

We acknowledge the Dharawal people, traditional owners and custodians of this place. They are part of the world's oldest living human culture, deserving of our deepest respect. May we walk gently on this land.



ST MARY'S TOWERS

415 Douglas Park Dr

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DOUGLAS PARK 2569

Phone: 4630 0200;

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<http://towersretreat.abundance.org.au>

MARRIAGES and BAPTISMS

by appointment

SUNDAY MASSES in the Church

9am each Sunday

6pm every 1st Sunday [at Menangle]

5pm every 3rd Sunday for

Youth/Young families

WEEKDAY MASS/PRAYER

in Jenkins Chapel

Monday: 5pm Prayer; 5.15pm Mass

Tues-Sat: 7am Prayer; 7.15am Mass

ALL WELCOME

TODAY WE CELEBRATE:
THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

YEAR C: 10 JANUARY, 2010

How strong is your own sense of being
'beloved' and 'favoured' by God?

How much time do you spend alone 'at
prayer'?

DID YOU KNOW?

This feast and the Wedding at Cana miracle [next week's Gospel] were originally celebrated on the same day as the feast of the Epiphany because they are also considered to be manifestations of the Christ.

The word baptism comes from a Greek word meaning 'to plunge'.

The first Christians were baptised by being plunged into running streams or rivers, following the practice of John. Later, large fonts were built in Churches and baptism of the faithful, usually adults, was by full immersion.

The mainstream Christian Churches - Catholic, Orthodox, Protestant and Anglican - recognise the same baptism. If a person is baptised into one of these Churches it is not repeated, even if they move to worshipping in another Church.

'Immersion in water symbolises not only death and purification, but also regeneration and renewal. Thus the two principal effects [of baptism] are purification from sin and rebirth in the Holy Spirit. [CCC #1262]



Last week, sadly, we said goodbye to Kimi one of our novices. Because of a visa problem, Kimi has had to return to his homeland of Fiji. We are all hoping it is only for a short time, and that his happy smiling presence is once again gracing our MSC community. Please keep Kimi in your prayers.

WE PRAY FOR THE SICK...

Todd McRae, Sue Gay, Christine Sullivan, Trish Coleman, Peter Naughton, Hazel Wood [Jude Flippence's mother - battling cancer] Doug Moseley [Heather's brother-in-law] Lois Martin, Sheree Shipley, Brian Selem, Bill Penn, Frank Dineen msc.



Like Jesus, every Christian enters the waters of baptism or has it poured over them. The symbolism especially apparent in the practice of full immersion, is that of the tomb. The person enters into the depths and darkness of the tomb with Jesus and rises to a new life in Christ, symbolised by the white garment worn at baptism.

Baptism is the first of the seven sacraments of the church. A sacrament is a sign through which God communicates love, life and forgiveness to us.