This Monday is the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, so let us reflect on the meaning of baptism..........

I believe baptism to be one of the most beautiful sacramental moments of life. Maybe not always for the child, as they are usually too young to comprehend what is happening, but for those present it can be a wonderful moment of grace. This is especially true for the Godparents. They have been especially asked because of the role they have played in the parents’ lives, and the gift they will then be to the child. So what are some of the aspects of being a Godparent? It is a gift that maybe we take all too lightly at times. During the baptismal ceremony, a candle is lit for the child from the Easter candle and the priest says:

“Parents and Godparents, receive the light of Christ. This light is entrusted to you to be kept burning brightly. This child of yours has been enlightened by Christ. He/she is to walk always as a child of the light. May he/she keep the flame of faith alive in his/her heart. When the Lord comes, may he/she go out to meet him with all the saints of the heavenly kingdom”

What an awesome responsibility. So what can a Godparent do to show the sincerity of the task they are undertaking. On the day, they can show a willingness to be open to whatever the day brings accepting the Spirit as it comes, be present to the moment that is, choosing to receive the grace of the sacrament, support the parents in this endeavour, and be prayerful by leaving behind any hassles of the day. I once read a book about Godparents and it commented on the need to be thoughtful even about the choice of present. Apart from the straight forward gifts of Bibles, medallions etc, they suggested some accompanying gifts that add to the sense of connectedness to God and all creation. Here are some of the suggestions it gave: **Gifts of light:** A candle with the details of the baptism on it; **Gifts of water:** a small fountain gives soothing sounds for a baby, or a tape of ocean sounds; **Gifts of nature:** new life and a connection to creation found in flowers or by planting a tree or bulb in the garden or giving a goldfish; **Gifts of words:** a specially written poem for the day, a baptism record book, or a book about this new life of baptism with a special message inside the cover from you; **Gifts of music:** some modern or traditional religious music; **Gifts to hold:** something for the crib or rocker, squeezable toys of biblical characters, giving some every anniversary building up an atmosphere of God’s presence in their room; **Gifts of memory:** photo frames to keep photos of the baptism, album to keep cards and photos for when your God child is older.

When was the last time you contacted your God child? **Do it today - they may need you.**
The St Mary’s Parish and School Calendar is now available from the front table. Please take your free copy. As usual it’s packed full of Parish dates and loads of Parish and School photos from throughout 2016.

During November, we welcomed
Alexis Jayne Wiggan
Alexis is the daughter of Tim and Lauren, sister to Rory.
May 2017 bring them much joy and peace.

Parish Meetings
Parish Council
Thursday, 9th February at 3.30pm in the Parish House.

Parish Finance Committee
Monday, 6th February at 5.30pm in the Parish Centre.

St Vincent De Paul Meeting
Monday, 30th January at 5.00pm at the Vinnies Store.

Come and have a winning day at the St. Mary’s Race Day.
Family orientated day at the Races 21st January, 2017.
Tickets available at Royal Hotel.
$50 / ($90 double) includes entry and lunch.

Also on the front table you will find some books that explain the Catholic faith in some detail. If you know of anyone who would like to know more about our faith, please feel free to take one and invite them to explore what we believe.

At Home with God’s People
OUR CATHOLIC FAITH
Weekday and Weekend Masses

Monday.......5.30pm    Tuesday....Kaloma....11.00am
Thursday Adoration 5-6pm and  Friday.........12.15pm

14th/15th January, 2017
SUNDAY MORNING: 9.00am Goodniwindi

21st/22nd January, 2017
Mass time change due to St Mary’s Race Day on Saturday 21st.
SUNDAY EVENING: 6.00pm

28th/29th January, 2017 (5th Sunday)
SUNDAY MORNING: 9:00am

4th/5th February, 2017
SATURDAY EVENING: 6.00pm Goodniwindi
SUNDAY MORNING: 8.00am Weengallon and 10.00am Daymar

11th/12th February, 2017
SUNDAY EVENING: 6.00pm Goodniwindi

WE PRAY FOR Those who have entered your kingdom: including
Monica Nichols, Barbara Bishop, Marie Gore, Pat Parson (Margaret
Oliver’s daughter), Sr Joan MacGinley, RSM, Alicia Devine, Desley
Hawker, Greg Oliver, Sr. Colleen Carney, Sr Bess Turvey, Mary Loveday,
Timothy Lawless-Pyne, Fr. Mick Skehan, Audrey Albeck, Peter Ints, David
Hiles, Shirley Byrne, Mona O’Brien, Norm Hilderson, Chris Finlayson,
Maria Magoffin, Mel McGuire, Alma Betts, Darren Benceke, Robert
Picking, Len Collins, Vince Mullins, Mary Terry;

For all those whose anniversary is at this time: including Patrick Morrissy,
Brett Linton, Joan Price, Molly McDonald, Joan Turvey, James ‘Ally’
Brennan, Joyce Turvey, Georgia Bourke, Carolyn Sewell, Paul Zacka,
Albert Knight, Pat and Teresa Mullins, David Webster, Leslie “Cloudy”
Marsh, Willy Heynen, Kevin Percival, Joan Smith, Irene “Ronnie” Blomley,
Marj McMillan, Patrick Burns, Beth Cook, Thelva O’Shea, Lynn Sutton,
Rachel Cowmeadow;

For those who are ill: including Tom Turvey, Rosemary Lawson, Bill
Dyer, Trish Dyer, Brian Freeeney, Deanna Dawson, Anne Hunt, Kevin
Lawless, Ray Mackie, Peter Keehn, Joan Fleming, Frank Brosnan, Gloria
Bale, David Croft, Tim Bourke, Joe Cowmeadow, Shirley Schluter, Stasie
Lawless, Paul Lloyd, Mavis Gordon, Jean Ramada, Stella McGovern, Jean
Sizer, Francis Lloyd, Madonna Nicoletti, Kathy McDonald, Steph
Adamson, Bailey Brennan, Pauline Robinson, Skinner, Sonya
Horrigan, Helen Paige, John Toohey, Marie Cook, Phillip Carney, Shirley
Riley, Therese Sullivan and Joseph Hord; also those ill at home, in
hospital and for those in Kaloma.

Let us pray for all those clergy whose anniversaries occur during this month:
Rev. Fr. Thomas Concannon (01/01/48)    Rev Fr. William Hall (11/01/95)
Rev. Fr. William Behm (23/01/06)        Rev. Fr. Howard Crowe (31/01/36)

Lord, be merciful to your servants, the Bishops and Priests of this Diocese,
welcome them into the company of your Saints, in the Kingdom of light and
peace. We ask this through Christ our Lord, Amen.

WELCOMERS AT DOOR
PAULINE CORCORAN & FAY PFINGST 
(15/01)
JILL LENNON & ANNE WEBSTER (22/01)
KAREN CAIRNS & MARY BELL (29/01)

WELCOMER AT MICROPHONE
CAROL ORMES (15/01)
PAT THOMPSON (22/01)
ROBYN LINDORES (29/01)

1st READER/PSALM
PAT THOMPSON (15/01)
MARY COLLINS (22/01)
CAMILLE KELLOWAY (29/01)

2nd READING/ALLELUIA
ROS PHILLIPS (15/01)
CLAIRE CHARLES (22/01)
ST MARY’S SCHOOL STAFF (29/01)

EUCHARIST MINISTERS
MARY COLLINS, YVONNE ISAAC & CLAIRE CHARLES (15/01)
CARMEL GEESON, SUE MCGOVERN & DAWN CLANCY (22/01)
MICK CLANCY, ROS PHILLIPS & BRETT POLLARD (29/01)

DATA PROJECTOR
LEEANN WELSH (15/01)
CARMEL SCHAUMBURG (22/01)
MARY COLLINS (29/01)

MONEY COUNTERS
MARY COLLINS & ROS PHILLIPS (15/01)
DENISE MCCORMACK & JENNIFER LAWLESS (22/01)
TERESA HEYHEN & BELL FAMILY (29/01)

GROUNDS ROSTER
JANUARY:  MICHAEL & JACK SCHAUMBURG
FEBRUARY: PHIL & CAROL ORMES

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS: 09/01/17
ENVELOPES $597.00
LOOSE $198.00
Introduction
Today we hear the titles given to Jesus, who is called the Son of God, the Lamb, and the true Servant who brings salvation to the whole world. His role is completely based on his relationship to God, whom he calls his Father. Our role is based on our relationship to Jesus, when we begin to know him as he is and what he is called to do. Like him, our task is to continually deepen the relationship that leads us to know who we are and what we are called to do. That noble work is never finished.

First Reading
Isaiah 49:3, 5-6
The servant will bring salvation.

Responsorial Psalm
Here I am, Lord;
I come to do your will.

Second Reading
1 Corinthians 1:1-3
All who call upon the name of Jesus are called to be holy.

ALLELUIA! ALLELUIA!
The Word of God became flesh and dwelt among us. He enabled those who accepted him to become the children of God. ALLELUIA!

Gospel
John 1:29-34
John proclaims Jesus as the Son of God and the Lamb of God.

Prayers of the Faithful
For the whole church: that we may know who we are and what we are called to do ... we pray,

For those called to teach us and our children: for pastors, catechists, theologians and ministers ... we pray,

For adoptive parents, who are committed to helping their children feel valued and loved ... we pray,

For those whose lives are consumed with daily living or basic security, especially refugees, the poor and the marginalised ... we pray,

For the sick, the dying and the grieving among us; and for those who have died ... we pray,

Let us pray together:
God, who showed us who Jesus is, we pray for eyes that are open to recognizing him and hearts that are open to following him. Help us to deepen our relationship to him and to one another for the sake of the whole world. We pray in the name of him who is called the Lamb of God.

Amen