

Corpus Christi Parish Mittagong/Bowral



The Baptism of the Lord – Year C

Isaiah 40:1-5,9-11

The prophet Isaiah gives us a timeless vision of God's promised redemption. Jerusalem is comforted, her warfare is ended, and her iniquity is pardoned. The world of nature will be transformed, and the coming One will feed and care for the people like a shepherd. This is the peace and joy that awaits the faithful.

Titus 2:11-14, 3:4-7

St Paul the apostle writes to Titus of the ultimate triumph of the saving power that is revealed in Jesus Christ. Christ gave himself to redeem us and to purify us for his use. In Christ we have been justified by grace and through faith, and have become heirs of eternal life.

Luke 3:15-16, 21-22

Great movements tend to begin with some kind of initiation or commissioning. We do not know how much Jesus knew about his mission, but by submitting to baptism he was dedicating himself to fulfill his God-given vocation. He would face a world of darkness and light, persecution and promise, sorrow and joy. But he would triumph in the end.

Mass Intentions

Please remember in your Prayers

Recently deceased: Steven Frost

Saturday	8 January	Special Intention
Sunday	9 January	Special Intention
Tuesday	11 January	Special Intention
Wednesday	12 January	Special Intention
Thursday	13 January	Special Intention

Thank you

Further to last week's note of thanks for your personal wishes and gifts, I would like to acknowledge and thank those who worked so hard to beautify our Church and site for the Celebration of Christmas:

Leonie Dunlop whose flowers are always exceptional and who keeps the church surrounds in pristine condition;

Lorri & Richard Harrison who put up and take down the Christmas tree, which is a challenging task; and

Our **Choir** and **Liturgical Ministers**.

What we lacked in numbers during Christmas, we made up with the generous offering of our parishioners time and skills. The many visitors to the Highlands are always positive in their comments regarding our Parish environment.

Parish Hall

Work is being undertaken to sand and polish the floor of the Parish Hall next week. There may be disruption to parish office operation. Thank you for your patience.

Weekday Liturgical Schedule

Tuesday	8.00 am Mass	Bowral
Wednesday	8.00 am Mass	Bowral
Thursday	8.00 am Mass	Bowral
Friday	8.00 am Mass	Bowral

Adoration

Wednesday 19 January, 2022 @ 8.30 a.m.

Universal Prayers

1. That the Spirit will guide clergy in their calling to help others. We pray to the Lord.
2. That the Spirit will assist parents and teachers to help the children under their care. We pray to the Lord.
3. That the Spirit will help leaders of nations to deal with their citizens with justice. We pray to the Lord.
4. That the Spirit will show us how to fulfil our responsibilities to others. We pray to the Lord.
5. That the Spirit will aid us in our time of suffering and loss. We pray to the Lord.
6. That the Spirit will grow our minds with the beauty and truth of our faith. We pray to the Lord.

From the book "The Pope and the Pandemic: Lessons in Leadership in a Time of Crisis"

by A. E. Orobator

Covid-19 has caused and intensified the suffering of people across the world, leaving in its wake, an incalculable toll of illness and death. The people not directly affected also experience suffering related to the virus, including mental health issues, like stress, anxiety, and depression; crisis-induced financial losses and calamitous socioeconomic consequences (page 3).

The author explains, therefore, that it is not only the virus that spreads, but also fear, anxiety and despair.

In response, Pope Francis articulates an idea of hope. Embracing hope is not meant to be some magical formula that makes problems vanish, rather it is grounded in the victory of love over evil. This is a victory that does not bypass suffering and death but passes through them. This is the hallmark of the power of God (page 16). And so, Pope Francis declared:

I have hope in humanity, in men and women, and I have hope in the people. I have a lot of hope in the people who will take lessons from this crisis to rethink their lives. We are going to come out better, although there will be fewer of us, of course. Many will remain on the path and it is hard. But I have faith that we will come out of this better (page 17).

In Francis' theological imagination, in a time of crisis human beings are pilgrims in search of hope. Hope is not mere optimism; it is not a pat on the back or an empty word of encouragement. It is a gift from heaven that we could not have earned on our own (page 17).

Pope Francis' New Year's wish: Focus on the good despite hardship of pandemic

"We are still living in uncertain and difficult times due to the pandemic," he said.

VATICAN CITY — In his New Year's wishes to the world, Pope Francis encouraged people Saturday to focus on the good which unites them and decried violence against women while acknowledging that the coronavirus pandemic has left many scared and struggling amid economic inequality.

"We are still living in uncertain and difficult times due to the pandemic," Francis said. "Many are frightened about the future and burdened by social problems, personal problems, dangers stemming from the ecological crisis, injustices and by global economic imbalances."

Thousands of Rome residents and tourists, wearing face masks as protection against the spread of the coronavirus, gathered in St. Peter's Square on a sunny, mild day to hear Francis lay out his recipe for world peace, cheering his appearance.

Peace, the pope said, "demands concrete actions. It is built by being attentive to the least, by promoting justice, with the courage to forgive, thus extinguishing the fire of hatred."

Francis also championed embracing a positive attitude, "one that always sees, in the Church as well as in society, not the evil which divides us, but the good that unites us."

Earlier Saturday, in his homily during a Mass at St. Peter's Basilica, Francis publicly ushered in 2022 by praising the skills which women bring to promoting peace in the world, and he equated violence against women to an offense against God.

The Roman Catholic Church marks Jan. 1 as a day dedicated to world peace, and the basilica ceremony a paid tribute to the Virgin Mary's special place in the faith as the mother of Jesus.

Mothers "know how to overcome obstacles and disagreements, and to instill peace," Francis said. "In this way, they transform problems into opportunities for rebirth and growth. They can do this because they know how to 'keep,' to hold together the various threads of life," the pontiff said. "We need such people, capable of weaving the threads of communion in place of the barbed wire of conflict and division."

He called for efforts to protect women.