

## Baptism of Lord 2026

Today we celebrate the feast of the Baptism of Our Lord Jesus Christ

This was a public declaration of the ministry of the Son of God

An outward sign of the presence of the divine love of God

In Jesus we saw God who is beyond our understanding

In Jesus we heard the word of God which is beyond our comprehension

In Jesus we felt the touch of God which heals beyond the depths of medical care

The experience of encounter with the Christ was a sacramental experience

An outward sign of the inward presence of God

Sacramental

This may seem mystical

A bit too abstract

But look to our own lives

We live the sacraments

You are witnessing my Baptism

As a baby rushed off to Church as it was then

The Baptism rite took place

However the living of that baptised is not located in that time or place

I am living that baptism

The very fact that I am attempting to preach the word of God

Is an expression of that baptism

Approaching life through Christ

Approaching death through Christ

Is the outward sign of the inward presence of God in my life

Is the outward sign of the sacrament of my baptism

Many of you here are married  
As a couple you invited family to your wedding  
The marriage rite took place  
However the living of that marriage is not located in that time or place  
You are living your marriage  
The very fact that you struggle and celebrate the challenge of that relationship  
Is an expression of the holy rite celebrated  
Approaching life through partnership  
Approaching death through mutual support  
Is an inward sign of the presence of God in your life  
Is an outward sign of the sacrament of marriage

Many of us will receive the Eucharist today, Holy Communion  
Having made our way to the church to full fill obligation  
The Eucharistic rite takes place  
However the living of that Eucharist is not only located in this time or place  
You will live the presence of Christ, the Eucharist throughout the week  
The very fact that you are here today will influence tomorrow  
Approaching life through the realities of crucifixion  
Approaching death through faith in the resurrection  
Is an inward sign of the presence of God in your life  
Is an outward sign of the sacrament of holy communion

Our blind society will credit only overt recognisable expressions of reality  
But what colour are an Angels wings  
What shade and structure the love of life  
What size the sacrifice of a Father  
What shape the love of a mother

All are abstract  
All are intangible  
And all have outward signs  
which express the inward realities

In Jesus we saw God who is beyond our understanding  
In Jesus we heard the word of God which is beyond our comprehension  
In Jesus we felt the touch of God which heals beyond the depths of medical care

Each day we see the sacramental presence of God which is beyond our understanding  
Each day we hear the word of God which is beyond our comprehension  
Each we reach out and touch the creative love of God which is beyond our appreciation

Each day we live the sacrament