

24 June 2020 – Solemnity of the Nativity of St John the Baptist

Today we recall the Nativity of John the Baptist –one of the most significant figures in the life of Jesus. Mary and Joseph are probably the only two who have greater prominence in the early life of Christ.

John proclaimed ‘prepare a way for the Lord’ – he knew that the Lord was coming and he was fearful. He was also filled with joy at the coming of the Lord. We too should be both fearful and joyful in equal measure.

John baptised Jesus in the River Jordan. He proclaimed that he was not fit to undo the strap of Jesus’ sandal. This quote shows the humility of the man. This is a lesson we all need to learn again and again: humility.

John was a rebel and didn’t go along with what was popular. This cost him his life ultimately. Being strong enough to stand up for our faith is something we all need to do. How many of us have plotted to take part in Mass during lockdown? To do so would have been illegal and would not have been sanctioned by any diocesan bishop but to do so would have given us food from heaven to nourish the soul and nurture the spirit. What would John have done?