

## **Thought for the week**

**13<sup>th</sup> January 2019**

### **Feast of the Baptism of our Lord**

This Sunday draws the Christmas season to a close. It reaches a wonderful climax in the Lord's life: his Baptism in the Jordan. Jesus' baptism was a remarkable event because the Baptism offered by John the Baptist was for repentance. Jesus' baptism was the acceptance and inauguration of his Mission.

This "Thought for the week" comes from South Africa where we are visiting family and we are currently staying at the site of the battle of Spion Kop, the scene of the bloodiest and perhaps, the most futile of the Boer War (1899-1902). One end of the Liverpool football stadium is known as the "The Kop" in honour of the Liverpool soldiers who lost their lives on the hill called Spion Kop". Mahatma Ghandi was present at the battle as a stretcher bearer and the experience led to his belief in non violence.

The site is now an oasis of tranquility in a pleasant expanse of grassland with a myriad of exotic birds at the foot of the mighty Drakensberg mountains. It is the perfect place to consider the futility of war and our need for reconciliation.

The coming down of the Holy Spirit at Jesus's baptism looked forward to the coming down of the Holy Spirit on us . It is a time to commit ourselves to going forward to the individual mission that the Lord has given each of us in our Baptism.

Judy and Stephen