

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.

Second Reading - Ti 2:11-14; 3:4-7

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 - 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.’

Saint Thomas More Catholic Church

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A house of welcome to all and a place of service to all

Baptism, Year C

January 10, 2016

Being refreshed

What is *water*? There are a surprising number of ways to answer this question. From the perspective of chemistry, water is a compound of oxygen and hydrogen molecules with unique properties; from the perspective of ancient Western cosmology, water is one of the four basic elements (along with air, fire and earth); from the perspective of poetry, water is often seen as a primal force that unites deeply destructive power and profoundly cleansing nourishment; a dictionary definition might term water a ‘colourless, odourless, clear liquid forming the base of the fluids of organisms;’ jewelers use ‘water’ as a metaphor to describe the quality of brilliance of a diamond; etc.

What is water from the perspective of our faith? Based on the life-giving and refreshing character of water, water is a symbol of purification and new life. Simple water becomes holy water when set apart for special use in God’s house: its natural properties break open from within and are filled with supernatural power of spiritual regeneration. The waters of baptism brim with the original creative power of God.

The magnificent creation poem that opens our Holy Scriptures sees water almost as the womb out of which the Creator-Spirit draws the world: “...the earth was formless and void and darkness covered the face of the deep; the spirit of God hovered over the face of the waters.” We still call the amniotic fluid surrounding a child in the womb a woman’s waters. When these waters break, it’s time to rush to the hospital. The baby is on its way.

Weekly Mass Times:

Monday:	7.00 am	Tuesday:	5.30 pm	Wednesday:	8.00 am
Thursday:	7.00 am	Friday:	5.30 pm	Saturday:	8.30 am
Saturday:	Vigil 6.30 pm (Novena 6.00 pm)				
Sunday:	8.00 am, 9.30 am, 11.00 am & 6.00 pm				

Reconciliation: Saturday: 11.00am - 12.00 noon **and** 5.00pm - 6.00pm



Fr. Phong Nguyen
Parish Priest



Fr. Jeronimo
Assistant Priest



Fr. Cyprian Shikokoti
Priest in Residence



Deacon Bruce
Parish Deacon

Mary, the young peasant girl, was found to be with child after the same Creator-Spirit “overshadowed” her like the cloud of glory once overshadowed the tabernacle that housed the divine presence in the midst of the people of Israel. This recalls the original creation-event with the spirit poised above the waters, like a bird protectively hovering over its young. God broke open waters too when he led Israel through the sea, from slavery in Egypt to the promise of freedom.

God is in the business of creation. Israel’s original passage through the waters is a ‘new’ creation event. In the Bible, ‘new’ usually means ‘renew’: the ‘new’ covenant is a renewal from out of the heart of the original covenant and the ‘new’ creation is the renewal of the original one. So the ‘waters’ of Mary, made supernaturally fruitful by the Creator-Spirit, are the point of renewal of the entire creation.

When Jesus enters into the waters of baptism, the Creator-Spirit was there, descending upon him, just as in the Beginning, just as in the Exodus, just as in the overshadowing of Mary. When the spirit touches the waters, the power of new creation is unleashed! Have you ever thought that once you have been baptised, you are swept up into the creator’s plan to renew the entire world?

W Chris Hackett
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Baptisms:

We welcome Harrison Peter Khaw, Ella Rose Perry, Hayley Jane Acero Lennane into our Parish Community.

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Deaths:

Please pray for Theresia Zwickl who passed away recently.

Anniversaries:

Please pray for Eileen Haddleton whose anniversaries occur around this time.

ROSTERS

for 17th JANUARY

NEXT WEEK

Bulletin: Juliana Doss
Flowers : CHRISTMAS
Counter: 1. T Tloczek 2. M Tloczek

	Saturday	Sunday	Sunday	Sunday	Sunday
	6.30pm	8.00am	9.30am	11.00am	6.00pm

Acolytes	D Morais	P McManus	M Braganza	P Doray	D Da Cruz
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Altar Servers, Special Ministers and Readers – Please come up as required – NO ROSTERS for January 2016.

AN INFORMATION EVENING FOR MARIAN PILGRIMAGE TO PORTUGAL, SPAIN AND FRANCE ON 20TH JANUARY 2016

An information evening for the upcoming Marian pilgrimage to Europe is scheduled on **Wednesday 20th January 2016 at 7.00pm in the parish hall.**

The tour director will provide an overview of the pilgrimage journey from 29 August to 12 September 2016.

You will have the opportunity to ask questions about the trip including places of interests such as Lisbon, Fatima, Nazare and Batalha, Santiago de Compostela, Santander, Garabandal, Barcelona, Monsterrat and Lourdes, and an extension of your trip to Rome and other cities.

YOUNG ADULTS

Our first event next year will be a sausage sizzle fundraiser for World Youth to celebrate Australia Day on Sunday 24th January! It will be great to see as many young adults there to enjoy each other’s company and get to hear what lies ahead for young people for 2016 at St. Thomas More!

BATEMAN PARISH RELIGIOUS PROGRAM 2016

Enrolment Day for those children not attending Catholic schools into the Religious Education program is Wednesday 3rd February 2016 between 4—5pm in the Church hall. The program runs classes for pre schoolers through unto Year 12 students. Enrolments will also be accepted at the Parish office on Tuesdays and Wednesdays (not public holidays).

Sacramental dates for 2016 are: Sacrament of the Eucharist - 25th & 26th June 2016, Sacrament of Reconciliation - 18th & 19th October, Sacrament of Confirmation—20th & 21st August 2016. For all enquiries, please phone Jenny Figliomeni on 9310 1747 (Tues/Wed 8.30am—5.30pm) or on 0435 695 399.

MORE CARE

Do you need help or know someone who does?

† Geraldine	9332 8795	(Visiting)
† Monica	9364 9358	(Meals)
† Caroline	9313 5452	(Transport)
† Silvia	9417 7131	(Transport)
† Juliana	9310 1747	(General-office hrs)

Rose Garden
January 2016

Section A
Sharon Vong

Section B
Craig McIver