



Dear Parents and Carers,

In this Sunday's Gospel, we return to the beginning of Jesus' mission. The humble witness of John the Baptist gave people a sense that something exciting was about to happen.

John the Baptist is one of the best known saints. He never pushed himself forward. He encouraged his own followers to leave him and become followers of Jesus. His life (and death) witnessed to the truth about Jesus and, because of him, many people came to know and follow Jesus.

**Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2023**

Our schools and parishes are founded in the name of Jesus and they continue to share Jesus' message, giving witness to God's love for all people.

Today, we too can be great witnesses. Enjoy spending a special time together exploring this Sunday's Gospel and this Wednesday's word, which is **WITNESS**.

*Dom Henry Wansbrough*



To see this week's Parish Version of The Wednesday Word: [wednesdayword.org](http://wednesdayword.org) - Parents' Pages - Lectio Divina with Fr Henry.

## THE GOSPEL IN CHURCH Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2023



Seeing Jesus coming towards him, John said, "Look, there is the lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world. This is the one I spoke of when I said, 'A man is coming after me who ranks before me because he existed before me.' I did not know him myself, and yet it was to reveal him to Israel that I came baptising with water." John also declared, "I saw the Spirit coming down on him from heaven like a dove and resting on him. I did not know him myself, but he who sent me to baptise with water had said to me, 'The man on whom you see the Spirit come down and rest is the one who is going to baptise with the Holy Spirit.' Yes, I have seen and I am the witness that he is the Chosen One of God."

Adapted from  
John 1:29-34 (the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time, Year A)

**Everyone can learn more about this Gospel  
in Church - all are warmly invited.**

"Let us ask our Lord to help us  
bear shining witness to his love  
in every area of our lives."

*Pope Francis*





John the Baptist gave witness to what Jesus did and who Jesus really was. Now we too are called to be God's witnesses through living our lives the way Jesus shows us. Everywhere we go we can give witness to God's love – spreading joy and peace.

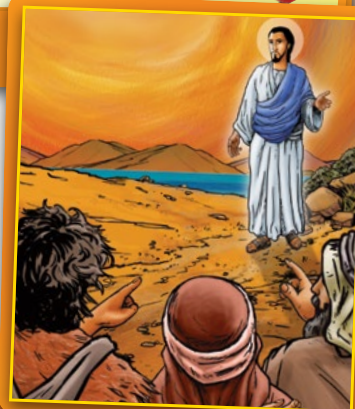


# 1 Our Special Time Together

Enjoy reading the Gospel overleaf (or below for younger children)

John the Baptist saw Jesus coming towards him and said, "Look, there is the lamb of God! He is the one who will take away the sin of the world. When I baptised him, I saw the Spirit come down on him from heaven like a dove. God had said to me, 'One day, when you are baptising with water, you will see the Spirit come down and rest upon a certain man. He will be the one who will baptise people with the Holy Spirit.'" Then John said, "I saw this happen and I am the witness that Jesus is God's Chosen One."

**What did John the Baptist say that he was the witness to?** Which words stood out for you in this Gospel, and why? See the picture opposite. What does it make you think about?



# 2 Wednesday's Word is ...

## WITNESS



# 3

# Loving God & Each Other

## John the Baptist witnessed to the truth about Jesus.

Ask your child what the word 'witness' means to them. Which well-known people or saints does your child know who have been great witnesses for Jesus (e.g. Mary his mother, St Joseph, St Teresa of Calcutta, St David, St Patrick)? Who does your child know to be a great witness today (e.g. our present Pope – Francis, a family member, a priest, a teacher, a friend)? Who has recently brought the message of Jesus to your child at home, at school or in the parish?

"Example makes a much greater impression on the mind and heart than just words."

*St John Baptist de la Salle*

Through our words and especially through our actions, we can be God's witnesses, through living our lives the way Jesus shows us. Choose a special way to be God's witnesses – sharing and showing love to everyone you meet this week. Perhaps you can: be kind and loving in your simple everyday words and actions; pray for help to be a good witness; tell others about the hope, goodness and peace that Jesus can bring into their lives; be fair and generous with everyone you meet.

Dear Lord Jesus, please help us to be your **witnesses** by our love, so that others will come to know the joy of knowing you. Amen.

## Gospel Gallery



Search for at least three differences between this picture and the colour one. Then draw them in before colouring.

D B L Q L O Z B L J Q N  
E A N H O J A G J O N E  
J P T L E P O U L H C P  
S T W S T V S F C N P O  
W I U I N E S O H C L U  
I S S H T S C H O J A Q  
J E W I T N E S S E D L  
D D S I E T E J E S U S  
R E J V T Z O S N Y S J  
D L A N L N P Q S T U E  
C E E L S H E A V E N S  
H E N O V M N R L T D L

**WEDNESDAY WORDSEARCH**  
**SMARTSEARCHERS** FIND THESE EIGHT WORDS EITHER **ACROSS** OR **DOWN**  
☒ **JOHN**  
☐ **WITNESSED**  
☐ **HEAVEN**  
☐ **OPEN**  
☐ **JESUS**  
☐ **BAPTISED**  
☐ **CHOSEN**  
☐ **ONE**  
**SUPERSEARCHERS** FIND THE WORDS **BACKWARDS** OR **DIAGONALLY**

Cross out the letters **b d f** in the jumbled words below to find 4 real words.

**Jebsfuds Chofbsend sfabwd wiftnbedss**

"I \_\_\_\_\_ this happen and I am the \_\_\_\_\_ that \_\_\_\_\_ is God's \_\_\_\_\_ One."

"May you be witnesses to justice and peace." Pope Francis

Within the Catholic Church, this Sunday (15<sup>th</sup> January 2023) is known as Peace Sunday. This special day reminds us of the need to be witnesses to peace around our world.

Find out more at [paxchristi.org.uk](http://paxchristi.org.uk)

Write a promise and then draw a big smile on Smiley

This week I will try my best to...

