



Justice, Only Justice, you Shall Pursue –  
Dt.16:18-20

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## **Pope Francis to Christians: Our common Baptism unites us**

*Hannah Brockhaus*

At an ecumenical Vespers service for last year's week of Christian unity, Pope Francis told members of several Christian communities that the grace of Baptism creates a unity in the family of God.

Even when differences separate us, we can recognize that we have the same Baptism, and we belong "to the same family of brothers and sisters loved by the one Father," the Pope said Jan. 25.

"This is our experience as believers. As we grow in spiritual life, we increasingly understand that grace reaches us together with others and is to be shared with others. So, when I raise my thanksgiving to God for what he has done in me, I find I do not sing alone, because other brothers and sisters have my same song of praise."

Francis spoke during a Vespers service in the Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls to mark both the feast of the Conversion of St. Paul and the close of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, which this year focused on the theme: "Powerful is your hand, Lord."

In his homily, the Pope reflected on our common Baptism using imagery from the story of the rescue of the baby Moses from the river by Pharaoh's daughter.

This story is seen as a prefiguration of the rescue of the Israelites, God's chosen people, he said, who were rescued from the Egyptians when Moses led them through the parted Red Sea unharmed, the waters then pouring down on their enemies.

"Many ancient Fathers understood this liberating passage as an image of Baptism," Francis explained. "It is our sins that have been drowned by God in the living waters of Baptism."

"Much more than Egypt, sin threatened to make us slaves forever, but the power of divine love overwhelmed it." He also said that St. Augustine interpreted the Red Sea as an anticipatory sign of the blood of "Christ crucified, source of salvation."

All of us Christians have passed through the waters of Baptism, and the grace of the Sacrament has destroyed our enemies, sin and death," he emphasized.

However, our experience of God's love and tenderness in our daily lives should not just be kept in our hearts, he stated. These individual experiences can be linked to an even greater history, that of the salvation of the people of God.

He pointed to the example of the song intoned by the Israelites in Exodus, which begins with an individual story: "My strength and my song is the Lord, he has been my salvation." "But later it becomes a narrative of salvation for all the people: 'You guided with your love this people you redeemed.' Those who raise this song have realized that they are not alone on the shores of the Red Sea, but that they are surrounded by brothers and sisters who have received the same grace and proclaim the same praise."

In the last 100 years, the different Christian confessions have realized that we are standing together on the same shores of the Red Sea, he continued. We have all been saved through our Baptism, and can sing a grateful song of praise together.

Today, "in a world that is increasingly rich in means and poor in love," Christians and people of other religions face many attacks on human dignity, the Pope said, such as religious persecution, modern forms of slavery, hardship and hunger.

"But like the Israelites of Exodus, Christians are called to safeguard together the memory of what God has accomplished in them."

Led by Pope Francis, the Vespers service was attended by representatives from various Christian churches and communities in Rome, including Metropolitan Gennadios of the Ecumenical Patriar-

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chate; Most Reverend Bernard Ntahoturi, personal representative in Rome of the Archbishop of Canterbury; students from the Ecumenical Institute of Bossey; and members of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity.

Source: <https://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/pope-francis-to-christians-our-common-baptism-unites-us-73735>



**World Day of the Sick 2019** will take place on 9 February 2019 in All Hallows, Drumcondra (9:30am to 1.00pm) on the topic *Community struggle with addiction - A Pastoral response*. Mass for World Day of the Sick will be held on 10 February 2019 in Corpus Christi 3.00pm. More details closer to the time please save the dates!

#### Overview of Loss and Bereavement Workshop I

In the Irish Hospice Foundation on the Thursday, 31st January from 9.15am – 4pm, 32 Nassau Street, Dublin 2. This workshop explores the journey of grief and loss for individuals who have experienced loss in various ways not just through death. The workshop will help participants to understand the normal reactions to grief and loss and explore how reactions can be more complex and require greater interventions. Brid Carroll is a qualified Psychotherapist and Counselling Supervisor with a special interest in bereavement and loss. Fee is €100 for the 1-day workshop and includes light lunch. Bookings can be made on the following link <https://hospicefoundation.ie/education-training/bereavement-training/workshops/>.

#### Retrouvaille

A Lifeline for Married Couples: Do you want to improve the communication with your spouse? Do you feel lost, alone or bored in your marriage? Are you hurt, frustrated or angry with your spouse? Does talking about it only make it worse?

The Retrouvaille programme can help marriages at all stages. Next programme starts 8 – 10 February 2019. For information contact Tony & Anne (01) 495 3536, Mike & Anne (01) 450 0922, text or call 086 413 5440, or email [info@retrouvaille.ie](mailto:info@retrouvaille.ie) or visit [www.retrouvaille.ie](http://www.retrouvaille.ie)

#### Masses and Confession

**Sundays:** Vigil, 6pm (Saturday), 9.30am, 11am, 5pm

Croatian Community Mass 6.30pm

Daily masses 10am and 12.40pm, Saturday 10am only

-Rosary daily after 10am mass

**Adoration Blessed Sacrament, Weds 10.30-12.40**

#### Church Collections Last Week

1st Collection: €1085

Share: €790

**THANK YOU**



### Service for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity,

Dublin Council of Churches,  
Friday, 18 January at 8pm  
in the Church of St. John the Baptist, Clontarf, Dublin 3.  
Theme is *“Justice and only Justice you shall pursue”*.  
*All are very welcome.*  
The Unity Week runs from 18-25 January in all parishes

#### Thoughts on Christian Unity

“I don’t believe God wants our church life to be centred on buildings and services. Instead, God wants our churches—whatever specific forms our gatherings take—to be focused on active discipleship, mission, and the pursuit of unity.” — **Francis Chan**

“There are congregations on nearly every corner. I’m not sure we need more churches. What we need is a church. I say one church is better than fifty. I have tried to remove the plural form churches from my vocabulary, training myself to think of the church as Christ did, and as the early Christians did. The metaphors for her are always singular – a body, a bride. — **Shane Claiborne**

“On the concept of unity- “That’s right-Jesus’ most pressing concern before leaving the earth was our unity. He was looking ahead, to every generation of believer. And as he prayed, he made it clear that our witness as his body in this fractured , messed-up, chaotic world would depend on our love for another.” — **Ed Galisewski**

#### In Memoriam

#### Masses this Weekend

6pm: Pat O’Mahony

11am: Larry, Ita Connaughton and grandson John

5pm Anna Beary

Jeanete Tedas

#### 26/27 January

6pm: Ruben Taphouse, Anniversay

9.30: Mairin Elliott, 1st Anniverary

11am: Virginia Hogan, Anniversary

6pm: Peggy and Bill Tone: Anniversary

Maura Shine, Anniverary

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