

or daughter. I love you. I delight in you. He reveals God's love to the whole world. Jesus is also ready to challenge his contemporaries by taking the side of the poor against their oppressors; helping people reclaim their God-given humanity and dignity. Everything Jesus says and does during his public ministry comes from his intimate communion with

his Father, so clearly demonstrated at his baptism.

*You are my beloved.* Today, God says this to each one of us, with immense love and delight. May these words be a turning point in our lives that lead us closer to God and each other.

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## We Respond ...

### ENTRANCE ANTIPHON (or a

hymn) After the Lord was baptised, the heavens were opened, and the Spirit descended upon him like a dove, and the voice of the Father thundered: This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Ps 28)

**ANTIPHON:** The Lord will bless his people with peace.

**RESPONSE:** The Lord will bless his people with peace.

**LECTOR:** O give the Lord you sons of God, give the Lord glory and power; give the Lord the glory of his name. Adore the Lord in his holy court. **R.**

**LECTOR:** The Lord's voice resounding on the waters, the Lord on the immensity of waters; the voice of the Lord, full of power; the voice of the Lord, full of

splendour. **R.**

**LECTOR:** The God of glory thunders. In his temple they all cry: "Glory!" The Lord sat enthroned over the flood; the Lord sits as king for ever. **R.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** Alleluia, alleluia! The heavens were opened and the Father's voice was heard: this is my beloved Son, hear him. Alleluia!

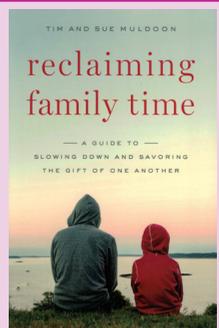
**COMMUNION ANTIPHON** (or a hymn) Behold the One of whom John said: I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God.

**TODAY'S READINGS** Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7; Acts 10:34-38; Matthew 3:13-17

**NEXT WEEK** (2nd Sunday of Year A) Isaiah 49:3, 5-6; Psalm 39; I Corinthians 1:1-3; John 1:29-34

### The importance of family life

Family life is important and many would say life has never been busier. So, how do families stay ahead of the rat race? *Reclaiming family time*, a book by Tim and Sue Muldoon, "is a guide to slowing down and savouring the gift of one another". Tim and Sue provide some healthy tips on how to achieve a good life balance between work and the home and how you can enjoy your family even more. The book is available from Majellan Publications for \$19.95, postage included.



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You are my beloved

Father Anthony had a reputation of being a 'giant' among the Redemptorists and in the Church. He was a highly respected missionary priest, preacher, confessor, teacher, author, and spiritual director.

My experience of Anthony was not as a 'giant'. I never saw him stand. I never saw him walk. I never saw him celebrate Mass. I never heard him preach. My experience of Anthony was as a beloved confrere, confined to bed battling Parkinson's disease and suffering greatly from its effects.

One memory of Anthony will always remain with me. I was saying goodbye to him one day before going away for work. He said to me, *Thank you for spending time with me, otherwise I would be here shaking alone.* Anthony was referring to the constant tremors that racked his body, particularly his hands and arms.

This simple encounter with Anthony was a turning point for me; a valuable life lesson. His words really struck a chord and they roused me from my slumber. His words challenged me to be more attentive to people and their needs and to

appreciate what's really important and of value in life. Anthony's powerful statement taught me that I don't have to do very much to bring a little happiness, love, joy and companionship into someone's life.

I left Anthony's room that day filled with new understanding and insight; sent out to live differently and to relate to people around me with renewed purpose.

Jesus' baptism in the Jordan River is a major turning point in his life. After decades of silent obscurity in Nazareth, Jesus is overwhelmed by an experience of being the Son of God: *"This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased"*. Through these words, Jesus profoundly experiences that he is loved and delighted in by his Father and he's never the same again. He doesn't look back. Gone are his days of plying the carpenter's trade.

Now Jesus sets out on his mission to preach, teach and heal. He generously shares with everyone, the love and intimacy he experienced at his baptism, because God says to every person: *You are my beloved son*