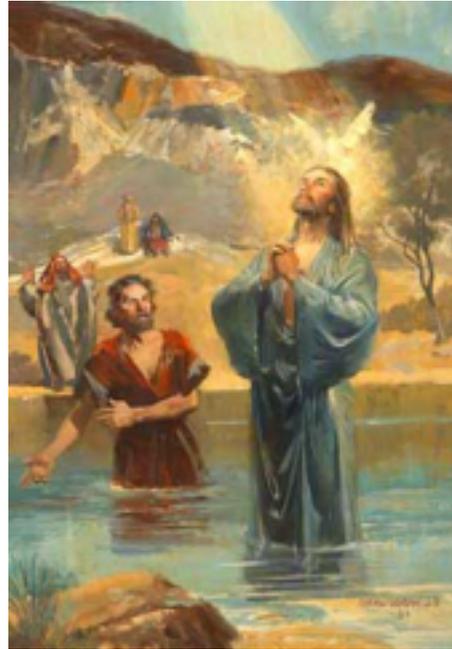


THEME

Jesus' Baptism

The **Baptism of the Christ** (or the **Baptism of Christ**) is the *feast day* commemorating the *baptism of Jesus* in the *Jordan River* by *John the Baptist*. Originally the baptism of Christ was celebrated on *Epiphany*, which commemorates the coming of the *Magi*, the baptism of Christ, and the *wedding at Cana*. At first glance, it seems that Jesus' baptism has no purpose at all. John's baptism was the baptism of repentance (*Matthew 3:11*), but Jesus was sinless and had no need of repentance. Even John was taken aback at Jesus' coming to him. John recognized his own sin and was aware that he, a sinful man in need of repentance himself, was unfit to baptize the spotless Lamb of God: "I need to be baptized by You and You are coming to me?" (*Matthew 3:14*). Jesus replied that it should be done because "it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness" (*Matthew 3:15*). There are several reasons why it was fitting for John to baptize Jesus at the beginning of Jesus' public ministry. Jesus was about to embark on His great work, and it was appropriate that He be recognized publicly by His forerunner. John was the "voice crying in the wilderness" prophesied by Isaiah, calling people to repentance in preparation for their Messiah (*Isaiah 40:3*). By baptizing Him, John was declaring to all that here was the One they had been waiting for, the Son of God, the One he had predicted would baptize "with the Holy Spirit and fire" (*Matthew 3:11*). When John hesitated to baptize the sinless Son of God, Jesus replied that it was proper to "fulfill all righteousness" (*Matthew 3:15*). By this He alluded to the righteousness that He provides to all who come to Him to exchange their sin for His righteousness (*2 Corinthians 5:21*).



RELATES TO US

What does this day mean for us?

Jesus' baptism also shows us that He identified with sinners. His baptism symbolized the sinners' baptism into the righteousness of Christ, dying with Him and rising free from sin and able to walk in the newness of life. When we are baptised our original sin - the sin of Adam and Eve is washed away. The sacrament of baptism is when we are welcomed into God's family and this sin is washed away. As we journey through life we sin, but if we ask God and Jesus for forgiveness we too will rise free from sin.

Find out what is going on in the [world](#) or watch [BBC newsround](#)

Lord, we place these people and situations before you and ask you to help. In the name of the Father, and of the Son and the Holy Spirit, Amen.

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 3:13-17

The Baptism of Jesus

13 Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John. **14** But John tried to deter him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?"

15 Jesus replied, "Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness." Then John consented.

16 As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. **17** And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."



Sacred time this week can link to the British Value of **mutual respect**. This is because this British Value is about having mutual respect for people with different faiths and beliefs to your own. You might not believe in Jesus, but you must respect the beliefs of those who do.

Key Questions and activities....

Is there a career that could link to this week's theme?

Is Baptism still relevant to our world today?



PRAYER

Lord God,
you revealed your Son in the waters of the Jordan
and anointed him with the power of the Holy Spirit
to proclaim good news to all people.
Sanctify us by the same Spirit,
that we may proclaim the healing power of the
gospel by acts of love in your name.

Amen.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

DAILY BIBLE READING