

# Parish Confirmation Preparation

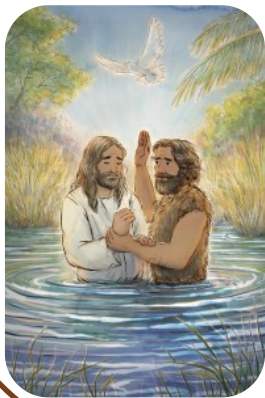
## January 2024

### Who is John the Baptist?



- ♦ John the Baptist's parents were Zacharias and Elizabeth.
- ♦ According to the Gospel of Luke, Elizabeth was unable to have children of her own because of her age. The Angel Gabriel appeared to Zechariah while he was in the temple praying, and told him that Elizabeth would conceive a child. Zechariah did not believe what he had been told, and because of his disbelief, the Angel Gabriel made him unable to speak.
- ♦ When Mary was pregnant, she visited her cousin Elizabeth, and John the Baptist leapt with joy in Elizabeth's womb as he recognised in Mary's womb Jesus, the Saviour of the world.
- ♦ The name "John" was given to Elizabeth's child by an angel sent by God.

- ♦ It is believed that John was born around six months before Jesus.
- ♦ It is commonly believed that John was the second cousin of Jesus.
- ♦ John lived in the desert wearing camel hair and feeding on locusts and wild honey until the beginning of his ministry. (Mt. 3:4)
- ♦ John baptized Jewish people in the river Jordan calling them to repentance and confessing their sins.
- ♦ John pointed Jesus out when he said, 'Look! There is the Lamb of God who is to take away the sins of the world.' (Jn. 1:29)



- ♦ When John was asked if he was the Messiah? He said, 'I am not the Messiah, but I have been sent ahead of him. He must increase, but I must decrease.' (Jn. 3:28,30)
- ♦ According to the Gospels in the New Testament, John baptized Jesus in the river Jordan. Jesus' baptism then started the beginning of His ministry.
- ♦ Herodias asked for the head of John the Baptist on a platter, and sadly her wish was granted, and he was beheaded in 31AD.
- ♦ John the Baptist has two feast days: His birth (Nativity) on 24th June and his martyrdom on 29th August.

### A Baptist's Quiz!

Choose the word that best matches the definition below. Some of the answers can be found in Mark 1:4-11

1. The liquid used to baptise someone.

- a. Wine   b. Vinegar   c. Honey   d. Water

2. The river where Jesus was baptised.

- a. Danube   b. Nile   c. Amazon   d. Jordan

3. To pardon sins.

- a. sin   b. repent   c. forgive   d. dove

4. The Spirit came down from heaven like a \_\_\_\_.

- a. River   b. Voice   c. Dove   d. Wind

5. To turn away from sin.

- a. Repent   b. Forgive   c. Baptise   d. Preach

6. To break one of God's commandments is to.....

- a. Baptise   b. Sin   c. Forgive   d. Repent



# Renewal of Baptismal Promises

When we enter a church or leave our homes, we usually dip our hand into a holy water font and bless ourselves with the Sign of the Cross: “In the name of the Father, and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.” On the day of our Baptism, while the priest poured water on us three times, he stated, “[Name], I baptize you, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.”

Through Baptism, we became Christians, followers of Jesus Christ. This holy water cleanses, renews, and refreshes us along our Christian journey. The Sign of the Cross is a mark of the One to whom we belong — the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—the Trinity. By dipping our hand into the holy water and blessing ourselves, we symbolically renew the promises made at our baptism to live as faithful followers of Jesus Christ. *(See below)*

Do you reject Satan?

**R. I do.**

And all his works?

**R. I do.**

And all his empty promises

**R. I do.**

Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth?

**R. I do.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was born of the Virgin Mary, was crucified, died, and was buried, rose from the dead, and is now seated at the right hand of the Father?

**R. I do.**

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting?

**R. I do.**



## SYMBOLS OF BAPTISM

Water  
Oil of Catechumens  
Oil of Chrism  
Baptismal Shawl  
Paschal Candle  
Cross



## Celebrate your own Baptism.

*(Fill in the blanks and return the sheet at the next preparation Mass for Confirmation.)*

Baptism Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Godparents' Names: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Baptism: \_\_\_\_\_

Place of Baptism: \_\_\_\_\_

