



Who was St John the Baptist and what did he do?

St John the Baptist was Jesus's cousin.

After the Angel Gabriel appeared to Mary to ask her to become the mother of Jesus, the angel also told her that her cousin Elizabeth was also expecting a child. This child was John the Baptist. John was born six months before Jesus.

Before Jesus even started going out to teach the people, John was already busy urgently calling people to change their ways and to be ready for the day that Jesus came to visit them. Be ready, he said, leave your bad and lazy ways, this is important as someone very special is coming to see you, and you must be ready and prepared to meet him.

John the Baptist was a Prophet, calling the people urgently and telling them to correct the way that they lived. He urged the people to be really sorry for their sins and put right what they had done wrong. There was nothing that could be hidden from Jesus, so there was no point trying to pretend they had been good when they had not! He told them that what Jesus would tell them and do for them was much more important than anything they had heard before!

John poured water over each person in the river to show them that their sins were washed away and that they were clean. He baptised them. This is why he is called John the Baptist.

Draw a picture of St. John the Baptist baptising people with water.

