

Baptism of the Lord

11th January 2026



The water that I will give him will become a spring of water within him welling up to eternal life.
JOHN 4:14

The baptism of Jesus has five special meanings for us. First of all, the baptism of Jesus showed that God approved of the ministry which he was about to begin: Jesus was finally ready to start his mission. The second meaning is that Jesus' baptism served to publicly announce the arrival of the Messiah and the



beginning of that ministry. The third meaning that we see in Jesus' baptism is that by being baptised, Jesus was completely identifying himself with man and, even though Jesus didn't need to repent and be baptised because he alone was without sin, he wanted to identify himself with us and set an example for us to follow. That brings us to the fourth meaning where we see that Jesus intended to be an example for his followers. Through Jesus' baptism, we know that we should be baptised and recognise its full meaning of living a life acceptable to God through the removal of sin. Finally, for the first time in the Bible, we have a complete and clear indication of the Trinity. All three persons of the Trinity were there together and offered a glimpse of the perfect whole.

The Holy Spirit came and gave Jesus the power and strength to begin Jesus' earthly ministry and God gave public approval and endorsement of Jesus as His Son. It is through this event that two key concepts of our faith are showcased and from which our faith grows.

As soon as Jesus was baptised he saw the Spirit of God coming down on him.

Matthew 3

God of light, You sent Your Spirit down upon Your Son Jesus at his baptism. Send us Your Spirit too, so that we may be filled with the courage to do all that You ask of us. Amen.

Loving God, You call us by our name and we are Your children. Help us to share Your message of love and hope with others, and to make the world a fairer place for all to live. Amen.



In addition, this week let us pray for:

- ◆ all those connected to our community who are unwell, upset or mourning;
- ◆ all those affected by the ongoing war;
- ◆ a healthy and happy 2026 for all connected with Springhill.



**The Lord was baptised, not to be cleansed himself but to cleanse the waters so that those waters, cleansed by the flesh of Christ which knew no sin, might have the power of baptism.
St. Ambrose of Milan**