

The Feast of The Baptism of The Lord “ Jesus begins his public life after having himself baptised by Saint John the Baptist in the Jordan. After His resurrection Christ gives this mission to his apostles : ‘Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.’ (Mt 28: 19- 20).

Our Lord voluntarily submitted himself to the baptism of St. John, intended for sinners, in order to ‘fulfil all righteousness’. (Mt. 3 : 15) Jesus’s gesture is a manifestation of his self- emptying. (cf. Phil 2 : 7) The spirit who had hovered over the waters of the first creation descended then on the Christ as a prelude of the new creation, and the Father revealed Jesus as his ‘beloved Son’. (Mt.3: 16-17)

From the Catechism of the Catholic Church nn.1223-1224.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (18th-25th January)

Theme: “Justice and only justice you shall pursue (Deut. 16: 18-20)

The week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2019 has been prepared by Christians from Indonesia. With a population of 265 million, about 10 per cent of Indonesians are Christian from various traditions. There is a great diversity of ethnicity, language and religion.

There are also tensions affecting politics, business, justice, wealth and poverty. Christian communities in such an environment became newly aware of their unity as they join in a common concern and a common response to an unjust reality. At the same time, confronted by these injustices, we are obliged, as Christians, to examine the ways in which we are complicit. Only by heeding Jesus’ prayer “That they all may be one” can we witness to living unity in diversity. It is through our unity in Christ that we will be able to combat injustice and serve the needs of it’s victims.

Moved by these concerns, the Christians of Indonesia found that the words of Deuteronomy, “Justice and only justice you shall pursue”

(see Deuteronomy 16: 18-20) spoke powerfully to their situation and needs.

As individual Christians and Communities we are called together to form a united witness for justice and to be a means of Christ’s healing grace for the brokenness of the world.