

ΚΑΝΟΝΑ ΠΙΣΤΕΩΣ - MODEL OF FAITH

GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AUSTRALIA PARISH OF SAINT NICHOLAS MARRICKVILLE

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Κυριακή 4 Ιανουαρίου 2026
Προεόρτια τῶν Φώτων.

Ἀπολυτίκιον Ἀναστάσιμον Ἦχος πλ. α΄.

Τὸν συνάναρχον Λόγον Πατρὶ καὶ Πνεύματι, τὸν ἐκ Παρθένου τεχθέντα εἰσωτηρίαν ἡμῶν, ἀνυμνήσωμεν πιστοὶ καὶ προσκυνήσωμεν, ὅτι ἠϋδόκησε σαρκί, ἀνελθεῖν ἐν τῷ Σταυρῷ, καὶ θάνατον ὑπομεῖναι, καὶ ἐγεῖραι τοὺς θετνεῶτας, ἐν τῇ ἐνδόξῳ Ἀναστάσει αὐτοῦ.

Προεόρτιον.

Κατεπλάγη Ἰωσήφ.

Ἐτοιμάζου Ζαβουλών, καὶ εὐτρεπίζου Νεφθαλείμ. Ἰορδάνη ποταμέ, στῆθι ὑπόδεξαι σκιρτῶν, τοῦ βαπτισθῆναι ἐρχόμενον τὸν Δεσπότην. Ἀγάλλου ὁ Ἀδάμ σὺν τῇ Προμήτορι· μὴ κρύπτετε ἑαυτοὺς, ὡς ἐν Παραδείσῳ τὸ πρὶν· καὶ γὰρ γυμνοὺς ἰδὼν ὑμᾶς ἐπέφανεν, ἵνα ἐνδύσῃ τὴν πρώτην στολήν. Χριστὸς ἐφάνη, τὴν πᾶσαν κτίσιν, θέλων ἀνακαινίσει.

Ἀπολυτίκιον Τοῦ Ἀγίου Νικολάου.

Κανόνα πίστεως καὶ εἰκόνα πραότητος, ἐγκρατείας διδάσκαλον, ἀνέδειξε σε τῇ ποιμνῇ σου, ἡ τῶν πραγμάτων ἀλήθεια· διὰ τοῦτο ἐκτήσω τῇ ταπεινώσει τὰ ὑψηλά, τῇ πτωχείᾳ τὰ πλούσια, Πάτερ ἱεράρχα **Νικόλαε**· πρέσβευε Χριστῷ τῷ Θεῷ, σωθῆναι τὰς ψυχὰς ἡμῶν.

Ἀπολυτίκιον Κοσμά και Δαμιανού

Ἅγιοι Ανάργυροι καὶ Θαυματουργοί, ἐπισκέψασθε τὰς ασθενείας ἡμῶν, δωρεὰν ἐλάβετε, δωρεὰν δότε ἡμῖν.

Sunday 4 January 2026
Forefeast of Epiphany

Resurrectional Apolytikion

The Word eternal with the Father and the Spirit, born of the Virgin for our salvation, let us believers praise and worship; for he was pleased to go up on the Cross in his flesh, to endure death and raise the dead, by his glorious resurrection.

For the Forefeast **Joseph marveled.**

O Zabulon, prepare, and be ready, Nephthalim. Jordan River, hold your course, and exultantly receive the Master who is coming to be baptized. Adam leap for joy with Eve the Foremother. No longer hide yourselves, as once in Paradise; for having seen you naked He has appeared to clothe you in your former vesture. The Christ has appeared, wishing to renew the entire creation.

St Nicholas Hymn

A model of faith and the image of gentleness, the example of your life has shown you forth to your sheep-fold to be a master of temperance. You obtained thus through being lowly, gifts from on high, and riches through poverty, **Nicholas**, our father and priest of priests, intercede with Christ our God that He may save our soul.

Sts Cosmas & Damianos

Sainted Unmercenaries and Wonder Workers, regard our infirmities; freely you have received, freely share with us.

Ἀπολυτίκιον τοῦ Ἁγίου Παΐσιου

Τόν συνάναρχον Λόγον

Αὐστραλίας προστάτην, φρουρόν τε ἄγρυπνον, καί τοῦ Ἄθωνος ὄρους στυλὸν αἰείφωτον, ἀνυμνήσωμεν πιστοί, θεῖον **Παῖσιον**, ἐξαιτούμενοι αὐτοῦ τὰς πρεσβείας πρὸς Θεόν, κραυγάζοντες ὁμοφρόνως· ῥύου ὦ πάτερ παντοίων, τῶν τοξευμάτων τοῦ ἀλάστορος.

Κοντάκιον.

Ἐν τοῖς ρεῖθροις σήμερον τοῦ Ἰορδάνου, γεγονώς ὁ Κύριος, τῷ Ἰωάννῃ ἐκβοᾷ· Μὴ δειλιάσης βαπτίσει με· σῶσαι γὰρ ἤκω, Ἀδὰμ τὸν πρωτοπλαστον.

ΑΠΟΣΤΟΛΟΣ

Πρὸς Τιμόθεον Β΄ Ἐπιστολῆς Παύλου (δ', 5-8)

Τέκνον Τιμόθεε, νῆφε ἐν παῶσιν, κακοπάθησον, ἔργον ποιήσον εὐαγγελιστοῦ, τὴν διακονίαν σου πληροφόρησον. Ἐγὼ γὰρ ἤδη σπένδομαι, καὶ ὁ καιρὸς τῆς ἐμῆς ἀναλύσεως ἐφέστηκεν. Τὸν ἀγῶνα τὸν καλὸν ἠγώνισμαι, τὸν δρόμον τετέλεκα, τὴν πίστιν τετήρηκα· λοιπόν, ἀπόκειται μοι ὁ τῆς δικαιοσύνης στέφανος, ὃν ἀποδώσει μοι ὁ κύριος ἐν ἐκείνῃ τῇ ἡμέρᾳ, ὁ δίκαιος κριτής· οὐ μόνον δὲ ἐμοί, ἀλλὰ καὶ πᾶσιν τοῖς ἡγαπηκόσιν τὴν ἐπιφάνειαν αὐτοῦ

St Paisios Hymn

The Word Eternal

O Protector of Australia, vigilant guardian and resplendent pillar of Mount Athos, we the faithful let us praise the holy **Paisios**, and beseeching his intercessions before God, crying out with one voice, deliver us, O father of all, from the arrows of the vengeful one.

Kontakion

To the flowing streams today of River Jordan comes the Lord and cries aloud to John the Baptist, and He says, "Be not afraid to baptize me now; for I have come to save Adam, the first-formed man."

EPISTLE

Paul's 2nd Letter to Timothy (4:5-8)

TIMOTHY, my son, always be steady, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfil your ministry. For I am already on the point of being sacrificed; the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that Day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing.

**Ἐκ τοῦ κατὰ Μάρκον ἁγίου Εὐαγγελίου
(α', 1-8)**

Αρχὴ τοῦ εὐαγγελίου Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ,
υἱοῦ τοῦ Θεοῦ. Ὡς γέγραπται ἐν τοῖς
προφήταις, ἰδοὺ ἐγὼ ἀποστέλλω τὸν
ἄγγελόν μου πρὸ προσώπου σου, ὃς
κατασκευάσει τὴν ὁδὸν σου ἔμπροσθέν
σου· φωνὴ βοῶντος ἐν τῇ ἐρήμῳ,
ἐτοιμάσατε τὴν ὁδὸν Κυρίου, εὐθείας
ποιεῖτε τὰς τρίβους αὐτοῦ, ἐγένετο
Ἰωάννης βαπτίζων ἐν τῇ ἐρήμῳ καὶ
κηρύσσων βάπτισμα μετανοίας εἰς
ἄφεσιν ἁμαρτιῶν. Καὶ ἐξεπορεύετο πρὸς
αὐτὸν πᾶσα ἡ Ἰουδαία χώρα καὶ οἱ
Ἱεροσολυμίται, καὶ ἐβαπτίζοντο πάντες
ἐν τῷ Ἰορδάνῃ ποταμῷ ὑπ' αὐτοῦ
ἐξομολογούμενοι τὰς ἁμαρτίας αὐτῶν.
Ἦν δὲ ὁ Ἰωάννης ἐνδεδυσμένος τρίχας
καμήλου καὶ ζώνην δερματίνην περὶ τὴν
ὀσφύν αὐτοῦ, καὶ ἐσθίων ἀκρίδας καὶ
μέλι ἄγριον. Καὶ ἐκήρυσσε λέγων· ἔρχεται
ὁ ἰσχυρότερός μου ὀπίσω μου, οὗ οὐκ
εἰμὶ ἱκανὸς κύψας λῦσαι τὸν ἱμάντα τῶν
ὑποδημάτων αὐτοῦ· ἐγὼ μὲν ἐβάπτισα
ὕμᾱς ἐν ὕδατι, αὐτὸς δὲ βαπτίσει ὑμᾱς ἐν
Πνεύματι Ἁγίῳ.

**Holy Gospel according to St Mark
(1:1-8)**

The beginning of the Gospel of Jesus
Christ, the Son of God. As it is written
in the prophets, 'Behold, I send my
messenger before your face, who
shall prepare your way; the voice of
one crying in the wilderness: prepare
the way of the Lord, make his paths
straight.' John was baptizing in the
wilderness, preaching a baptism of
repentance for the forgiveness of sins.
And there went out to him all the
country of Judea, and all the people
of Jerusalem; and they were baptized
by him in the river Jordan, confessing
their sins. Now John was clothed with
camel's hair, and had a leather girdle
around his waist, and ate locusts and
wild honey. And he preached, saying,
"After me comes he who is mightier
than I, the thong of whose sandals I
am not worthy to stoop down and
untie. I have baptized you with water;
but he will baptize you with the Holy
Spirit."

Ευαγγελικό μήνυμα

Αγαπητοί αδελφοί,
Τῇ Τρίτῃ, ἡ Ἐκκλησία μας ἑορτάζει τὴ Βάπτισμα τοῦ Κυρίου καὶ Σωτῆρος μας Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ, μίᾱ ἀπὸ τὶς Μεγάλες Δεσποτικὲς Ἑορτές, διότι ἀποκαλύπτεται πλήρως ἡ φανέρωση τῆς Ἁγίας Τριάδος. Στὸν ποταμὸ Ἰορδάνη, ἡ φωνὴ τοῦ Πατρὸς μαρτυρεῖ γιὰ τὸν Υἱό, καὶ τὸ Ἅγιον Πνεῦμα κατέρχεται μὲ μορφὴ περιστερᾶς. Διὰ τοῦτο ὁ λόγον ἡ ἑορτὴ ὀνομάζεται Ἐπιφάνεια, δηλαδὴ φανέρωση, καὶ ἀκριβέστερα Θεοφάνεια, ἡ ἀποκάλυψις τοῦ Τριαδικοῦ Θεοῦ.

Το ἰδιαίτερο Ευαγγελικὸ ἀνάγνωσμα ἀπὸ τὴν ἀρχὴ τοῦ Ευαγγελίου τοῦ Ἁγίου Μάρκου μας παραπέμπει στὴν ἀρχὴ τῆς δημιουργίας στὴ Γένεση, ἀναγγέλλοντας μίᾱ νέα ἀρχὴ στὴν ιστορία τῆς σωτηρίας. Αὐτὴ ἡ πολυαναμενόμενη «καλὴ ἀγγελία» προετοιμάζεται ἀπὸ τὸν Ἅγιον Ἰωάννη τὸν Βαπτιστὴ, τὸν προφῆτη που εἶχε προαναγγελεῖ ἀπὸ τὸν Ἠσαΐα, ὁ ὁποῖος κήρυττε τὴ μετάνοια καὶ βάπτιζε με νερὸ γιὰ τὴν ἄφεση τῶν ἁμαρτιῶν. Ὡς Ναζιραῖος καὶ ἀσκητής, ὁ Ἰωάννης στέκεται ὡς γέφυρα μεταξὺ τῆς Παλαιᾶς καὶ τῆς Καινῆς Διαθήκης, ὁ τελευταῖος προφῆτης τῆς Παλαιᾶς καὶ ὁ Πρόδρομος τοῦ Χριστοῦ.

Ἡ ταπεινὴ τοῦ Ἰωάννου ἀποκαλύπτει τὴν ἀγιότητα Ἐκείνου ποῦ ἔρχεται. Τὰ λόγια του, ὅτι δὲν εἶναι ἄξιος νὰ λύσῃ τὸν ἱμάντα τῶν ὑποδημάτων τοῦ Χριστοῦ, θυμίζουν τὶς συναντήσεις τῆς Παλαιᾶς Διαθήκης μὲ τὸν Θεὸν ἐπὶ ἁγίου τόπου, ἐπιβεβαιώνοντας ὅτι μόνον ὁ Ἰησοῦς εἶναι ὁ Ἅγιος. Ἐνῶ ὁ Ἰωάννης βαπτίζει μὲ νερόν, ὁ Χριστὸς βαπτίζει μὲ τὸ Ἅγιον Πνεῦμα, χαρίζοντας ἀναγέννησιν καὶ ἀνακαίνισιν. Μέσα ἀπὸ τὸ Βάπτισμα λαμβάνομεν τὸ Φῶς τοῦ Χριστοῦ. Ἄν καὶ ἡ ἁμαρτία τὸ θαμπώνει, ποτὲ δὲν σβῆνει καὶ ἀνανεοῦται μὲ τὴν μετάνοιαν, ἰδιαίτερος μὲ τὸ Μυστήριον τῆς Ἐξομολογήσεως, ποῦ συχνὰ ὀνομάζεται «βάπτισμα τῶν δακρύων». Σήμερον, ὅπως τότε στὸν Ἰορδάνην, ὁ Θεὸς μᾶς καλεῖ εἰς μετάνοιαν καὶ ἀνανέωσιν. Σὲ ἕναν κόσμον ποῦ χαρακτηρίζεται ἀπὸ ἀδιαφορίαν καὶ φιλαυτίαν, καλούμεθα νὰ ζῶμεν ἐν κοινωνίᾳ μὲ τὸν Θεὸν καὶ μεταξὺ μας.

Ἀγαπητοί ἀδελφοί, ἄς κάμωμεν τὸ 2026 τὸ ἔτος κατὰ τὸ ὁποῖον θὰ ἀνανεώσωμεν τὴν βαπτισματικὴν μας ἀναγέννησιν, συμφιλιώνοντας καὶ ἐπανενώνοντας τὸν ἑαυτὸν μας μὲ τὸν Κύριον καὶ Σωτῆρα μας Ἰησοῦν Χριστόν. Ἀμήν.

Gospel message

Dear Brother and sisters in Christ.
On Tuesday, our Church celebrates the Baptism of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, one of the Great Feasts, because it reveals the full manifestation of the Holy Trinity. At the Jordan River, the Father's voice bears witness to the Son, and the Holy Spirit descends in the form of a dove. For this reason, the feast is called Epiphany—meaning manifestation—and more precisely Theophany, the revelation of the Triune God.

The special Gospel reading from the opening of St Mark recalls the beginning of creation in Genesis, announcing a new beginning in salvation history. This long-awaited “good news” is prepared by John the Baptist, the prophet foretold by Isaiah, who preached repentance and baptised with water for the forgiveness of sins. As a Nazarite and ascetic, John stands as a bridge between the Old and New Covenants, the final prophet of the old and the forerunner of Christ.

John's humility reveals the holiness of the One to come. His words about being unworthy to untie Christ's sandals echo the Old Testament encounters with God on holy ground, affirming that Jesus alone is the Holy One. While John baptises with water, Christ baptises with the Holy Spirit, granting rebirth and renewal.

Through baptism, we receive the Light of Christ. Though sin dims this light, it is never extinguished and is renewed through repentance, especially in the Sacrament of Confession, often called the “baptism of tears.” Today, as at the Jordan, God calls us to repentance and renewal. In a world marked by apathy and self-interest, we are called to live in communion with God and one another. My friends, as it is customary to make a new year's resolution, let us make 2026 the year we renewed our **Baptismal rebirth** by reconciling ourselves and reuniting ourselves with Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen