

**The church is open** for quiet thought or prayer from 8am – 5.30pm Monday – Friday,  
11am – 4pm on Saturdays.  
Monday – Friday there will be daily mass at 12.15pm. Monday 1.05pm Mediation group.  
On Sunday there is a Sung Eucharist at 11am.

Thank you for attending our service this morning. You are all very welcome to join us after the service for tea/coffee in the Church hall.

### **Rowan Williams *Being Christian***

As the Church reflected on what baptism means, it came to view it as a kind of restoration of what it is to be truly human. To be baptized is to recover the humanity that God first intended. What did God intend? He intended that human beings should grow into such love for him and such confidence in him that they could rightly be called God's sons and daughters. Human beings have let go of that identity, abandoned it, forgotten it or corrupted it. And when Jesus arrives on the scene he restores humanity to where it should be. But that in itself means that Jesus, as he restores humanity 'from within' (so to speak), has to come down into the chaos of our human world. Jesus has to come down fully to our level, to where things are shapeless and meaningless, in a state of vulnerability and unprotectedness, if real humanity is to come to birth...

Baptism means being with Jesus 'in the depths': the depths of human need, including the depths of our own selves in their need – but also in the depths of God's love; in the depths where the Spirit is re-creating and refreshing human life as God meant it to be...

To be able to say, 'I'm baptized' is not to claim an extra dignity, let alone a sort of privilege that keeps you separate from and superior to the rest of the human race, but to claim a new level of solidarity with other people..

What else do you expect to see in the baptized? An openness to human need, but also a corresponding openness to the Holy Spirit. In the life of baptized people, there is a constant rediscovering, re-enacting of the Father's embrace of Jesus in the Holy Spirit. The baptized person is not only in the middle of human suffering and muddle but in the middle of the love and delight of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

St Vedast-alias-Foster  
Peace and contemplation at the heart of the City  
vedast.org.uk

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### **13<sup>th</sup> January, Baptism of Christ**

**Celebrant:** +Stephen Platten

**Preacher:** Fr Paul Kennedy

**Setting** Missa Domincalis - Viadana

**Hymn** 55 Hail to the Lord's Anointed

### **Isaiah 43.1 - 7**

Thus says the Lord, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Saviour. I give Egypt as your ransom, Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you. Because you are precious in my sight, and honoured, and I love you, I give people in return for you, nations in exchange for your life. Do not fear, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, and from the west I will gather you; I will say to the north, 'Give them up,' and to the south, 'Do not withhold; bring my sons from far away and my daughters from the end of the earth everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made.

## **Psalm 29**

### **R The voice of the Lord is upon the waters.**

Ascribe to the Lord, you gods, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength. Ascribe to the Lord the glory due to his name; worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness. **R**

The voice of the Lord is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders; the Lord is upon the mighty waters. The voice of the Lord is a powerful voice; the voice of the Lord is a voice of splendour. **R**

The voice of the Lord breaks the cedar trees; the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon; He makes Lebanon skip like a calf, and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox. **R**

The voice of the Lord splits the flames of fire; the voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness; the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh. The voice of the Lord makes the oak trees writhe and strips the forests bare. And in the temple of the Lord all are crying, 'Glory!' **R**

The Lord sits enthroned above the flood; the Lord sits enthroned as king for evermore. The Lord shall give strength to his people; the Lord shall give his people the blessing of peace. **R**

## **Acts 8.14 – 17**

When the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. The two went down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit (for as yet the Spirit had not come upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus). Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

## **Luke 3.15 - 17, 21 – 22**

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, 'I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.' Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Belovèd; with you I am well pleased.'

### **For your prayers:**

**Those who are ill:** Jim Bell, Carlo Fazzi, Alison Hird ,  
Meredith Chesterman

**Those who have died recently:** Pat Magowan, Betty Sullivan,  
Joan Hedges

**Those whose anniversaries occur at this time:** Mark Hesford

**Offertory Hymn** 50 From the Eastern Mountains

**Anthem** Song of Devotion - Beck

**Thanksgiving Hymn** 12 On Jordon's Bank the Baptist's Cry

**Readings next Sunday, Epiphany 2, Year C**  
Isaiah 62. 1-5, 1 Cor 12.1-11, John 2.1-11

### **Looking ahead**

Weds 6 Feb 6.30pm Patronal Feast Day, Evensong