

FAMILY PRAYER

At Home

All Saints
Catholic Academy Trust



Thursday 11th January 2024

In Mass last Sunday we celebrated the feast of The Baptism of the Lord, the special Feast day that brings to an end the Church's celebrations of Christmas. Today we will be thinking about the end of the Christmas celebrations in our own schools, homes and parishes and asking for God's blessings for the New Year ahead.



Time to prepare

Gather together in a quiet space within your home.

How can you mark this as a time for prayer? Perhaps you could light a candle or play some calming music. If you have a family Bible, prayer book or crucifix, perhaps you could have this with you also. We are going to be thinking about the fact that our Christmas celebrations are over and what it means to be in the new calendar year if 2024.

Begin by making the sign of the cross together.

Opening Prayer

Eternal Father, who at the baptism of Jesus revealed Him to be Your Son, anointing Him with the Holy Spirit: grant that we may be faithful to our call as Children of God, listening to you, guided by Your Spirit, to fulfil our unique purpose.
Amen

Scripture

Read together the following passage from the Gospel of St Mark

In the course of his preaching John the Baptist said:

'Someone is following me, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to kneel down and undo the strap of his sandals. I have baptised you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.'

It was at this time that Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptised in the Jordan by John. No sooner had he come up out of the water than he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit, like a dove, descending on him. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you.'

Family Discussion

The celebration of Jesus' Baptism in the River Jordan, marks the point at which his life changed. He went from being a relatively unknown young man to a young man publicly identified as the Son of God with a clear mission and ministry to 'Baptise with the Holy Spirit'.

This time of year is also one that often reflects personal change, not just for Catholics, but for many within society. Christmas has now ended, the parties have finished and our decorations have been put away.

Talk together about the signs you are seeing your daily life as a family that Christmas is over.



One of the things that many people do after Christmas is to make a 'New Year's Resolution' – a promise to themselves for the new year ahead. Often this is a positive change that they wish to make in their own lives. My own resolution this year is to try to make time to read more books! Often these promises that we make are to make our own lives better; to make us healthier or happier.

Talk together about any resolutions for the New Year that you have made or would like to make.

Following Jesus' Baptism, he made good on God's word that he would Baptise with the Holy Spirit. The Gospels are full of stories about the people that Jesus met during this time and the ways in which he changed people's lives for the better through the kindness that he showed, the lessons in life that he shared with others through his stories, and the miracles that he performed.



Jesus did not do these things because he had made a special resolution to make these changes, like some of us might do each New Year. Jesus did these things because they were part of his ministry, the work that God had given him to do with his life. God has given each of us a ministry too, ways in which by living our lives, we too can spread His Word and Good News. So, at this time of year when we are thinking of changes that we can make for ourselves, let us also spend time thinking about the ministry that God has asked us to complete; the ways in which we can use our lives to make life better for others this year.

Talk about some of the things that we could differently as individuals or as a family this year that might help to make the lives of other a little better. Ways in which we can carry out our God-given ministries.



Final Prayer

Heavenly father,
At the river Jordan you revealed
Jesus as your Son.
May we always recognise him as our Lord and
always know that we are your children
and that you love us.
At the start of this New Year,
may we be always looking for ways to serve
others and to bring them closer to you,
just as your son Jesus did during his ministry
here on earth.

Through Jesus Christ our Saviour.
Amen

Amen

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