These days there are some young Catholic parents who wonder whether baptism is the proper thing for them to seek for their children. One argument they sometimes offer is that it would be better to defer baptism until their child reaches adulthood and the he or she has the opportunity to choose it. As appealing as this argument might seem on the surface, the problem is that the reasoning behind it is so inconsistently applied.

Young Catholic parents do not give their children any choice about eating vegetables, learning to read or write and living out a moral code. They enforce these things because they know that nutrition, literacy and ethics are essential for adulthood. If we recognize that, from birth, a child has spiritual as well as educational, moral and physical needs, it strikes me as inconsistent to relegate this constitutively otherworldly element of a child’s character to a ‘must be decided on later’ category.

Baptism is not brainwashing. Adults can come and go from the practice of their faith as they feel drawn. Sadly for us, they can even choose against belief. To grow up, however, with no religious foundation or no basis on which to make spiritual choices seems to limit, freedom rather than promote it. In our culture, baptism of infants by their parents is an entirely proper thing to do.

In today’s Gospel we hear that Jesus was baptised by John in the Jordan because it was ‘the proper thing to do’.

This can seem all quaintly odd to us today because we seem to accept that our only convention is to flout convention. The done thing today is to undo what we’ve done before.

We hold very strongly, however, to the idea that God always does the ‘proper thing’. It’s called ‘appropriateness’ in theology. We believe, for example, that God decided it was proper to become incarnate when he did, how he did and where he did. Over the centuries there’s been endless debate about what would’ve happened if the Word had come to us as a woman, in another era, on another continent. While these are interesting enough matters on which to speculate, they are not what God thought proper – or what, in fact, happened.

In line with the right action of God, Jesus does the proper thing in being baptised by John’s baptism of repentance, even though he had nothing of which to repent. Jesus is not baptised, however, simply because it was expected of him, just a fulfillment of his baptism as an admission of guilt and then reveals that baptism is primarily about the Father’s love.

To this day our baptismal ritual holds these two realities in a healthy tension. When we are baptised in Christ, we acknowledge both Original Sin and Original Grace. God’s love comes alive in us even though we are aware of how far from that love we stray.

The Baptism of Jesus and every baptism done in his name ever since, is the moment when we hold together the greatness of God’s love, that calls each of us by name to be his son or daughter, with the reality of our human frailty. What more appropriate way of welcoming anyone into the world than having a community of frail, human believers initiate its members by reminding them that Original Sin does not have the last word. For those of us baptised in Christ, the Father’s love always and everywhere hast the final, appropriate, say on every matter.

May this Eucharist make us worthy of the love lavished on us in baptism and give us the courage to keep doing the appropriate things for the coming generations.
MESSAGE FROM ADMINISTRATOR

The Parish celebration of Australia Day will be on Monday 27 January beginning with Mass at St Francis Xavier, Railway Estate, at 8am to be followed by a free barbecue, cricket and games for the children. All are welcome to drop in any time during the morning.

Training for new Readers is planned for Tuesday 25 February and for new Extraordinary Ministers of Communion on Tuesday 24 March 2020. Both will commence at 6pm at Sacred Heart Cathedral. Please contact the Parish Office if you wish to attend.

Training for Altar Servers will be held at Sacred Heart Cathedral commencing 11.30am on Sunday 23 February 2020. Lunch will be provided. New servers should book with Fr Rod or the Parish Office. This training is available for Servers from all of the Parish churches.

A date for the conduct of the Rite of Acceptance into the Order of Catechumens for the Parish candidates in the RCIA program should be available next Sunday.

FATHER ROD WARD, ADMINISTRATOR - SACRED HEART CATHEDRAL PARISH

PARISH PRAYER LIST

Please pray for:

Polly Betts; Brian Keoh; John Mehedy; Brian Burke; Susan Alexander, Rosa Maria Santos, Chase Rafael Payne, Mary Ann Marcelo, Kevin Coyne, Fr Colin Mason, Frauke Knobel, Sarah Barbagello, Nilo & Emilia Bulaga.

O Almighty, everlasting God, eternal salvation of those who believe, hear our prayers on behalf of your ailing servants for whom we implore the aid of your mercy, that with health restored to them, they may offer thanksgiving to you. Amen

* Please be advised that the parish office requires individual and/or family permission for inclusion in the public prayer list under the Privacy Amendment (Enhancing Privacy Protection) Act 2012.

Sacred Heart Cathedral Parish Details
Parish Office: 28 Ingham Road West End, Townsville
Office Hours: 9:00am – 4:00pm Monday to Friday
Postal Address: PO Box 1335 Hyde Park, Castletown, Q4810
Phone: 4771 4461 Email: cathedralparish@tsv.catholic.org.au

Parish Pastoral Council: Teresita Trovato, Jim Stone, Lee-Ann Barton, Michael Cannon, Marie McAuliffe, John Doolan

AN INVITATION: We are seeking nominees for the Parish Pastoral Council as some members have completed their term of office. If you wish to nominate yourself or others, kindly contact Fr Rod Ward or the Parish Office.


Administrator: Fr Rod Ward
Director of Music: Jackie Crocker, Sacred Heart Cathedral Townsville - jcrocker@tsv.catholic.org.au
Parish Admin Secretary: Juliet Walker


PARISH NOTICES

BAPTISMS: Baptisms are held every Sunday in Sacred Heart Cathedral Parish Churches. A one month notice is required for booking the date. For further information please contact the Parish office on 4771 4461.

WEDDINGS: Arrangements for wedding bookings should be made 6 months before the date. For further information please contact the Parish Office on 4771 4461.

CHURCH BULLETIN DEADLINE: The deadline for the submission of articles for the parish bulletin is 4pm Wednesday for the following weekend.

PARISH HOY: We need helpers for our Parish Hoy, every 2nd Friday mornings each month at St Patrick’s, South Townsville. Any help is welcome - men and women.

CATHEDRAL PARISH WOMEN’S GROUP: The next meeting for the Cathedral Parish Women’s Group to be announce later.

ANOINTING OF THE SICK: Offered at the 7am Mass at St Francis Xavier on the first Friday of each month.

RECONCILIATION: Reconciliation is provided each Saturday morning after the 7am Mass at St Mary’s Church, West End and is available before or after other Parish Masses on request.

Sacred Heart Cathedral Weekly Scripture Study and Prayer Group: Parishioners and other people interested in deepening their faith are warmly invited to join the Cathedral’s weekly scripture study and prayer group. People who are readers will find this particularly helpful. The sessions will commenced on the 7th February 2020 from 10:00 – 11:30 am on Thursday mornings at the Parish office next to St Mary’s. If you are interested please contact the parish office: 47714461; Jackie Crocker: 47263266 or email: jcrocker@tsv.catholic.org.au or simply turn up.
All Churches of Sacred Heart Cathedral Parish
Sunday mass collections from 04 / 05 January 2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sunday Mass Collections</th>
<th>Cathedral 10am</th>
<th>Cathedral 5pm</th>
<th>St Mary’s</th>
<th>St Francis</th>
<th>St Joan of Arc</th>
<th>Totals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First</td>
<td>$306.90</td>
<td>$121.25</td>
<td>$265.25</td>
<td>$347.90</td>
<td>$166.50</td>
<td>$1,207.80</td>
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<tr>
<td>Second</td>
<td>$83.35</td>
<td>$31.95</td>
<td>$101.60</td>
<td>$88.60</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>$305.50</td>
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<tr>
<td>P/Giving Cash / DD</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>$145.00</td>
<td>$297.00</td>
<td>$25.00</td>
<td>$467.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total collections for the week</td>
<td>$390.25</td>
<td>$153.20</td>
<td>$511.85</td>
<td>$733.50</td>
<td>$191.50</td>
<td>$1,980.30</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Thank you to all parishioners for your ongoing financial support of our parish and its good works. Your generosity helps continue the important ministries and services provided across the many worshipping communities in our Parish - Centred in Christ. Missions – Maintenance – Ministries

**Plenary Council Call for Delegates:** The Diocese and Plenary Council are seeking expressions of interest from people who feel they would like to be Delegates at the Plenary Council in 2020. The Townsville Diocese will be represented by Bishop Tim Harris and Fr Mick Lowcock VG. We will also have two other representatives. Delegates will be required to attend the Plenary Council sessions in 2020 and 2021. The 1st session will be held in Adelaide between the 4th and 11th of October 2020 and the 2nd session will be held in the 1st half of 2021. For an information pack, please send an expression of interest to plenarycouncil@tsv.catholic.org.au The selection process will take place in February 2020.

**ALPHA Catholic Training Event:** Alpha is a program which is proving fruitful in evangelisation by inviting people into spiritual conversations. Catholic Parishes and schools have run over 300 Alphas this year. Holy Spirit Parish has been able to secure a date with Lorraine McCarthy for live Alpha Training. This date is Saturday 1st February 2020 from 9am - 4.30pm at Holy Spirit Parish Centre. This training is ideal for Alpha Teams whether they have run Alpha previously or not, but individuals are more than welcome to attend. There is no cost and anyone interested in attending is invited to contact Premo Bonato (pbonato@bigpond.com) or Blanche Crisp (blanchecrisp@gmail.com) to register.

**Bushfire Response:** Australia is currently facing an unprecedented bushfire crisis in many parts of the country. The Australian Bishops have announced that special collections will be taken at Masses on Australia Day weekend to support affected communities. They have also urged Catholics to pray constantly for those affected, for those fighting the fires and for an end to the bushfires. To access prayer resources or for more information, visit www.catholic.org.au/bushfires.

**Items Needed by Vinnies:** Do you have old towels in your linen cupboard taking up much needed space? Vinnies is in need of good disused towels. There is a massive demand for businesses for towelling material. Please drop your donations to a Vinnies store.
Next Week’s Parish Roster:
18 / 19 January 2020: SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR A

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MINISTRIES</th>
<th>ST JOAN ARC</th>
<th>ST FRANCIS XAVIER</th>
<th>ST MARY’S</th>
<th>CATHEDRAL 10AM</th>
<th>CATHEDRAL 5PM</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Commentator/Leader</td>
<td>Mairin</td>
<td>Marie McAuliffe</td>
<td>Lee-Ann Barton</td>
<td>Teresita Trovato</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>1st Reader</td>
<td>Dot</td>
<td>Jim Stone</td>
<td>Nila Crossan</td>
<td>Andrew Sholl</td>
<td>Rochelle Trovato</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd Reader</td>
<td>Ursula</td>
<td>Mary McAuliffe</td>
<td>Travis Cole</td>
<td>Tom Rush</td>
<td>Michael Clive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prayers of Faithful</td>
<td>Lena Williamson</td>
<td>Marie McAuliffe</td>
<td>John Shinnick</td>
<td>Darryl Antat</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Collection</td>
<td>Em</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Lee-Ann Barton</td>
<td>Cess &amp; Carlo Marcello</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communion 1</td>
<td>John W</td>
<td>Valmai O'Dwyer</td>
<td>Margaret Thomas</td>
<td>Paul Malan</td>
<td>Teresita Trovato</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communion 2</td>
<td>Ruby Franklin</td>
<td></td>
<td>Warren Northey</td>
<td>Nathaniel Staples</td>
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<tr>
<td>Communion 3</td>
<td></td>
<td>Losa Guise</td>
<td>Carmel Cannon</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communion 4</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Emelita Nadua</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communion 5</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Silvy Thekkekara</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Musician/organist</td>
<td>Kristin</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pickup/ Drop Off Fr</td>
<td>Graham</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Counters: Tuesday, 14 January 2020 Ruby Franklin and Pam Alloway

| Children’s Liturgy | - | - | - | - | - |
| Piety Stall        | - | - | - | Pam & Tom | Pam & Tom Rush |

As a young man, Saint Anthony sold all his land and possessions and gave the proceeds to the poor. He lived by himself in the Egyptian desert for 20 years, before being sought out by admirers. He encouraged his followers to base their lives on the Gospel and in the early fourth century he established a monastery.

**Wordsearch**

Try to find these words:
- baptised
- dove
- excited
- fire
- heaven
- John
- pleased
- powerful
- prayed
- sandals
- sky
- water

**Draw a line to connect each symbol with its correct meaning.**

- Candle: Symbolises the Holy Spirit
- Dove: Symbolises life, cleansing and growth
- Water: Symbolises purity and freedom from sin
- White Gown: Symbolises the emergence from darkness into the light

**R L B I R S A N D A L S Z T Q**
**S H O V E C J R W A T E R M M**
**B M M W U J O H N N Q U X G F**
**A Z E R T F I R E C J H O X M**
**I G M U U X J I H E E K D L U**
**X Q D J O B D H A X X S I E M**
**B C A H S E P Z V O C Q G U P**
**C C F Z P Q M X A C I P Y X Y**
**P E P O W E R F U L L T L S K Y**
**A F D C P R A Y E D E E P Y X**
**Q U X F K H I Q M D D A P O I**
**V T Y K D O V E H R R S A G O**
**U H E A V E N I D X S E Z H Y**
**R F S Q U R B K T S P D C O W**
**A K N V L B A P T I S E D Z L**