

Reflection Wednesday Week 12 – Birthday of John the Baptist 2020

I ought to start with “Happy Birthday to you . . . !” Aren’t we truly thankful to John the Baptist for fulfilling his role in preparing the way for Christ, the messiah? Because of his conception, Mary was able to go to help Elizabeth, allowing her to live through the first phase of her own pregnancy and avoid any complications that could have arisen at home where she would have been well known. Grown up John later did an impressive job in rousing the people and preparing them for Jesus’ active ministry. Jesus said of him: *“among those born of women there has not risen anyone greater than John the Baptist.”* Despite his popularity and following, John was ready to step back once Jesus began his ministry. That could not have been easy. We can also thank John for showing us how important we are in preparing the way for the Good News for those around us. Let us ask for his courage and determination, his strong belief, his fearlessness and ability to challenge injustice, especially by those with power and influence. Most of all let us recognise, like John, that we do all, not for our own glory, but for Jesus who is the good news. Too right we sing: “Happy birthday to you!”

When Jesus stepped into the waters of the Jordan and was baptized by John the Baptist, he did so not because he was in need of repentance, or conversion: he did it to be among people who need forgiveness, among us sinners, and to take upon himself the burden of our sins. - Pope Francis

“I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, “Make straight the way of the Lord,”

Luke 1: 76-79. *And you, my child, will be called a prophet of the Most High,
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways,
to give his people knowledge of salvation
through the forgiveness of their sins,
because of the tender mercy of our God
by which the light from on high will come to visit us
to shine on those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death,
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.”*

After thoughts

One tectonic plate bumped into another and said, “Sorry, my fault.”

A Frenchman walks into a bar with a cat on his shoulder. The cat is wearing a little baseball cap. "Hey, that's neat," says the bartender. "Where did you get that?" "France," the kitty says, "they've got millions of them!"