

## BAPTISM OF THE LORD Year A

Over Christmas and New Years my family got together and went through photo albums  
Ever do that? Lots of fun – remembering old experiences, parties, birthdays –  
WHY did I enjoy that so much?  
Because I love them – my children, and I love them.

In today's Gospel, God speaks:  
“This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased”  
I virtually said the same thing looking at the photo albums! And I have 3 sons!

NB – Jesus gets baptized – THEN hears these words  
When I got baptized – these words applied to me too  
I am God's Son  
Through Baptism YOU are also God's Son (AND Daughters)

WHAT KIND OF SON and DAUGHTER?

NB – God did not say “This is my Son in whom I am well pleased”  
God said “This is my **beloved** Son in whom I am well pleased”  
**US TOO!**

Know this – We are made in the image and likeness of God  
We are God's SONS and DAUGHTERS  
We are BELOVED Sons and Daughters! All of us

With that said:  
In our first reading Isaiah describes the Messiah as “a light to the nations”  
In our second reading Peter is preaching to Cornelius – a Gentile AND a Centurion  
(The light of Christ shines on everyone)

Today – here we are in Norwood – and that light shines on us  
BECAUSE  
We are God's Children – beloved Children  
  
The Christmas season may be over but the light of Christ shines on  
It shines on us, God's beloved.

The light of Christ has been given to us  
Bring it! Share it! Grow the Kingdom of God!

Let the light of Christ shine on us, and though us, to all we meet  
So that the Father may say to us:  
“You are my beloved, in whom I am well pleased”