



Anglican Parish of Bass-Phillip Island  
St Augustine's, San Remo St Paul's, Bass  
St Philip's, Cowes  
[www.anglicanparishbassphillipisland.org](http://www.anglicanparishbassphillipisland.org)  
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BAPTISM OF OUR LORD 10<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2021  
Choose Hope, Love, Justice



MON 11<sup>th</sup> 10.00am – 1.30pm Mary Talbot Room open  
TUES 12<sup>th</sup> 11.00am St Augustine's Holy Communion  
WED 13<sup>th</sup> 10.00am – 1.30pm Mary Talbot Room open  
THURS 14<sup>th</sup> 10.00am – St Philip's Holy Communion  
FRI 15<sup>th</sup> 10.00am – 1.30pm Mary Talbot Room open  
SAT 16<sup>th</sup> 10.00am – 1.30pm Mary Talbot Room open  
Rev'd Jo's Day Off  
SUN 17<sup>th</sup> 10.00am St Philip's Holy Communion  
10.30am St Augustine's Family Service  
1.30pm St Paul's Holy Communion

Please note that each week a **Service of the Word** is available at [www.anglicanparishbassphillipisland.org](http://www.anglicanparishbassphillipisland.org) this service includes Bible Readings, prayer and a sermon.

#### **COVID Normal Announcement**

Indoor services are now restricted by the new density quotient of 1 per 2sqm this effectively means we can double previous numbers attending. Venues using the density quotient of 1 per 2sqm must use electronic record keeping. All venues across the parish now have QR codes ready for use. Indoor and outdoor ceremonies can occur at the same time. Face masks must be worn indoors. This includes all church services and meetings, including meetings in homes. There is an exception for the person leading the service or speaking at the time but masks must be worn for congregational singing. All previous instructions still apply including sanitiser, deep cleaning and keeping a record of attendance.

#### **Bookings preferred for attendance at services –**

**St Philip's** - book with Michaela 0400 134 449

**St Paul's** - book with Sandy 0449 594 737

**St Augustine's** - book with Ida 0468 374 356

We meet for worship on the lands of the Bunurong people and wish to acknowledge them as the Traditional Owners. We pay our respects to their Elders, past, present and emerging.

#### **This week's roster**

**St Paul's** – Reader: S. Ridge; Prayers: E. Humphry; Chalice: L. Ridge

**St Augustine's** – Leader:...; Input:...; Children: D. Garrett

**St Philip's** – Welcome: W. Gladman; Reader: E. Visalli; Intercess: C. Prescott; Vestry: L. Heflingers; PowerPoint:

– Please contact Wendy Gladman regarding St Philip's roster [gladmanwendy@gmail.com](mailto:gladmanwendy@gmail.com)

#### **Next week's roster 17<sup>th</sup> Jan. 2021**

**St Paul's** - Reader: A. Gloria; Prayers: Rev. Jo; Chalice: D. Wilson

**St Augustine's** – Leader: A. Garrett; Input:...; Children: D. Garrett

**St Philip's** – Welcome: W. Gladman; Reader: J. Stephenson; Intercessions: J. Wright; Vestry: L. Heflingers; PowerPoint:...

**Readings for the Baptism of Our Lord 10<sup>th</sup> January** Genesis 1:1-5; Psalm 29; Acts 19:1-7; Mark 1; 4-11

**Readings for next week the second Sunday after Epiphany** 1 Samuel 3:1-10, (11-20); Psalm 139:1-6, 12-18; 1 Corinthians 6:12-20; John 1:43-51

**The Sentence of the Day:** God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; and he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him.

**The Collect of the Day:** Almighty ever-living God, who, when Christ had been baptized in the River Jordan and as the Holy Spirit descended upon him, solemnly declared him your beloved Son, grant that your children by adoption, reborn of water and the Holy Spirit, may always be well pleasing to you. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

### **Genesis 1:1-5**

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. <sup>2</sup> Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.

<sup>3</sup> And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. <sup>4</sup> God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness. <sup>5</sup> God called the light "day," and the darkness he called "night." And there was evening, and there was morning—the first day.

### **Psalm 29**

Ascribe to the Lord, you powers of heaven:

**Ascribe to the Lord glory and might.**

Ascribe to the Lord the honour due to his name:

**O worship the Lord in the beauty of his holiness.**

The voice of the Lord is upon the waters:

**The God of glory thunders, the Lord upon the great waters.**

The voice of the Lord is mighty in operation:

**The voice of the Lord is a glorious voice.**

The voice of the Lord breaks the cedar-trees:

**The Lord breaks in pieces the cedars of Lebanon.**

He makes them skip like a calf:

**Lebanon and Sirion like a young wild ox.**

The voice of the Lord divides the lightning-flash:

**The voice of the Lord whirls the sands of the desert, the Lord whirls the desert of Kadesh.**

The voice of the Lord rends the terebinth trees, and strips bare the forests:

**In his temple all cry 'Glory.'**

The Lord sits enthroned above the water-flood:

**The Lord sits enthroned as a king for ever.**

The Lord will give strength to his people:

## **The Lord will give to his people the blessing of peace.**

### **Acts 19:1-7**

While Apollos was at Corinth, Paul took the road through the interior and arrived at Ephesus. There he found some disciples <sup>2</sup>and asked them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" They answered, "No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit."

<sup>3</sup> So Paul asked, "Then what baptism did you receive?"

"John's baptism," they replied.

<sup>4</sup> Paul said, "John's baptism was a baptism of repentance. He told the people to believe in the one coming after him, that is, in Jesus." <sup>5</sup> On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.

<sup>6</sup> When Paul placed his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied. <sup>7</sup> There were about twelve men in all.

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark, chapter 1 beginning at verse 4;

### **Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

And so John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

<sup>5</sup> The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River. <sup>6</sup> John wore clothing made of camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey.

<sup>7</sup> And this was his message: "After me comes the one more powerful than I, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. <sup>8</sup> I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit." <sup>9</sup> At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. <sup>10</sup> Just as Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove.

<sup>11</sup> And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased."

For the Gospel of the Lord

### **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ**

### **Sermon for the Baptism of our Lord**

John the Baptist didn't invent baptism but he did offer baptism to Jesus if rather reluctantly saying 'I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals.' (Mark 1:7) It is significant that John was calling people to a baptism of repentance which was part of a long held Jewish tradition that required people, both men and women to cleanse themselves regularly in a ritual bath called a Mikveh. The waters of a Mikveh must be what the Jews called 'living water' that is water that is flowing hence John's use of the river Jordan. The purpose of such full emersion bathing was to cleanse the person body and soul after an encounter with all manner of uncleanness and also in preparation for Jewish holy days such as Yom Kippur – the Day of Atonement a traditional day of repentance. So, when John the Baptist calls for people to repent for the forgiveness of sins this is nothing exceptional. However, the proclaiming of 'one more powerful than I...' who is coming that is something exceptional/amazing. This 'one' will baptize the people not as a means of ritual cleansing but instead of repeated bathing in living water He will baptize with the Holy Spirit once and for all.

And then as if to surprise us even further this 'one' comes from Nazareth in Galilee to be baptized himself! There are many reasons that Jesus submits himself to baptism by John in the river Jordan. Perhaps the one we could focus on today is that in the context of this first Sunday

after Epiphany we are seeing a further revealing of the Son of God and of his purpose. In the moment of baptism Jesus is officially revealed as Son of God and in this moment of baptism we witness the first revelation of all three persons of the Trinity.

Jesus' baptism draws us closer than ever to an understanding of His purpose. Jesus humbles himself to receive baptism by John as identification with those who suffer. God's son has come into the realm of men and women to be subject to all the struggles and trials of human life. This according to Mark is the good news of Jesus Christ here is the one who will baptize us with the Holy Spirit and bring us into newness of life. Here is the one who will reshape, renew our relationship with God and reconcile us to God through his suffering and death. Jesus' baptism, in which we share brings us into right relationship with God where we will no longer have need of ritual cleansing of the kind practiced by the Jews; ours is a once and for all baptism not with water but with the Holy Spirit.

Our readings today share a focus on the voice of God, the voice of creative power, of majesty and of terror. When God speaks in Genesis the first day is created - the ruach/the wind/the breath/the spirit of God is present even before the voice of God calls forth light and creates the first day. In the psalm the voice of the Lord is described in great detail. It hovers over the waters, the voice of God thunders with such majesty and terror that it causes flames of fire and a wind so strong as to strip bare the leaves from great trees.

And then at Jesus' baptism we overhear the voice of God. I say overhear because we are not told that anyone else actually heard this voice. Presumably there were people on the bank of the river who had come to be baptized by John and John himself would have been right there as God's voice spoke and if we are to give credence to the psalmist description of God's voice it would have been so loud as to fill the ears of all within the radius of the Jordan that day. In this moment we are witnessing a theophany; a visible manifestation of God. Present in this moment of baptism we see the spirit descending like a dove, we see Jesus God's Son, and we hear the voice of God the Father - a rare but very important Trinitarian revelation.

God speaks and the words are recorded here and in the Gospel of Matthew and Luke. What God says is significant **You** are my Son ... God is addressing Jesus in a personal way, you are my son, not he but you. In this address there can be no doubt that Jesus is the Son of God. You are my Son, **the beloved**... loved by God from the beginning, loved and beloved, a term of intimate affection such as that which Jesus gives to his father when calling him Abba Father. You are my son, the beloved **with you I am well pleased**.

God is well pleased with his Son/with Jesus. Here is the strongest approval of Jesus' person, a statement that will see him through the trials and temptations that await him.

Our baptism is something that may have taken place when we were a mere infant and is remembered only in a faded photograph or perhaps our baptism was later in life and we have a lasting memory of it. Whatever the case we ought to take comfort in the knowledge that in that moment we were as close as we could ever be to Jesus and his baptism. We might even see this as the moment when God's voice came thundering down from heaven to speak to us. I like to think that God the Father spoke at my baptism and said; 'Here is a beloved daughter of whom I am well pleased.'

Today we have placed the baptismal font in the center of the church with the intention of renewing our baptismal vows. This is something that is usually done at Easter but last Easter

our churches were shut and who knows what might happen as this year unfolds. It seemed to me that now was the right time to renew our baptismal vows.

Baptism is the sacrament that unites each of us as the body of Christ. Baptism, whether it's full emersion or pouring a few drops, is something that happens only once. We don't need to repeat it. In fact it should not be repeated. As we renew our baptismal vows today perhaps we could listen for the voice of God.

When God speaks in these days it is usually the still small voice, a breath rather than a violent wind. Perhaps like me you could imagine God the Father speaking to you, whispering into your ear saying;

'You are my beloved, with whom I am well pleased.'

From such a place of affirmation and love we can all take our baptism with us into a new day. From this time of renewal and refreshment we can find strength and comfort to face whatever lies ahead.

2020 was a difficult year and 2021 is likely going to be full of challenges as we learn to live with the COVID-19 virus. Of course we hope and pray for an irradiation of the virus and a return to normal, whatever that is, but putting COVID-19 aside 2021 will be a year of challenges as we explore new ways to engage with our community and new ways to connect our Christian faith to the needs and yearnings of those who are yet to know Christ.

Who are we in Christ? By baptism we are joined with Christ and made members of his body the church.

Who are we in Christ? We are children of God; God who speaks to us saying;

'You are my beloved with whom I am well pleased.'

The Message Bible translation puts this rather nicely:

You are marked by love, chosen, pride of my life.

Let us pray:

God our Father we pray for a renewal of our lives as members of Christ's body the church.

God the Son we pray that in baptism we will be united to you and to each other and take comfort and courage from the words of our Father in heaven.

God the Holy Spirit we pray that through your anointing we might come to a deeper understanding of God's purpose for us particularly as we begin this New Year.

In Jesus name we pray Amen.

### **Suggested Hymns**

Glory be to God the Father (TIS 142)

Christ, When For Us You Were Baptised (TIS 250)

My God, Accept my Heart this Day (TIS 485)

Now Let Us From This Table Rise (TIS 530)

### Offertory

Thank you for your weekly offering it is much needed. During this COVID-19 period and post COVID-19 your offering can be made by either:

- Placing in the offering bowl at any church service. Use plain envelope if preferred
- Please make cheques payable to Anglican Parish Bass-Phillip Island

- Regular or one-off contributions can be made by internet banking to the Parish bank account, name: Anglican Parish Bass/Philip Island, BSB: 633 000 / Account Number: 169 629 797
- Visit any Bendigo Bank branch and deposit cash or cheque to Anglican Parish Bass/Phillip Island BSB: 633 000 / Account Number: 169 629 797. Please put on deposit slip: "Offertory" or "Donation" indicating your usual congregation
- If in Cowes, drop your offering in the donation box at St Philip's, Cowes (located outside the front door of the Church)

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED to baking and/or monthly roster at The Mary Talbot Room, San Remo. Contact Rev'd Jo 0490 831 299

**School Holiday Book Sales** Parish Hall, Cowes

Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> – Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2021 helpers needed please contact Richard Prideaux 0418 515 336

Parish Council Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2.00pm Emmaus Room, Cowes

Helpful websites

Parish website [www.anglicanparishbassphillipisland.org](http://www.anglicanparishbassphillipisland.org)

Facebook [www.facebook.com/stphilipscowes](https://www.facebook.com/stphilipscowes)

Please pray for:

Rene Foulkes, Sue Chambers, Mike Heflingers, Jennie Shields,

Rev'd George Sansom, Shirley Broad, Kath Kent,

Len Chatfield; Rev'd Gerald Wall; Sylvia Williams; Ruby Rose

If you would like to add someone to the prayer list, please tell Rev. Jo