

# TRINITY NEWS

WEEK 03.  
January 15, 2023

## Second Sunday in Ordinary Time: Epiphany sequel (Jn 1:29-42)

*At* Epiphany, through the visit of the Magi, the child Jesus had manifested himself as the Light of the Nations... At Baptism, last Sunday, Jesus revealed himself as the Beloved Son, and today he manifests himself through the mouth of John as the "Messiah"/"Christ" and as the "Lamb of God". In the 2<sup>nd</sup> chapter of the Gospel of John, the Lord reveals himself as the "Bridegroom" at the wedding of Cana in Galilee.

The testimony of John in our today's Gospel takes place after the baptism of Jesus by John the Baptist in the Jordan. This is a pivotal moment in the history of salvation because it is at this moment that John the Baptist demonstrates that Jesus is truly the Messiah. He, the last of the prophets, goes disappear to make room for Jesus. The whole mystery of Christ is revealed to John the Baptist. Jesus is both "the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world", the man on whom the Spirit dwells and "the Son of God."

"The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world": the lamb refers to the paschal lamb for the Jews. Every year, long before Moses, the Passover was celebrated with the beginning of the harvest, and the first sheaf of the harvest and the first lamb were offered to God. Since Moses, the Passover rite reminded the people that God had freed them from slavery in Egypt. It was indeed on the evening of Passover that, by the blood of the Paschal lamb on the lintel of the doors, the Hebrews were spared and were able to flee from Egypt with Moses at their head. Moses had insisted: "from now on, each year, this rite will remind you that God has passed among you to free you. The blood of the lamb signs your liberation. John the Baptist applies this title to Jesus, he is the one who comes to free us from the worst slavery, that of sin.

"I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove and it abode upon him.": the characteristic of the Messiah is to receive the Spirit of God to

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accomplish his mission. Indeed, "Messiah" means "rubbed with oil: The Anointed" as the king on the day of his coronation received the anointing with oil, a sign of the Spirit who accompanied him throughout his mission. "He is the Son of God": this is yet another way of saying that Jesus is the Messiah. Indeed, the title of "Son of God" was reserved for each king on the day of his coronation. And as a Messiah-king was expected, this expression echoed the expectation of the people of Israel.

We can ask ourselves a question: John the Baptist, seeing Jesus coming, designates him as the one who "takes away the sins of the world". But since Jesus, apparently nothing has changed in the world, why? Because Jesus loves us too much to take away our freedom. He offers us the chance to free ourselves from sin, it is up to us to choose to live by his Spirit and to accept his forgiveness. It is in the kingdom of God that all sin will be taken away, forever!

As Christians today, we are disciples of Jesus "**Lamb of God**". This means that we must put innocence instead of wickedness, love instead of strength, humility instead of pride, service instead of prestige. It is an everyday conversion. But we are not alone in this fight. "Like John, let Jesus do it; let him save us; let him love us by opening our hearts to him. With him, we will enter into the life of God Father, Son and Holy Spirit"

-Fr Bert

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***SAINTS:***

***Charles Gore, Bishop & Founder, 17 January.*** Born in 1835, Gore became one of the most influential of Anglican theologians. He helped reconcile the Church to some aspects of biblical criticism and scientific discovery, yet was Catholic in his interpretation of the faith and sacraments. He was also concerned to bring Catholic principles to bear on social problems. As an Oxford don and then as a Canon of Westminster, he was renowned for his preaching. In the 1890s, he was the founder -- and first leader -- of the Community of the Resurrection, which in later years settled at Mirfield in Yorkshire. From 1902, he was successively bishop of Worcester, Birmingham and Oxford. He was much mourned at his death on this day in 1932.

***Wulfstan, Bishop of Worcester, 19 January.*** Born in about the year 1009, Wulfstan's first twenty-five years after his ordination was spent in the monastery at Worcester. Against his will, he was elected Bishop of Worcester in 1062 but went on to prove an able administrator and pastor. He carefully and gently nurtured both church and state through the transition from Saxon to Norman rule. He died at Worcester on this day in the year 1095.

**COMING UP:  
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING,  
JANUARY 29TH, AFTER THE 9:30 SERVICE.  
PLEASE SAVE THE DATE.**

*Refer to notice posted on the bulletin board and by the  
church doors.*