

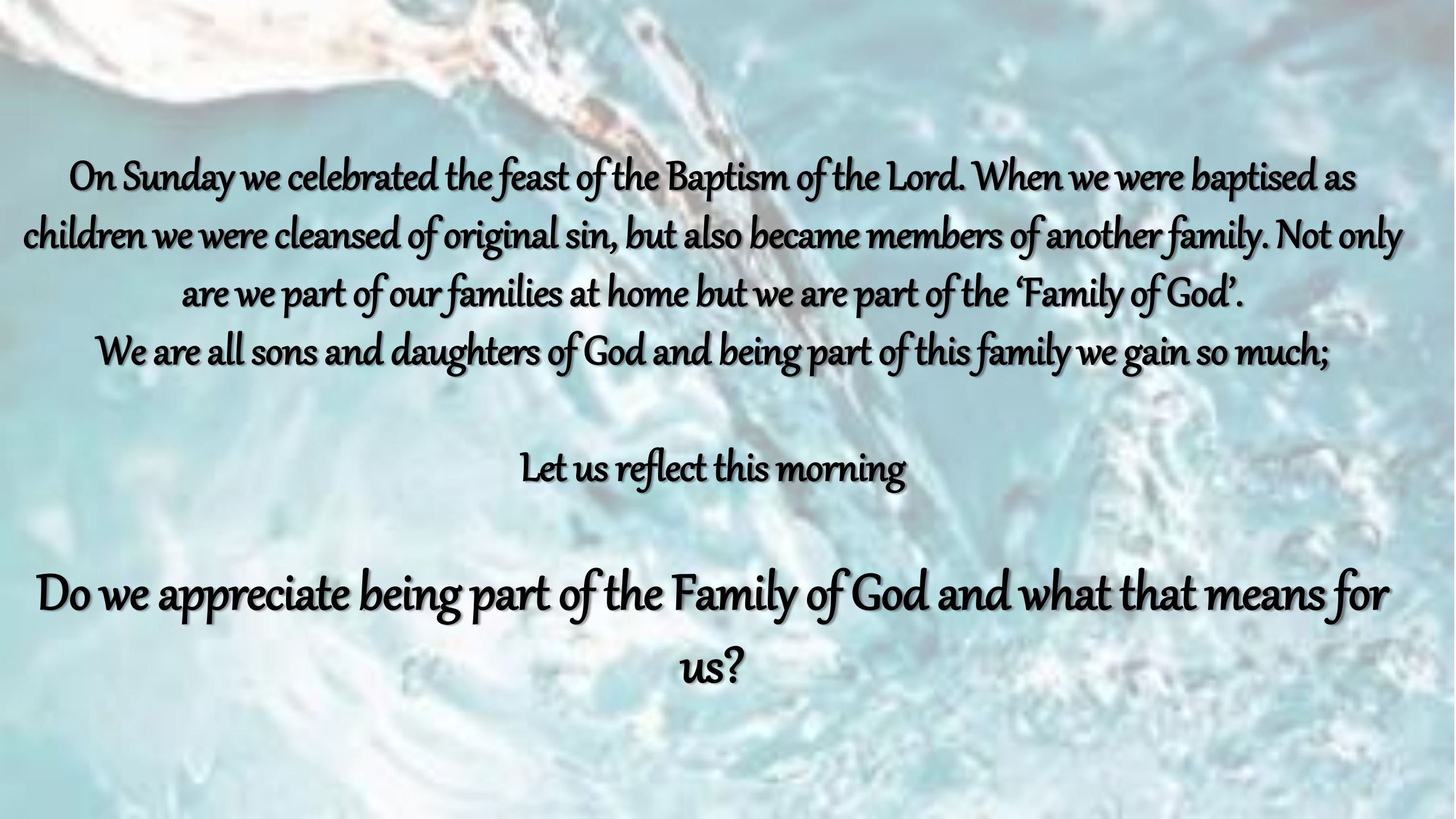


Week Beginning 13th January (Monday)

Baptised As One

Nobody is a 'nobody' in the family of God

– Alistair Begg



On Sunday we celebrated the feast of the Baptism of the Lord. When we were baptised as children we were cleansed of original sin, but also became members of another family. Not only are we part of our families at home but we are part of the 'Family of God'. We are all sons and daughters of God and being part of this family we gain so much;

Let us reflect this morning

Do we appreciate being part of the Family of God and what that means for us?

Let us bring together all our thoughts and our feelings and offer them up to our Father in heaven as
we say;

Our Father, Who art in heaven
Hallowed be Thy Name;
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

Amen

Week Beginning 13th January (Tuesday)

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Knowing and experiencing the love of God.

To be able to call the only eternal, all-knowing, all-powerful Creator of the universe "Father" or even "Dad" (the English equivalent to the Aramaic word "Abba") is one of the greatest blessings.

Having your needs met.

Those who have God as their Father have access to Him in prayer.

Having a purpose in this life that has eternal significance.

As part of God's family we are given spiritual gifts that we can use to grow and strengthen the family, which is the body of Christ.

As we continue through the week we continue to pray for our families, both our own and our Church family. Let us say the following prayer together;

God be with our family,
From the youngest to the oldest,
Lighting up our relationships,
Sowing grace into our troubles.

God be with our family,
Weaving love into our work,
Our rest, and our play.

Amen.

Week Beginning 13th January (Wednesday)

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Above all
else love
Each other
Deeply

1 PETER 4:8

Take a minute to read this
quote to yourself and
think about what it means
to you

You may find each other difficult at times, but we are one family in Christ and so we should strive to have unity and for everyone to feel loved and cared for.

Let us Pray;

Lord, help us to be thankful for one another. Help us as children of God to be loving towards each other, for our family to be grateful for each member and to pray for one another continually. Our love for one another will bind us together as a family, and our prayers for each other will bring us closer to you, our father.

Amen





Week Beginning 13th January (Thursday)

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Sometimes we can feel like we don't belong in this holy family. Leah Murphy, LifeTeen Blog writer says

‘“The Church is not a museum of saints, but a hospital for sinners.”

This quote is one I return to a lot when I'm struggling to remember my place in the Church — when I'm falling back into old sins, when I'm finding myself unworthy of God's grace, when I feel like I don't belong in a holy place around holy people. It's the quote that I had in mind as I stood in line for Confession, knowing I'd have to confess that one sin I'd told my confessor so many times before. I was totally ashamed and frustrated by my weakness.'

She goes on to say that 'If you think you won't fit in among the "church people," let me remind you that "church people" are only different from the greatest sinners in that they recognize their need for a Saviour. You only won't fit in if you come to Jesus acting as if you don't need Him — as if He's some pious add-on to your already righteous life.

If you think your past is too complicated, you belong. If you think your family is too messed up, you belong. If you think your faith is too small, you belong. If you think your sin is too great, you belong. If you're broken, you belong. The broken belong to the Church because Jesus didn't come to make the whole more whole. He came for the broken.'



Today we need to recognise that we too are not perfect..... But God **ADORES** us anyway and has great plans for us. Let us now say a prayer for ourselves as we say together;

Dear Lord Jesus

Please grant me the inner peace to love and accept myself unconditionally, while honouring the need to change and improve for my own sake as well as for others, and to have the wisdom to know the difference,

Amen

Week Beginning 13th January (Friday)

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It is very easy when we talk about our Church family to think of all the 'imperfect' or 'unholy' people that we may have come across that have tainted our view on our Church family.

All families are made up of human beings with frailties and weaknesses. We are asked to be patient with one another, not just those in our own family, that is easy because we love them but also those who we do not know.



Let us bring together all our thoughts and feelings and bring them to
Mary, Queen of Heaven.

We ask Mary, as our Heavenly Mother to intercede for us as we say;

Hail Mary full of Grace, the Lord is with thee.

Blessed are thou among women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb Jesus.

Holy Mary Mother of God,
pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death

Amen.