

# Second Sunday of the Year

## Jesus is the chosen one

### INTRODUCTION

John the Baptist had been preaching to the crowds and baptising them in the River Jordan. God had told John that he would send him a sign. The Holy Spirit would appear like a dove, and settle on the one he had chosen to send. John would then be ready to show the Son of God to the people.

### SIGN OF THE CROSS

#### LIGHT THE CANDLES

Light the candles and then read: (*cf Matthew 5:16-17*)

Jesus said, 'Let your goodness shine out like a light in the darkness, so that through you, the love of our heavenly Father will touch the lives of others.'

#### SORRY

Encourage the children to listen carefully to the words of this prayer:

Do not be afraid,  
God will always love you.  
Whatever you have done,  
God will always love you.  
As a father loves his child,  
He will always love you.  
Turn back to him and know,  
God's love lasts forever!

#### GLORIA

#### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

To welcome today's Gospel sing Acclamation 4:  
*Praise the Lord*

#### GOSPEL (*cf John 1:29-34*)

When John saw Jesus in the distance walking towards him, he said to the crowds, 'Look, there is Jesus, the Lamb of God. He is the special one sent by God whom I have told you about. I saw the Holy Spirit, hovering like a dove, coming down from Heaven and settling on him. He is the one you must follow now, for he will baptise you not just with water, but with the Spirit of God.'

#### DISCUSSION

What sign did God send so that John would know that Jesus was the chosen one?

John had been preparing the people, but what else did God want him to do?

There are several points worth discussing with the children.

1. John called Jesus the 'Lamb of God' – because he would meekly sacrifice his life for all of us.
2. John's work was coming to an end – he had prepared the people to listen to Jesus and his message.
3. John pointed Jesus out as the chosen one, the Son of God, and told the people to follow him.

Can anyone remember another occasion when the Spirit appeared, not as a dove, but in another way? At Pentecost when the disciples were hidden away in a room after the death of Jesus, the Spirit appeared as flickering flames which came to rest on each of them and the room was filled with the sound of rushing wind.

Certainly he does not always appear as a dove!

#### ACTIVITY

Give each child a dove to make as shown in the illustration. These can then be hung from a mobile.

#### CREED

#### CLOSING PRAYER

When we see these doves,  
help us to remember  
that your Spirit is with us in all that we do,  
helping to guide and protect us always.