

DARLING DOWNS PARISH OF THE AELC
TRINITY OAKLEY, ST PAUL'S GREENWOOD, ST JOHN'S AUBIGNY,
BETHLEHEM TOOWOOMBA

13 January 2019
Bulletin for the 1st Sunday after the Epiphany
The Baptism of our Lord

HYMNS: 39 748 392 279

INTROIT: Give to the LORD, you heavenly beings, give to the LORD glory and strength!
Give to the LORD the glory due to His name! Worship the LORD in holy splendour!
The voice of the LORD is over the waters. **The God of glory** causes it to thunder. The LORD is over many waters.
The voice of the LORD is powerful. The voice of the LORD is majestic.
The voice of the LORD breaks the cedars. The LORD shatters the cedars of Lebanon.
He makes Lebanon skip about like a calf. He makes Sirion skip about like a young wild ox.
The voice of the LORD flashes out with flames of fire.
The voice of the LORD makes the wilderness tremble. The LORD makes the Wilderness of Kadesh tremble.
The voice of the LORD causes the fallow deer to be in labour, and strips the forest bare. In His temple everyone is saying, "Glory!"
The LORD sat enthroned over the Deluge, and the LORD has for ever been sitting as King.
The LORD will give strength to His people. The LORD will bless His people with peace.

Psalm 29

COLLECT: Father in heaven, at the Baptism of Jesus in the Jordan River You proclaimed Him Your beloved Son and anointed Him with the Holy Spirit. Make all who are baptised in His name faithful in their calling as Your children and inheritors with Him of everlasting life; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit one God, now and for ever. Amen.

READINGS: Isaiah 43:1-7 The Lord redeems Israel.
Romans 6:1-11 Baptised into Christ's death and resurrection.
Luke 3:15-22 The Holy Spirit came down on Him.

SERMON: Luke 3:15-22 Jesus' baptism has opened the way of heaven to us
The people were expecting something and were all wondering in their hearts whether John might perhaps be the Christ. ¹⁶ John answered them all: "I am baptising you with water. However, the One who is more powerful than I am is coming. I am not worthy to untie His sandal-strap. He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. ¹⁷ He has His winnowing fork in His hand to clean up His threshing floor and to gather the wheat into His barn, but He will burn the chaff with fire that cannot be put out."
¹⁸ So with many other words John kept exhorting the people and telling them the Good News.
¹⁹ However, when John rebuked Herod the tetrarch because of Herodias, his brother's wife, and all the other evil things he had done, ²⁰ Herod added this to them all: he locked John up in prison.
²¹ When all the people were being baptised, Jesus was also baptised. While He was praying, heaven was opened, ²² and the Holy Spirit came down on Him in bodily form like a dove. Then a voice came from heaven, which said, "You are My Son, whom I love. I am well pleased with You."

Through Baptism we are made God's children.

The Apostle Paul makes the startling assertion that where sin increased, God's grace in Christ increased all the more (Romans 5:20). Paul anticipates a perverse logic that might reason: If that's the case, then why not go on sinning so that grace will increase even more? Paul heads that thought off in no uncertain terms with his curt response, "*How shall we, who died to sin, live any longer in it?*" (Rom. 6:2).

But how did we die to sin? Paul answers this question with another question - the answer to which is self-evident. "*Or do you not know that all of us who were baptised into Christ Jesus were baptised into His death?*" he asks (6:3). Note the major assumption on Paul's part that Baptism is a means of grace. Baptism is effective in doing something. It accomplishes something. What Baptism does is put the baptised person in touch with Christ, or, to be more specific, it makes the baptised person a partner in Christ's death and burial. "*Therefore, we were buried with Him through baptism into death,*" (6:4). This close connection with Christ through Baptism is a theme that will be repeated over and over again. In fact, the prepositional phrase "*with Him*" occurs five times in verses 4 to 8.

A second major assumption on Paul's part is that being connected "*with Him* [Christ]" makes a difference. Through Baptism we were buried with Him into death "*so that, as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might begin to*

live a new life,” (6:4). Recall that Christ’s death and resurrection were the basis of the righteousness that the Father credited to us to make us children of God, fit for His kingdom.

Abortion leading cause of death in 2018

Abortion was the number one cause of death worldwide in 2018, with more than 41 million children killed before birth, Worldometers reports.

As of December 31, 2018, there have been some 41.9 million abortions performed in the course of the year, Worldometers revealed. By contrast, 8.2 million people died from cancer in 2018, 5 million from smoking, and 1.7 million died of HIV/AIDS.

Worldometers — voted one of the best free reference websites by the American Library Association (ALA) — keeps a running tally through the year of major world statistics, including population, births, deaths, automobiles produced, books published, and CO2 emissions.

It also records the total number of abortions in the world, based on the latest statistics on abortions published by the World Health Organization (WHO).

Globally, just under a quarter of all pregnancies (23 percent) were ended by abortion in 2018, and for every 33 live births, ten infants were aborted.

There were more deaths from abortion in 2018 than all deaths from cancer, malaria, HIV/AIDS, smoking, alcohol, and traffic accidents combined.

The staggering number of deaths from abortion, in fact, has led certain observers to call abortion “the social justice cause of our time,” since judging from the sheer magnitude of the problem other human rights issues pale in comparison.

... Lord, have mercy.

Welcome to all worshipping with us today! May God bless our worship of Him by His serving of us!
 Pastor Peter Ziebell, Phone 0407583922.
 Email him at paziebell@gmail.com
 Weekly sermons and bulletins are available at www.aelc.org.au.
Please notify pastor of anyone who is unwell or in need of a visit.

COMING SERVICES

20 January 2 Epiphany	27 January 3 Epiphany	3 February 4 Epiphany
8.30am TMBA LR 9.30am OAK HC Confirmation (please note time) 9.00am GRN LR 9.30am AUB LR	8.30am TMBA HC 8.30am OAK LR 10.00am GRN HC Pastor Ohlson 10.30am AUB HC	8.30am TMBA HC followed by the AGM 8.30am OAK LR 9.00am GRN LR 9.30am AUB LR
Sunday, 20 January		
READINGS: Isaiah 62:1-5; 1 Corinthians 12:1-11; John 2:1-11		
HYMNS: 16 749 149 796 OAK: 301 16 296 294 291 300		
Sunday, 27 January		
READINGS: Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10; 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a; Luke 4:16-30		
HYMNS: 272 217 372 (333 162) 266 GRN: 266 217 272 37 291 267		

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday, 20 January, 7.30pm. Parish Executive meeting at Oakey.

ANNUAL MEETINGS:

Toowoomba, Sunday 3 February after service.

Oakey: _____

Greenwood: _____

Aubigny: _____

Parish: _____

Saturday, 23 February, 10.00am. CoC/Sem. Comm. meeting at Troys Road. Please forward any agenda items to the secretary, Ian Manz at: igm64@hotmail.com