

Gathering of Baptism Teams – November 2016



Introduction

Advent in the East was a six week period of preparation for the celebration of Baptism at Epiphany. In our western tradition we celebrate Advent, Christmas Epiphany as a cycle with different points of focus – preparation, celebration and manifestation. The Feast of the Baptism of Our Lord, on the Sunday after Epiphany, concludes this cycle. This evening we begin by recalling the Baptism of Jesus in the Jordan and explore together what the word ‘beloved’ means to us.

Song **Spirit Of The Living God**

All sing: Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me. (2)
Melt me, mould me, fill me use me.
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

Reading **Matthew 3:16-17**

When Jesus had been baptised he at once came up from the water, and suddenly the heavens opened and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming down on him. And suddenly there was a voice from heaven, ‘This is my son, the Beloved; my favour rests on him.’

Quiet time for reflection on ‘me’ – the beloved one

Reflection **St. John Paul II – Christifideles Laici (The Lay Members of Christ Faithful People)**

All say: With baptism
we become children of God
In his only begotten son, Jesus Christ.
Rising from the waters
of the baptismal font,
every Christian hears again
the voice that was once heard
on the banks of the Jordan river:
‘You are my beloved;
With you I am well pleased’.



All sing: Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on us.....

Think about the next six weeks as a time of inner preparation – make time for quiet prayer – keep a journal – look at old photos of Baptism – let us wrap ourselves in the warm embrace of the One who calls us his ‘beloved’.

Concluding Prayer

Song

You Have Been Baptised (Ian Callanan)

All sing:

You have been baptised, you have put on Christ
Come rejoicing to this table.

You have been baptised, you have put on Christ
Come rejoicing to this table of redemption.



Prayer

All say:

'You have become
a new creation
and have clothed yourself
with Christ.
See in this white garment
the outward sign
of your Christian dignity.'