

Listening to God's Word
Growing in Faith



Reaching out to All

WEBSITE

www.allsaintsblackbuttsouth.org.au

PARISH PRIEST

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ST COLUMBA'S CHURCH

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ST KEVIN'S CHURCH

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ST PHILIP'S CHURCH & PRESBYTERY

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Secretary

Louise Byron

Office Hours

Tuesday - Thursdays 9.00am - 3.00pm
(closed 12 noon to 1pm)

PARISH PRIMARY SCHOOLS

St Columba's Adamstown
St Kevin's Cardiff
St James' Kotara

PARISH HIGH SCHOOLS

St Pius X Adamstown
St Paul's Booragul
[Links are on our Website](#)



SUNDAY MASSES

Saturday Vigil Kotara 5.30pm;
Sunday Adamstown 8.00am; Sunday Cardiff 9.30am
Adoration 6.00pm (Summer) 5.30pm (Winter) **In recess 2 & 9 January**

WEEKDAY MASSES

Tuesday 9.30am Adamstown
Wednesday 7.00am Kotara; 9.30am Adamstown;
Thursday Cardiff 9.30am; Friday 9.15am Kotara;
1st Saturday 9.00am Kotara

Gospel Reflection

Today's gospel begins with a level of expectancy among the people that John the Baptist may be the Christ; the Messiah. This seemingly throw away introductory comment confirms the fact that the Jewish expectation of the Messiah was particularly heightened at the time of John and Jesus. At the time of the ministries of John and Jesus, the Romans had been the occupying force in Judaea for about 80 or 90 years. Throughout most of their lives the infamous Galilee area had been relatively peaceful and free of revolutionary activity but that changed from about 26 CE. With the anti-Roman sentiment on the rise, the ancient yearning for a Messiah resurfaced.

This Messianic expectation stretched back hundreds of years and was richly associated with the sovereign line of King David. The Davidic line ruled for more than 400 years until it was ended in the early 6th Century BCE by the Jewish people being exiled in Babylon for about 50 years. The term, Messiah, literally means anointed one. In ancient Israel, the king was designated by being anointed with oil on his head. Following the exile in Babylon, the people longed for another great king, in the style and from the line of David. Over time, this expectation grew into an ideal that one day a perfect king would rise up again and be the anointed one; the Messiah. As the years grew into decades and centuries, this expectation took on more and more significance. When the Messiah came, the whole world would be put to right; a period of justice and peace would prevail; the oppressed would be liberated.

Whilst the people longed for the Messiah to appear, the gospels reveal that they had difficulty believing Jesus was the one for whom they hoped.

Historical context – Baptism



John makes clear to the people that the baptism he performs is with water but the baptism by Jesus is with the Holy Spirit. John preached a baptism of repentance. In keeping with his Jewish tradition, John called upon the people to make a public declaration of their wrong-doing and commitment to be washed clean of this sinfulness and desire to live in right relationship with God and others. The baptism to which he refers is the complete change of heart and mind that comes through the Holy Spirit and results from a person accepting the message of Jesus.

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Parish News

SICK/SPECIAL NEEDS: *We remember in prayer ...*

Leonie Pickett, Veronica Hipwell, Karen Curran, Algi & Geraldine Bajelis, Mick King, Jan Hobson, Lewis Peel (Purcell), Rita Martin, Emma Pacifico, Lorraine Caldwell, Loris Jackson, Linda McDonald, Dean Hart, Barry Moore, Chris Patsan, Catherine Hobbs, Bernadette Coffey, Dorota Bakowska, Gae Alderton, Ernestina Klein, Alexander Klein, Stanislaw Ksiadz, Maria Kanonczuk, Sharyn Trappel, Clare Sullivan, Craig Hart, Jill Heffernan, Helen Campbell

RECENTLY DECEASED:

ANNIVERSARIES: George Pink

BAPTISMS: Henry Love, Theodore McCarthy, William Clay

09/01/2021	ADAMSTOWN	CARDIFF	KOTARA
Commentator	Julie Malaspina	Elizabeth Doyle	Marilyn Thomson
Readers	Christine Williams Diana Hannigan	Ben Lerch Mary-Anne Jennings	Christine Sheppard Bella Lukaswecz
Extraordinary Minister	Vickie Pettett	Angela Hall	Giavanna Angeli
Counters	Hamilton Koelmeyer	Len McCullum	John Bourke, Val Menzies, Mark Noonan
16/01/2021	ADAMSTOWN	CARDIFF	KOTARA
Commentator	Barry Bourke	Paul Gleeson	Giavanna Angeli
Readers	Dot Reynolds Basia Wedesweiler	Sr Carmel Moore Majella Maher	Don Smith Faye Robertson
Extraordinary Minister	Preciosa Winter	Catherine Lerch	Marilyn Thomson
Counters	Dot Reynolds Lynn Johns	N/A	N/A

gospel focus

My Son, the Beloved

'You are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you.' This declaration by the voice from Heaven – the voice of God – is an amalgamation of two earlier pieces of scripture: 'You are my son; today I have begotten you' (Ps 2:7) and 'Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights' (Is 42:1). The fact that it is uttered before Jesus has begun his ministry is a sign to all of us that God delights in us for who we are, not for what we have achieved in our lives.



Have you thought? Trinity

The baptism event in the gospels is a moment of revelation of the Trinitarian nature of God. The Holy Spirit descends upon Jesus in the form of a dove whilst the voice of God is heard to declare of Jesus, 'You are my Son.' It is a unique moment in the scriptures where the three persons of God are individually and collectively revealed. Although the scriptures do not explicitly name God as Trinity, by the time of Paul's early writings, blessings in the name of Jesus, God and the Holy Spirit are frequent. Despite this, Trinity continues to be a difficult concept for many Christians.

Our Parish Notices

As advised by the Diocese on 24 December the Public Health Order now incorporates changes for **mask wearing which capture all indoor areas including offices and places of worship** from 24 December. **QR code check-in remains in place for places of worship.**

From the Diocese COVID-19 "Instructions and Advice 'The New Normal' Edition 1" Dated 15/12/2021. The full version can be accessed at <https://www.mn.catholic.org.au/news-events/covid-19-update/>

- Church buildings are able to be opened for the public celebration of the liturgy and for private prayer and meditation.
- With effect from 15 December 2021, there is **no capacity limit** applicable to our church buildings. This applies to all religious services that take place in our church buildings, including funerals/memorial services and weddings.
- COVID-19 Safety Plans are no longer mandatory under the Order. Within the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle, Parishes are strongly advised to maintain a current COVID-19 Safety Plan to assist in ensuring the safety of parishioners and visitors.
- **Any person entering a place of worship** is required to provide the following information to the 'occupier of the premises' - the person's name, and their telephone number or email address, and the time the person entered the church building.
- **The required information must be collected and recorded for each individual person who attends**, including children and infants. Entry to a church building is not possible if the information is not provided. It is strongly recommended that parishes make use of the **Service NSW QR Code system**.
- **Singing** is permitted in all circumstances within places of public worship (including outdoor religious celebrations) without limitation.
- The **distribution of Communion during Mass** continue to present a high risk at the present time. Therefore: Holy Communion from the Chalice is restricted to the President, who is to be the only one to drink from the chalice. Concelebrating priests are to intinct from a second chalice. Holy Communion is not to be given on the tongue.
- The presence of **Holy Water** in door stoups is presently not permitted as this continues to present a high risk to parishioners and visitors.

New Mass Ministry Rosters for the period 30 January - 24 April are due. This roster will include Easter Sunday (17 April). New & returning ministers are welcome! If you would like to participate in a Mass ministry please contact the Parish Office. Due to time constraints, the closing date for any changes/requests/notification of unavailability for this roster will be 10.00am on Tuesday, 18 January. Please remember the Parish Office is unable to assist with requests for roster swaps. A contact list is provided with the roster for you to arrange a replacement should you not be available. Thank you.

Parish Office Phone will be diverted to Fr Joseph's mobile each Thursday. Any bulletin requests received on a Thursday will then be included in the bulletin for the **following** week.

Prayer Partners are required to support the Religious Education program at Kotara High School. We ask only that you spend a couple of minutes a day asking God to bless the teacher in her efforts to bring the love of Jesus to the students who attend her class, that those students be aware of His love, and that SRE continues to be welcomed by the school community. If you are able to commit to this ministry please contact Paula on 0411 813 101.

Counters - please note, Christmas Offering envelopes are to be included in the First Collection and listed separately under Christmas Dues. Thank you.

Adoration - will be in recess for Sundays 2 & 9 January. It will resume next Sunday, 16 January.

Christian Meditation at Kotara is now in recess until further notice.

Live stream Mass every Sunday at 9.30am at <https://www.mn.catholic.org.au/places/live-stream/>

For Diocesan News and Events click [here](https://www.mn.catholic.org.au/news-e) or go to <https://www.mn.catholic.org.au/news-e>

2022 Liturgical Calendar for The Baptism of the Lord

Solemnities are in CAPITALS. Feasts are bold.

Memorials are in ordinary type.

Optional Memorials are in *italics*.

13 January

Saint Hilary

The Baptism of the Lord - Year C

First Reading Is 40:1-5, 9-11

A reading from the prophet Isaiah
'Console my people, console them' says your God. 'Speak to the heart of Jerusalem and call to her that her time of service is ended, that her sin is atoned for, that she has received from the hand of the Lord double punishment for all her crimes.'
A voice cries, 'Prepare in the wilderness a way for the Lord. Make a straight highway for our God across the desert. Let every valley be filled in, every mountain and hill be laid low, let every cliff become a plain, and the ridges a valley; then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all mankind shall see it; for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.'

Go up on a high mountain, joyful messenger to Zion. Shout with a loud voice, joyful messenger to Jerusalem. Shout without fear, say to the towns of Judah, 'Here is your God.' Here is the Lord coming with power, his arm subduing all things to him. The prize of his victory is with him, his trophies all go before him. He is like a shepherd feeding his flock, gathering lambs in his arms, holding them against his breast and leading to their rest the mother ewes.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 24-25, 27-30. R. v.1

Oh, bless the Lord, my soul!

1. Lord God, how great you are, clothed in majesty and glory, wrapped in light as in a robe!
You stretch out the heavens like a tent.
2. Above the rains you build your dwelling.
You make the clouds your chariot, you walk on the wings of the wind, you make the winds your messengers and flashing fire your servants.
3. How many are your works, O Lord!
In wisdom you have made them all. The earth is full of your riches. There is the sea, vast and wide, with its moving swarms past counting, living things great and small.
4. All of these look to you to give them their food in due season.
You give it, they gather it up: you open your hand, they have their fill.
5. You take back your spirit, they die, returning to the dust from which they came.
You send forth your spirit, they are created; and you renew the face of the earth.

Oh, bless the Lord, my soul!

Second Reading Acts 10:34-38

A reading from the letter of St Paul to Titus
God's grace has been revealed, and it has made salvation possible for the whole human race and taught us that what we have to do is to give up everything that does not lead to God, and all our worldly ambitions; we must be self-restrained and live good and religious lives here in this present world, while we are waiting in hope for the blessing which will come with the Appearing of the glory of our great God and saviour Christ Jesus. He sacrificed himself for us in order to set us free from all wickedness and to purify a people so that it could be his very own and would have no ambition except to do good.

When the kindness and love of God our saviour for mankind were revealed, it was not because he was concerned with any righteous actions we might have done ourselves; it was for no reason except his own compassion that he saved us, by means of the cleansing water of rebirth and by renewing us with the Holy Spirit which he has so generously poured over us through Jesus Christ our saviour. He did this so that we should be justified by his grace, to become heirs looking forward to inheriting eternal life.

Gospel Acclamation See Lk 3:16

Alleluia, alleluia!

John said: He who is to come is mightier than I; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.
Alleluia!

Gospel Lk 3:15-16, 21-22

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke

A feeling of expectancy had grown among the people, who were beginning to think that John might be the Christ, so John declared before them all, 'I baptise you with water, but someone is coming, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to undo the strap of his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire.'

Now when all the people had been baptised and while Jesus after his own baptism was at prayer, heaven opened and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily shape, like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you.'

Gloria

Glory to God in the highest,
And on earth peace to people of good will
We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory,
Lord God, heavenly King,
O God, almighty Father
Lord Jesus Christ,
Only begotten Son,
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father
You take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us;
You take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer
You are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us.
For you alone are the Holy One, You alone are the Lord, You alone are the most high Jesus Christ,
With the Holy Spirit, In the glory of God the Father.
Amen

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God,
the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; he descended into hell; on the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I 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. Amen.