



WEEKLY Reflections

Based on the gospel for 9 January, Baptism of the Lord: Luke 3:15-16

"He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire."

Jesus didn't get baptised until he was 30. I didn't get confirmed until I was nearly 40. I was so happy to have been "sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit". As the Bishop anointed me with oil, I really did feel like God gave me a kiss on the forehead and whispered, "This is my beloved daughter in whom I am well pleased."

Not long after, I had an email from a young woman that I'd been exchanging messages with for a few months as a volunteer mentor on a Christian website. Shantel (not her real name) wrote, "I've been reading the Bible...you know, where it says that God doesn't have favourites...well, I'm struggling to believe that this is really so..."

Shantel is someone who's reading the Bible on the other side of the globe. In the midst of poverty, deprivation, exclusion and isolation. And no, she has not given up on God's word or God himself. Rather, she is a psalmist and a prophet who calls to us across the seas.

Do we seek to create a world where there are no favourites, where no one feels abandoned and alone?

Father,
may we never forget how much you love all your children throughout the earth – each and every one of whom deserves to live in safety and dignity.
Amen.



Prayer resources

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This reflection and prayer were written by Elena Verigo, a CAFOD volunteer.

