

EXPLORING THE SUNDAY GOSPEL AT HOME

CORONATION

EXPLORING NEXT SUNDAY'S THEME

Reflecting on the Gospel

Jesus' baptism (Mark 1: 4-11)

The Gospel reading is Mark's account of the baptism of Jesus. In this account, Mark presents John dressed like Elijah in the Old Testament. Dressed like this, John's vocation is to anoint Jesus as God's Messiah. The Hebrew word 'Messiah' means the 'anointed one', 'the King'. For Jesus, John's anointing is confirmed by 'the Spirit descending like a dove' and by the divine voice. The words 'You are my son' echo Psalm 2, an 'enthronement psalm' used to celebrate the anointing of the King.

Our image to stimulate reflection on this passage is *coronation*.

Extracts from the Gospel passage (Mark 1: 9-11)

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee
and was baptized by John in the Jordan.
And just as he was coming up out of the water,
he saw the heavens torn apart
and the Spirit descending like a dove on him.
And a voice came from heaven,
'You are my Son, the Beloved;
with you I am well pleased.'

Gospel prayer

Lord Jesus Christ,
you were anointed by the Spirit at your baptism.
Pour the same Spirit into our hearts,
so we may serve you
all the days of our lives;
for your name's sake.
Amen.

READING NEXT SUNDAY'S GOSPEL

Mark 1: 4-11

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, 'The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.'

The Baptism of Jesus

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.'

THE BAPTISM OF CHRIST (YEAR B) SUNDAY 10 JANUARY 2021

ENGAGING WITH THE THEME AT HOME

Reflecting and meditating

Reflect on Mark's account of the Baptism of Jesus (Mark 1 4-11):

- what details in the passage catch your attention?
- what big ideas does the passage spark in your mind?
- what most touches your heart in the passage?
- what most stretches your mind and makes you think in the passage?

Thinking and talking

- what do you make of John's clothing?
- what do you make of John's diet?
- what do you make of John's message?
- what do you make of the voice from heaven?
- how can we best understand the narrative for today?

Using your Bible

Compare Mark's account of the baptism of Jesus with the accounts in:

- Matthew 3: 1-17
- Luke 3: 3-22

Explore passages in the Old Testament that help to shape Mark's narrative:

- 2 Kings 1: 8
- Psalm 2: 7
- Isaiah 42: 1
- Malachi 4: 5

Exploring online

- explore the baptism of Jesus in art
- explore coronation in art
- explore the enthronement Psalms
- explore adult baptism Church of England

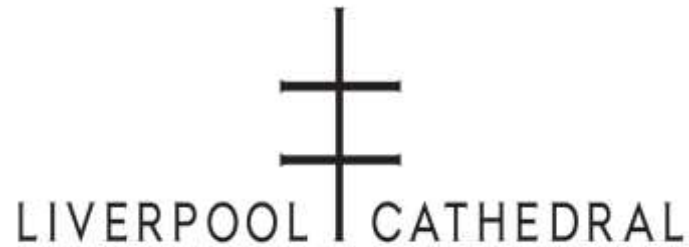
Drawing on experience

- reflect on your experience of coronations in films
- reflect on your experience of adult baptism
- reflect on your experience of coronations in folk tales

THE BAPTISM OF CHRIST (YEAR B) SUNDAY 10 JANUARY 2021

Creating and making

- make a poster of John the Baptist anointing Jesus
- make a collage of images of coronations
- make a display of verses from the enthronement Psalms
- create a reflection, poem, or prayer on the baptism of Jesus



EXPLORING THE SUNDAY GOSPEL AT HOME

Each week we are inviting people in their homes to look forward to those Sunday services that follow the Revised Common Lectionary Gospel readings. We employ the SIFT approach (Sensing, Intuition, Feeling, and Thinking) to encourage reflection on the Sunday Gospel. We are suggesting a variety of ways in which people of all ages, and households working together, may engage with the Gospel reading and celebrate that engagement with shared activities.

Our invitation then is for you to share your reflections, prayers and photos of your creative work with the Cathedral by emailing them to Nelson.Pike@liverpoolcathedral.org.uk

These materials have been developed by the Canon Theologian of Liverpool Cathedral working in collaboration with the staff team here at the Cathedral, and with sponsorship and support from the St Mary's Centre in Wales and the St Christopher's College Trust.



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