

Children's liturgy – Baptism of the Lord (Year C)

Preparation of the worship space

Colour: green

Song suggestions: The Spirit lives to set us free (771, Laudate)

Welcome: Today we hear about Jesus' Baptism and about something very special that happened after it. He was filled with the Holy Spirit. Let's think some more about the Holy Spirit today.

Opening prayer: God of heaven and earth, you sent your Son Jesus to lead us to you. Send your Holy Spirit into our hearts so that we may have faith and courage to follow Jesus in all that we do. Amen.

First reading (optional): Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11

Psalm: Psalm 103:1-2, 3-4, 24-25, 27-30 r. 1

Gospel acclamation: *everyone stands and sings the acclamation together.*

Gospel: Luke 3:15-16, 21-22

People's hopes began to rise, and they began to wonder whether John perhaps might be the Messiah. So John said to all of them, "I baptize you with water, but someone is coming who is much greater than I am. I am not good enough even to untie his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

After all the people had been baptized, Jesus also was baptized. While he was praying, heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit came down upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my own dear Son. I am pleased with you."

(Gospel passage taken from Good News Translation® and used with permission, see details below)*

Gospel reflection: What did you hear in the reading today?

We hear about how John the Baptist was baptising people with water. Can you remember what he says?

He says that someone is coming who is more powerful than he is. Who do you think that person is?

John says he is not good enough to untie the strap of Jesus' sandals. What do you think John means by this?

John does not feel that he is important enough to help Jesus. But, Jesus asks to be baptised by John. What do you think this shows us about Jesus?

All of us are important in our own special way, and we are all important enough to serve Jesus. Jesus welcomes us all and sees that we all have special gifts and talents to share.

What happens after Jesus is baptised?

Jesus prays, and while he is praying, the Holy Spirit comes down like a dove. Then a voice comes from heaven. Whose voice do you think this is? What does God say? (*You are my Son and I am pleased with you*)

Jesus is the Son of God and he is filled with the Holy Spirit. We are all God's children and we are also filled with the Holy Spirit at our baptism.

What difference do you think being filled with the Holy Spirit makes?

The Holy Spirit can help to make us brave and to bring us joy. Just as we can tell that a tree is good because of the fruit that grows on it, we can tell if the Holy Spirit is working in us by the way that we act and how we treat other people.

For instance, we can share what we have with others who do not have enough. We can be kind to others. We can try to make our world a fairer and better place for all people to live in.

Some fruits of the Spirit are love, peace, kindness and generosity. How do you think you can be kind, loving and generous to others? How can you bring peace?

We are all God's children no matter where in the world we live, no matter where we come from or what we look like, whether we are rich or poor. We are all members of the same global family. And so we try to be loving, kind, generous and bring peace to all people. In this way, we hope that others will be able to see the fruits of the Holy Spirit and our baptism in all that we do.

How will you show the Holy Spirit working in you in this coming week?

Intercessions *You may want to ask the children to offer their own prayers or you can use the suggestions below.*

We are all children of God and so we pray together:

We pray for all leaders in the world: that they may listen to their people, rule fairly and do all that they can to bring peace to our world. Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for all members of our global family: that we may all know peace, love, joy and generosity in our lives. Lord, in your mercy...

For more children's liturgy resources and illustrations see cafod.org.uk/childrensliturgy

CAFOD is the official aid agency of the Catholic Church in England and Wales and part of Caritas International. Charity no 1160384 and a company limited by guarantee no 09387398

We pray for our parish, families and friends: that we may be filled with the Holy Spirit, serve others who are in need and share love as Jesus taught us. Lord, in your mercy...

Closing prayer: God of love, as we gather at your table, we give thanks for your love. Fill us with your Holy Spirit and help us to show your love to others in all that we do. Amen.

Activity suggestions

Invite the children to colour in the accompanying illustration and on the back to draw how they will show the Holy Spirit working in them over the coming week.

Create and decorate a large dove – symbol of peace and the Holy Spirit – with the children to put up on the wall of the worship space. Ask the children to add their prayers for peace to the dove.

Encourage the children to share all that they have heard and thought about today with the people at home. Remind them to try to show the Holy Spirit is in them in how they treat all God's children this week.

*Gospel passage taken from:

Good News Translation® (Today's English Version, Second Edition)

© 1992 American Bible Society. All rights reserved.

Anglicisation © The British and Foreign Bible Society 1976, 1994, 2004. The copyright for the derivative work of Anglicisation pertains only to the text within the Good News Translation (GNT) that British and Foreign Bible Society adapted for British literary usage, consistent with Section 103(b) of the United States Copyright Act, 17 U.S.C. § 103(b).

Bible text from the Good News Translation (GNT) is not to be reproduced in copies or otherwise by any means except as permitted in writing by American Bible Society, 101 North Independence Mall East, FL 8, Philadelphia, PA 19106 (www.americanbible.org).



For more children's liturgy resources and illustrations see cafod.org.uk/childrensliturgy

CAFOD is the official aid agency of the Catholic Church in England and Wales and part of Caritas International. Charity no 1160384 and a company limited by guarantee no 09387398