large number of COVID cases in the USA, we continue our recent prayer for the United States this January.

PRAYER FOR THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Loving God, we pray to You, for our sisters and brothers in the United States during this month of January.

We pray for those responsible for implementing COVID safe protocols and for the distribution of COVID vaccines.

Loving God, we pray to You, for all leaders and peacemakers during this time of anxiety across the nation.

We pray as members of one family. We pray for peace and safety for all. Amen.



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PRAYER FOR THE GREATER BRISBANE REGION

We pray for couples marrying in the Greater Brisbane Region over these three days of Lockdown. We pray for them, acknowledging the disappointment of reduced numbers attending, and the extra pressure of deciding which family and friends can attend, and who misses out. We pray for them.

[PAUSE]

We pray for families with a loved one whose funeral is during these three days, and the extra pain of having to reduce numbers of family and friends attending, We pray for them.

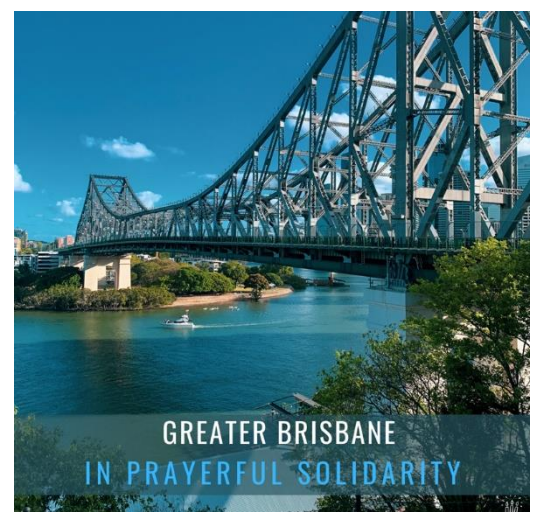
[PAUSE]

We pray for all contact tracers and COVID testers in our region. We pray for all who are coming forward to be tested. We pray for them.

[PAUSE]

We pray for those in the Northern Beaches Parishes of Sydney and in other parts of NSW and Australia. We pray for them.

[PAUSE]



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During these three days, we ask God to uplift us in spirit and deepen our hope.

We turn to the Word of God in this weekend's Readings from the Bible.
May God enlighten our hearts and minds through the Word of God today.

ISAIAH 55:1-11 - UPLIFTS OUR SPIRITS

Today's First Reading from Isaiah 55 uplifts our spirits.

We remember the call of Pope Francis for all people in the world,
Including the poor and marginalized,
to have equal access to the COVID-19 Vaccines and Treatments.

This chapter from Isaiah speaks of sharing with all. It begins:

*'Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters;
and you that have no money, come, buy and eat!
Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.'*

Chapter 55 has wonderful advice to our world this New Year:

To really listen to God and

To celebrate our relationship, our covenant of intimate love with God

- *"listen, so that you may live. I will make with you an everlasting covenant"*

To seek God in all we do.

- *"Seek the Lord while he may be found, call upon him while he is near;*

To change our ways and return to God, and

To receive the mercy and pardon of God's forgiveness.

- *"let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts;
let them return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on them,
and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon."*

During this pandemic, time and time again we have learnt
that we cannot afford to be arrogant.

God's thoughts are so vast.

Humbly we ask God for help, humbly we seek to work with God.

- *"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord.
For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways
higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts."*

We need to hear this **message of hope** as God says:

*"For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven,
and do not return there until they have watered the earth,
making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,
so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty,
but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and succeed in the thing for which I sent it."*

During the New Year and its challenges around the world, let us work together with God.
To work together, we need to listen to God.

GOSPEL OF MARK 1:7-11

This weekend we were due to have baptismal preparations in the church.
Due to the three-day COVID restrictions, we changed the format
and email the explanation sheets to parents, and then discussed the preparations by phone.

With all the sudden changes, we read slowly the words of today's Gospel.
We ponder the words of John the Baptist.
We ponder the wonderful sacredness of the baptism of Jesus,
the Spirit descending on Jesus,
and the Voice of God as a loving parent, saying

'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.'

Let us read the Gospel slowly,
imagining ourselves there, witnessing this moment of holiness.

*"He proclaimed,
'The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me;
I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals.
I have baptized you with water;
but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.'
In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee
and was baptized by John in the Jordan.
And just as he was coming up out of the water,
he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him.
And a voice came from heaven,*

'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.'"

Humbly we ask God for help, humbly we seek to work with God.
We open our hearts, to receive the mercy and pardon of God's forgiveness.
We seek God in all we do.

As Beloved, with patience and resilience during the Pandemic,
we treasure the sacredness of our own baptism,
and ask God to deepen our mission and Christian commitment.

We ask God to uplift us in spirit and deepen our hope.

Let us pray.

[PAUSE]

After Mass, we are invited to read the Archdiocesan COVID Update
<https://brisbanecatholic.org.au/news-events/covid-19-updates/>

Fr Gerry

Readings: <https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/011021.cfm>

[Pre-recorded Mass for the Baptism of the Lord, 10 January 2021](#)