

## BAPTISM OF THE LORD

The followers of John the Baptist believed that they had arrived. That they had come to a place, and person that would transform all the challenges and make sense.

There is real comfort in knowing that there is food in the fridge. That the job is secure. That the dates are set. That there are defences prepared for the mishaps of life.

Such planning and preparation are indeed necessary

But you will never arrive at a place or time that will transform all the trials and make sense.

The very process of ageing means that each day brings a different understanding, and indeed a different need.

As a child the notion that you could be sharing live in this celebration of the mass from a computer screen, would have seemed like science fiction.

As a young man the notion that the Soviet Union, Woolworths and Chicken in a basket would cease to exist would seem preposterous.

As an older man, I invest more hope in medical research. At one time the fear that there would be a worldwide pandemic beyond the immediate reach of the scholars would have seemed terrifying.

But all these things have happened and the world has continued to turn upon its axis.

Never arriving at a place or time where change has not been a part of the movement.

Change that needs to be confronted and dealt with

You will never have arrived

You will never have come to a place or person that transforms all challenges for you

To make sense of the reality

Is to listen to the Baptist

Someone is following me

To believe in the person

Upon whom Gods favour rests

Then to set off again with the journey

Set off each day on the journey

To travel through a lifetimes ministry

To pass through joy, betrayal and trial

To overcome even death

And again,

move on.

At the moment in the heart of the crisis uncertainty is clearly apparent

But in truth

certainty

Is an illusion created from the needs of fear

People of faith

live with their insecurity

In the company of the saints of two thousand years

We live with uncertainty

We hold on

To follow the Christ

We hold on

We keep our eyes on the prize

and hold on

Keep your eyes on the prize

Hold on

Hold on