

4 December 2022
Second Sunday of Advent
Year A



Entrance Antiphon

The people of Sion, behold,
the Lord will come to save
the nations, and the Lord
will make the glory of his
voice heard in the joy of
your heart .

First Reading

from the the prophet
Isaiah 11:1-10

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 71:1-2. 7-8. 12-13. 17.
R. cf. v.7

Response: Justice shall
flourish in his time, and
fullness of peace for ever.

Second Reading from the
letter of St Paul to the
Romans 15:4-9

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!
Prepare the way of the
Lord, make straight his
paths: all people shall see
the salvation of God.
Alleluia!

Holy Gospel according to
Matthew 3:1-12

Communion Antiphon

Jerusalem, arise and stand
upon the heights,
and behold the joy which
comes to you from God.

Next Week

Third Sunday in Advent
Year A

First: Is 35:1-6, 10

Resp Ps: Ps 145:6-10.

R. see Is 35:4.

Second: Jas 5:7-10

Gospel: Mt 11:2-11

We acknowledge and respect the traditional owners and custodians of the land on which we stand, the elders, past and present and all the Dharawal people. May we too be good stewards of this land.

Second Sunday of Advent



The Gospel for this Sunday is the beginning of the Gospel of Mark. Mark begins by recalling the Hebrew Bible's message of the Prophet Isaiah: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight." While Hebrew Scripture commentators see this as a prediction of Judah's return from Babylonia captivity, Mark uses Isaiah to introduce John the Baptist and his ministry. If there is one word that seems to describe the vocation of John, it is that of "Preparer." What was his call to people as he helped them prepare for the ministry of Jesus Christ? He called them to repentance for the forgiveness of their sins. Why would he do this? John was a good Jew. He knew the commandments and the history of his people. Their greatest sin was that of idolatry. Throughout their history the Jews would forget the one true God and turn to creating gods of gold, stone, and wood like the nations around them. So John invited people to repentance and transformation of their lives so they would recognize the true God when He came to them in human form.

The message of John and the tradition of the Catholic Church come together in many Catholic parishes with Reconciliation services during Advent.

So what is the message of John to us as we prepare for the faith-deepening experience of the Birth of Jesus, the Christ? The message is the same as John preached to the Jews: "Prepare by seeking forgiveness." What gets in the way of our appreciating God's gift of Jesus as Saviour is that we have let idols clutter our lives as the Jews of old did. Does our abundance, our need for recognition, and our longing for security become ends and not means? Have they become the little idols we worship? So John is inviting us to transformation of heart by acknowledging and confessing our sins so we can be attentive to the true "reason for the season."
Faith at Marquette: Marquette.edu

Living the Gospel – Prepare Ye!

John the Baptist's call to 'Prepare the way of the Lord' is a summary of the purpose of the season of Advent. Every year, as we celebrate the Nativity, we celebrate once again the presence of God in our world. God became incarnate in the world through Jesus but also always was and continues to be incarnate in the world through each person. If we are to accept this reality and live it out, we need to remind ourselves this Advent to prepare the way for the Lord to be present in and through us every day of our lives.

The wilderness holds a special place in scripture. Time spent in the wilderness is associated with a time of preparation for undertaking a special purpose. When Moses led the people from Egypt they wandered in the wilderness for 40 years. This was a time of renewing themselves after their time in Egypt and rediscovering their covenant with God. After his baptism, Jesus retreats to the wilderness to prepare for his public ministry. It was also out of the wilderness that a lot of rebellion and unrest emerged. A desire for change and action is what comes out of the wilderness.
by Greg Sunter

Worship: Mass and Devotions

Sunday Mass	Weekday Mass	Devotions
Saturday Vigil: 6pm	Mon, Tues, Wed Mass at 9am	Adoration with the Rosary: Saturday 9.30am
Sunday: 9.30 am & 5pm	Thursday - Mass at 7.30pm	Divine Mercy Devotion: Third Sunday at 3pm
Filipino Mass: Third Sunday at 11.15am	Fri & Sat Mass at 9am	Alliance of the 2 Hearts Mass and Devotion: First Friday from 7.30pm
Samoan Mass: First Sunday of even months at 12 noon	Maori Mass: First Sunday at 2pm	

Contact us

Office Hours: Tuesday-Friday 9.30am-12.30pm

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Parish Priest: Fr. Shane Kelleher OCD

Assistant Priest: Fr "Sam" Ransom Rapirap OCD

Parish Associate: Sr "Jill" Girlie Sudario, CM

Prayer intentions

For the sick & homebound: Kevin Cloran, Robert Yap, Les Portikiewicz, Karen Browne, Amanda & John Meredith, Reg Gardner, Phyllis Cooper, Sr Heather Burke, Marie & Barry Atkins, Carol & Gabriel Gonzales, Amelia Jimenez, John Ingster, Elizabeth Moore, Greg Watson, Joe Spinnato, Susan Mella, Ron Allen, Sean Finnerty, Rose Levoune, Francisco Carmona, Lily Pereira, Doris Wahhib, John Kajdrys
May they experience the saving power of the risen Lord amidst their pain & affliction.

For our recently dearly departed: Marita Waugh, Danilo Mercado, John McDermott

Those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Angelito Baterina, Guiseppe Cuomo, Angela Tomarchio
Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and may perpetual light shine upon them.



Our Community: Rosters

11 December	Saturday 6pm	Sunday 9.30am	Sunday 5pm
Welcomers	Tracey & Richard	Laura & Nelia	Matthew & Patricia
Altar Servers	Michelle, Abigail	Orly, Meliame	Stuart, Ralph
Readers	Candice	Ofa & Gabriel,	Sheenalyn
Refreshments	Beatrix,	Karen, Katalina,	
CLOTW		Lee & Sarah	
Flowers	Vai,	Church Vacuuming	Feiloakitohi Family
Counters	George,	Foyer Cleaning	Feiloakitohi Family

Our Community

Rosters: The new rosters are now available and have been sent out by email. They are also listed on the website in the ministry section. If you require a paper copy please contact the parish office. If you are not able to attend on your rostered date, you must arrange to swap with another person or put a message on the whatsapp for that ministry. There is a whatsapp group created for the various ministries in our parish. If you need help to connect please reach out for assistance. The purpose of the whatsapp groups is to share information relevant to the particular ministry. Please be respectful and keep the group chats relevant.

Ministry workshops have been happening for new and existing members. Induction, training and support will be offered for new and existing members of the ministries.

- **Refreshments workshop** will be held after 6pm and 9.30am Mass this weekend; 3 / 4 December.
- **Readers Ministry meeting** is held on the last Tuesday of each month at 7pm via Zoom.
- **Music Ministry meeting** will be held on Monday 5 December at 7.30pm via zoom.



Bulletin Notices

Working with Children: Various ministries in our Parish involve adults working directly with children; including Altar Servers, Children's Liturgy of the Word, Sacramental Preparation teams, Children's Ministry, namely Choir and Children's Pageant. If you are involved in a ministry that works directly with children it is your responsibility to ensure you have obtained a WWCC and submitted the approval to the parish office before you commence working in your ministry. A WWCC is an ongoing assessment of a person's eligibility to work or volunteer with children. It is a prerequisite for anyone in paid or voluntary child-related work in NSW. The clearance varies from each state and territory in Australia; for NSW it is referred to as a WWCC and is governed by the Office of the Children's Guardian. It involves a national criminal history check and a review of findings of relevant workplace misconduct.

More information is available at <https://www.dow.org.au/safeguarding/resources-and-information>.

Fundraising News: The fundraising team will be selling raffle tickets after Mass during December. The prizes will be for some hampers. Tickets will cost \$2 each or 3 for \$5. The raffle will be drawn after the pageant on Christmas eve.

The Family Fun Night that was postponed in October will be held on Saturday 11 February 2023 at 7pm in the parish hall. Tickets will be available for purchase during January and all those who purchased tickets previously will be contacted to confirm they are able to attend the new date.

Ordination to the Priesthood of Rev Adalbert Imperial, OCD will take place on Wednesday 14 December at 7.30 pm in our church followed by supper in the Hall. on Saturday 17 December at 9 am newly ordained Fr Adalbert will celebrate his Mass of Thanksgiving followed by refreshments at the Hall. If you wish to bring a dish to the supper & refreshments please put your name on the list in the foyer or send a message to the parish office or Grace Stagg at 0433 513 654.

Vinnies have put up their Christmas tree in the foyer. You are invited to take home a tag that has a grocery item or a present listed and return the item next weekend. The piety stall has 2023 Columban Calendars, Christmas cards and Advent Reflection books available for sale plus a wide range of religious gifts suitable for all occasions.

Advent Reflection Groups You are invited to join one of our parish Advent groups as a meaningful way to prepare for the coming of Christ at Christmas. There are various groups meeting at different times of the week, some online and some face to face. Dates and times when the various groups first meet are listed below. During the groups we use the Advent booklet produced by the diocese. The booklets are available for sale at the piety stall or from the parish office at a cost of \$5 each.

Monday November 21 (via Zoom) 2 pm group

Monday November 21 (via Zoom) 7 pm group

Facilitator: Colleen Haughey (For the Zoom link, please contact the parish office).

Tuesday November 22 @ 7:30pm Parish Meeting Room

Facilitator: Donna Ransom

Sunday November 27 @ 7:00 pm Parish Meeting Room

(Young Adults Group) Facilitator: Andrew Fricot

Christmas pageant preparation will be held every Friday evening at 6pm. Please come along if you wish to join in. Parent and adult support is also needed.

The Journey Weekly Podcast this Week: Fr Michael Meagher's Gospel reflection – An open-hearted welcome. Mother Hilda tells us how to pray when we feel there's nothing in it for us. Plus, extra Advent reflections from Fr Mark De Battista and Ken Bryant. The Journey podcast available at www.jcr.org.au.

A vocation view A vocation grows in silence, as a shoot sprouts from the ground. Make sure to keep the seed of faith alive in your heart and soul. (Is. 11:1) If you want to talk about your vocation, please contact the diocesan vocations director, Fr Duane Fernandez at vocations@dow.org.au

Social Justice Statement Listen to, support, and believe those who are experiencing violence and abuse. <https://socialjustice.catholic.org.au>

Calling all Women of the World to Rome His Holiness, Pope Francis, has granted the women of the world, by an invitation from the World Union of Catholic Women's Organisations (WUCWO) an Audience with him at Paul VI Hall, the Vatican, at 11.30am on 13 May 2023. Mass will be celebrated, that afternoon, at St Peter's Basilica, by Cardinal Kevin Farrell, Prefect of the Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life. For Further Information contact: Catherine V McGrath DSG; Phone: +61 407 419 5002 Email: cvm2090@gmail.com; Booking for the Audience is not necessary.

XVI Synod - Continental Stage Submissions The Faithful are asked to now consider to the Continental stage of the XVI Ordinary Synod on Synodality. The Reflection Guide: Three guiding questions form the basis for the Reflection Guide. This and other resources are available at <https://www.catholic.org.au/synodalchurch>; Submission Portal: After groups have met to reflect, they can submit a summary of their reflections on via the submission portal for the continental stage which can be accessed at: <https://www.catholic.org.au/synodalchurch> The portal will be open until Friday 9 December. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact leith.dudfield@catholic.org.au.

menALIVE's—reFUEL Weekly Sharing and Journaling

Sessions— Join via this link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88436558468>: Every Tuesday 7.30pm reFUEL is a weekly hour-long gathering of men every Tuesday evening on Zoom providing the chance to: break open the Sunday reading using a Lectio Divina style exercise "catch up" with great men from across Australia and New Zealand. inspiration by the witness

Christmas Celebrations

Parish Reconciliation Service:

Friday 16 December at 7.30pm

Christmas Eve:

Pageant at 6pm followed by Mass at 7pm

Midnight Mass

Christmas morning at 9.30am



Holy Gospel according to Matthew 3:1-12

Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.

In due course John the Baptist appeared; he preached in the wilderness of Judaea and this was his message: 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.' This was the man the prophet Isaiah spoke of when he said:

A voice cries in the wilderness:
Prepare a way for the Lord,
make his paths straight.

This man John wore a garment made of camel-hair with a leather belt round his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judaea and the whole Jordan district made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins.



But when he saw a number of Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism he said to them, 'Brood of vipers, who warned you to fly from the retribution that is coming? But if you are repentant, produce the appropriate fruit, and do not presume to tell yourselves, "We have Abraham for our father," because, I tell you, God can raise children for Abraham from these stones. Even now the axe is laid to the roots of the trees, so that any tree which fails to produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown on the fire. I baptise you in water for repentance, but the one who follows me is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to carry his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fan is in his hand; he will clear his threshing-floor and gather his wheat into the barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go out.'

The gospel of the Lord.

Reflection by Pope Francis

In the Gospel given this second Sunday of Advent, John the Baptist's invitation resounds: "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!". With these very words, Jesus begins his mission in Galilee; and such will also be the message that the disciples must bring on their first missionary experience.

Matthew the evangelist would like to present John as the one who prepares the way of the coming Christ, as well as the disciples as followers, as Jesus preached. It is a matter of the same joyful message: the kingdom of God is at hand! It is near, and it is in us! These words are very important: "The kingdom of God is in our midst!", Jesus says. And John announces what Jesus will say later: "The kingdom of God is at hand, it has arrived, and is in your midst". This is the central message of every Christian mission. When a missionary goes, a Christian goes to proclaim Jesus, not to proselytize, as if he were a fan trying to drum up new supporters for his team. No, he goes simply to proclaim: "The kingdom of God is in our midst!". And in this way, the missionaries prepare the path for Jesus to encounter the people.

But what is this kingdom of God, this kingdom of heaven? They are synonymous. We think immediately of the afterlife: eternal life. Of course this is true, the kingdom of God will extend without limit beyond earthly life, but the good news that Jesus brings us — and that John predicts — is that we do not need to wait for the kingdom of God in the future: it is at hand. In some way it is already present and we may experience spiritual power from now on. "The kingdom of God is in your midst!", Jesus will say. God comes to establish his lordship in our history, today, every day, in our life; and there — where it is welcomed with faith and humility — love, joy and peace blossom.

The condition for entering and being a part of this kingdom is to implement a change in our life, which is to convert, to convert every day, to take a step forward each day. It is a question of leaving behind the comfortable but misleading ways of the idols of this world: success at all costs; power to the detriment of the weak; the desire for wealth; pleasure at any price. And instead, preparing the way of the Lord: this does not take away our freedom, but gives us true happiness. With the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem, it is God himself who abides among us to free us from self interest, sin and corruption, from these manners of the devil: seeking success at all costs; seeking power to the detriment of the weak; having the desire for wealth; seeking pleasure at any price.

Christmas is a day of great joy, even external, but above all, it is a religious event for which a spiritual preparation is necessary. In this season of Advent, let us be guided by the Baptist's exhortation: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight!", he tells us. We prepare the way of the Lord and make his paths straight when we examine our conscience, when we scrutinize our attitudes, in order to eliminate these sinful manners that I mentioned, which are not from God: success at all costs; power to the detriment of the weak; the desire for wealth; pleasure at any price.