



A Reflection for Baptism of Christ Readings - Acts 8.14-17 & Luke 3.15-17, 21-22

Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.'

The mosaic was created in the fifth century for the interior dome of the Orthodox Baptistery of Ravenna, Italy, and has survived 1500 years of numerous dramatic changes in the world.

Jesus is standing in the Jordan River as John the Baptist pours water over him from a bowl. The symbol of the Holy Spirit of God descends in the form of a dove. A bearded man stands to the right as he awaits completion of the ceremony with a cloth extended towards Jesus for him to use. The background is made up of gold mosaic. This background was used to point to the precious sanctity of an event such as the Baptism of Christ.

Precious indeed, for in this action the one who is without sin completely identifies with humanity by being baptised by John. At this point there is such a move of The Holy Spirit that Jesus finds affirmation of his calling with the words heard by those present. 'You are my Son. The Beloved; with you I am well pleased.'

To stand and to look up from the floor at this incredible image projects the stunning power of this moment in Jesus' life.

As the crowds went out to be by the Jordan River seeking after a spiritual awakening may we at the start of this new year be open to spiritual growth that is to be found in the move of the Holy Spirit as was shown in the life of Jesus.

Thank you for reading and keep safe.

The Reverend Nick Devenish

*Please join with The Priory as we also stay connected virtually.
Night Prayer weeknights from 9.00pm.
Please go to the Cartmel Priory Facebook page.*