



# Collective worship 13.1.20

This week's theme is 'Baptism'.

# Baptism



Over the last two weeks this has become a familiar sad sight: discarded Christmas trees letting us know the celebrations are well and truly over. But are they?

In the world's eyes Christmas may be over but, in the eyes of the Church, Christmas does not end until we celebrate two important feasts: the Epiphany and the Baptism of Jesus. Last week we looked at the Epiphany, this week we will focus on the Baptism of Jesus. So, what are the messages behind the Baptism of Jesus. Well, The Baptism of the Lord reveals an image of God that many Christians down the ages believe is worthy of great celebration. The Baptism teaches us that Jesus, who is God, welcomes and values all people. Whatever their background, whatever their status, whatever their past, God welcomes everyone and stands alongside them in their struggles and in their celebrations.

What does the Bible say?



When you judge another,  
you do not define them,  
you define yourself.

Watch the clip. Sometimes it is natural for us to judge others for what they do, how they look or act. But, as Christians we should look at ourselves first, and not judge others.

**Matthew 7:1-2**

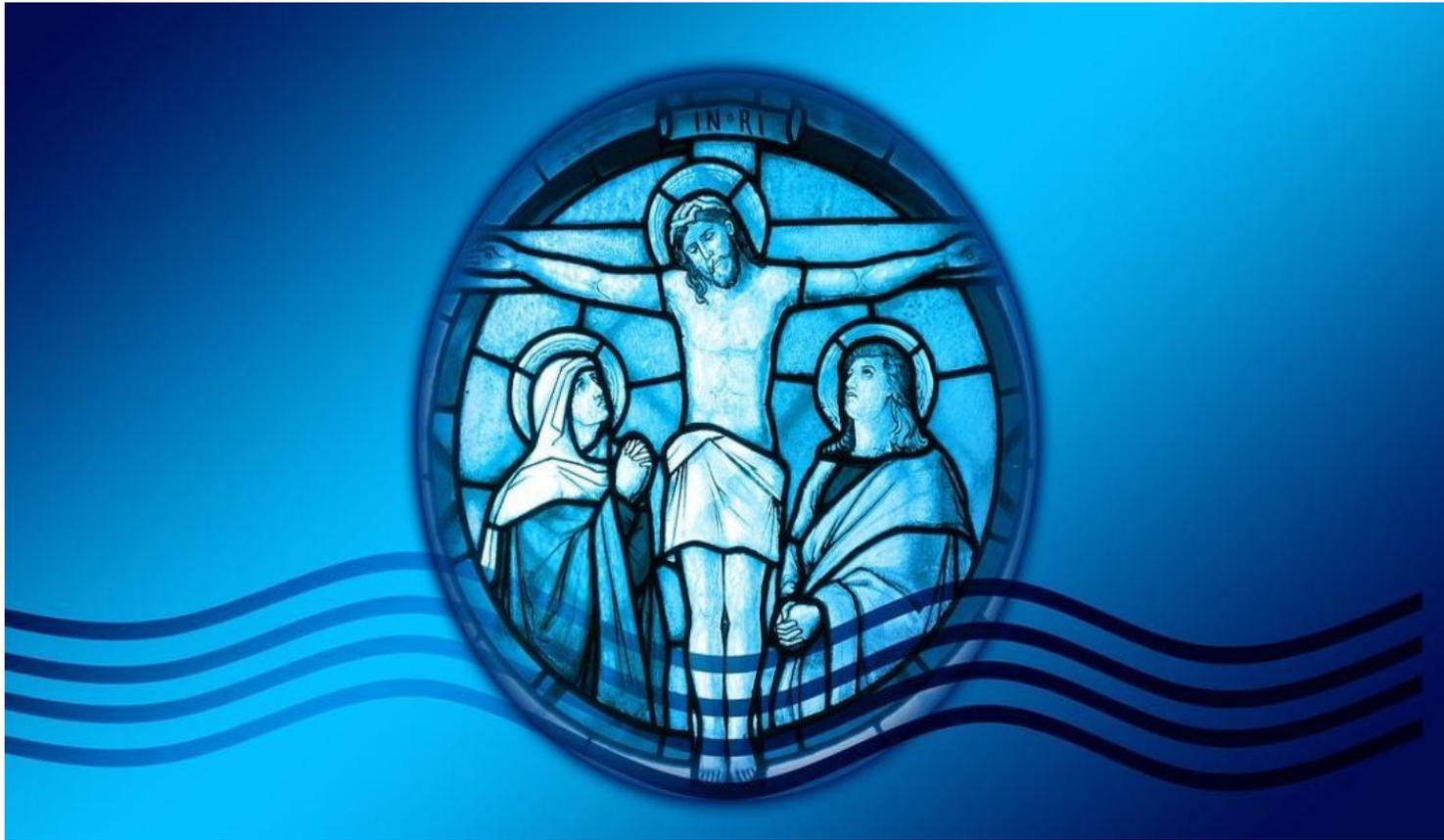
Don't judge, so that you won't be judged. For with whatever judgment you judge, you will be judged; and with whatever measure you measure, it will be measured to you.



Time to think..

What is the message in the clip?  
Why did Bill keep quiet?  
What has this got to do with today's discussion?  
What can be learnt?

The baptism of Jesus is recorded in the Gospel Bible books of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. In this story we see that Jesus approaches John and asks to be baptized. John has been proclaiming the Gospel and baptizing those who are sorry for their sin, want to make right their relationship with God, and await the coming Messiah. John is astonished that Jesus, the sinless Son of God, is asking to be baptized and John feels like he should be the one asking Jesus to baptize him! Jesus tells John that His baptism is "fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness". Jesus is baptized as a symbol of giving His will up to His Father and the beginning of His earthly ministry. When Jesus comes up out of the water, John sees the Spirit of God descend like a dove upon Jesus and they hear God's voice from heaven say "This is my Son, the beloved, whom I have approved."



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.

# Baptism

The Baptism also shows us that it is God's desire that we, like Jesus and the others who sought baptism from John, should freely choose to follow God more closely - not to be swayed by the attitudes of others, but to make our own faith commitment. So how can we do this? Showing commitment to our faith does not simply mean just saying prayers and going to church, it is about how we act, and how we spread the Gospel values. We can do this in many ways, all of which should be underpinned by the example of Jesus in the New Testament.

## 10 GREAT WAYS TO TREAT OTHERS

- 1 Use kind words.
- 2 Help when you can.
- 3 Share and take turns.
- 4 Listen to what others have to say.
- 5 Be honest and truthful.
- 6 Think before you speak or act.
- 7 Remember your manners.
- 8 Hold your temper.
- 9 Think about the feelings of others.
- 10 Work and play fairly.

Which is the most important and why?

Which is the hardest to do?

Hebrews 4:12

'For the word of God is living and active'



Time to think...

Which of the good deeds meant to most to the receiver?  
How is the man in the video following the example of Christ?  
Which is the most inspiring moment in the clip?



Let us pray:

Lord, we pray for all those who commit their lives to your service. We give thanks for their efforts to share your love through their actions and words. Bless our priests, nuns, teachers, nurses, doctors and all who aim to help people flourish.

Amen

# Baptism

Today we will focus on one last message from the Baptism of Jesus. The Baptism shows us that through God's love and mercy there is always a chance to see things differently and make a fresh start, provided we resolve to follow more closely the example of Christ. Sometimes, making a fresh start isn't easy and we fall back into our bad habits. However, it is important to remember that God loves us and is always by our side. Sometimes, we need to look for God's strength and love and when we feel it, use it to make that fresh start.

*"We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life."*

—Romans 6:4

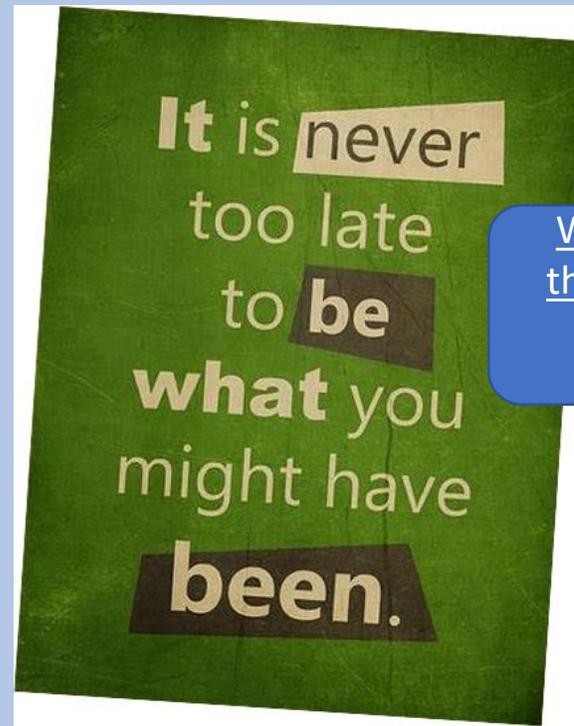
What does the Bible say?



*A verse in the Bible says, 'But one thing I do: forgetting what is behind and straining towards what is ahead' (Philippians 3.13).*

So..

*Let's put the past behind us and instead focus our energy on making good decisions for the future. It's in our hands.*



What do you think that this means?

**Speech**  
**Time**  
**Attitude**  
**Reactions**  
**Talents**

Watch the clip:

Most have you will have seen the film Bruce Almighty in R.E Two well-known lines in the film are spoken by 'God', who is played by Morgan Freeman:

- 'No matter how filthy something gets, we can always clean it right up.'
- 'People want me to do everything for them, but . . . they have the power. Do you wanna see a miracle, son? Be the miracle.'

Discuss these what do they mean?



Let us pray:

Dear God,  
Thank you that your love towards us never ceases.  
Thank you that, no matter what we've said or done, you never give up on us.  
Thank you that every day is an opportunity for a fresh start.  
Help us to take ownership of our lives and make wise decisions in our speech, time, attitude, reactions and talents so that we can become the people we dream of becoming.  
**Amen.**