

Sunday 24 June 2018: Solemnity of the Nativity of Saint John the Baptist



You will be called prophet of the Most High

...John the Baptist, the last of the prophets of old Israel, was a figure of immense significance. He was the one who pointed out the way, as the figures and shadows of the Old Testament gave way to their fulfilment, in the life, death and resurrection of the Saviour of the world. As Jesus himself declared: 'A greater than John the Baptist has never been seen. It was toward John that all the prophecies of the prophets and the Law were leading'. However, what he adds to this remarkable praise startles us: 'Yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he is' (Mt 11:11-14). These words refer, not to John's personal standing before God, but to the fact that his role belongs to the old order which is now passing away. If he was a figure of the old dispensation, his selfless dedication and final heroism will be an inspiration to Christians of every age...

Extract by John Thornhill sm - read more at [The Emmaus Series](#) | Image courtesy of [Herman oleon Clipart](#)