

The Baptism of the Lord (Year A)

Luke 3:15–16, 21–22

'When Jesus had been baptised and was praying, the heavens were opened.'

At that time:

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Christ, John answered them all, saying, 'I baptise you with water, but he who is mightier than I is coming, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire.'

Now when all the people were baptised by John the Baptist and when Jesus also had been baptised and was praying, the heavens were opened, and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form, like a dove; and a voice came from heaven, 'You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.'

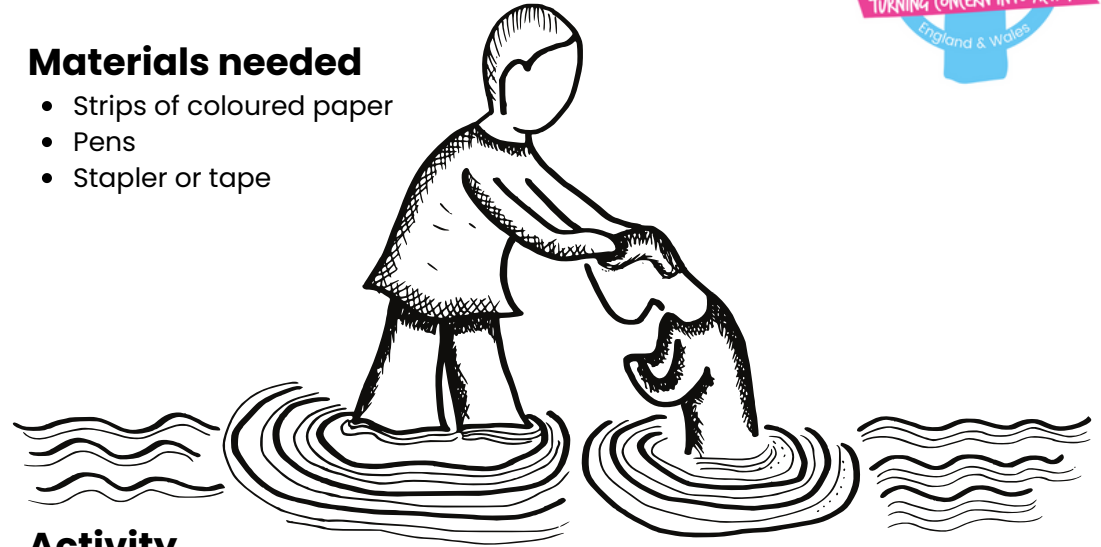
Reflection

When Jesus comes to the Jordan to be baptised, he does so quietly and humbly, even though John feels he isn't worthy. Jesus shows us that following God's way means trust and obedience, not status or power.

As Jesus comes out of the water, the Spirit rests on him and God's voice names him as his beloved Son. This moment reminds us that Jesus is deeply loved- and so are we. Through our own baptism, we are invited to live as God's children, open to the Holy Spirit and confident that we are loved just as we are.

Materials needed

- Strips of coloured paper
- Pens
- Stapler or tape



Activity

- Read the scripture together.
- Explain that in Catholic teaching, Baptism is a sacrament, a sacred sign of God's grace, marking the beginning of a journey and belonging to God's family.

Invite the group to consider:

- What does it mean to feel like you belong?
- When do they feel like they belong? What helps them to feel that way?
- Have a time of discussion sharing ideas and understanding around the word Belonging.

Call to Action

- Could you think about a group in the community (this could be school, parish or wider) who might not feel like they belong?
- What ideas can you come up with to help this group feel like they belong more?