

READINGS FOR THE SECOND OF ADVENT. YEAR 1 2019.

First Reading - Is 11:1-10

A shoot springs from the stock of Jesse, a scion thrusts from his roots: on him the spirit of the Lord rests, a spirit of wisdom and insight, a spirit of counsel and power, a spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord. (The fear of the Lord is his breath.) He does not judge by appearances, he gives no verdict on hearsay, but judges the wretched with integrity, and with equity gives a verdict for the poor of the land. His word is a rod that strikes the ruthless, his sentences bring death to the wicked. Integrity is the loincloth round his waist, faithfulness the belt about his hips. The wolf lives with the lamb, the panther lies down with the kid, calf and lion cub feed together with a little boy to lead them. The cow and the bear make friends, their young lie down together. The lion eats straw like the ox. The infant plays over the cobra's hole; into the viper's lair the young child puts his hand. They do no hurt, no harm, on all my holy mountain, for the country is filled with the knowledge of the Lord as the waters swell the sea. That day, the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples. It will be sought out by the nations and its home will be glorious.

Responsorial Psalm: R.) Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace for ever.

Second Reading - Rom 15:4-9

Everything that was written long ago in the scriptures was meant to teach us something about hope from the examples scripture gives of how people who did not give up were helped by God. And may he who helps us when we refuse to give up, help you all to be tolerant with each other, following the example of Christ Jesus, so that united in mind and voice you may give glory to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

It can only be to God's glory, then, for you to treat each other in the same friendly way as Christ treated you. The reason Christ became the servant of circumcised Jews was not only so that God could faithfully carry out the promises made to the patriarchs, it was also to get the pagans to give glory to God for his mercy, as scripture says in one place: For this I shall praise you among the pagans and sing your name.

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

Gospel - Mt 3:1-12 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.'

SACRED HEART PARISH

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St Mary's Primary School Principal: Mrs Noeleen O'Neill.

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SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT. YEAR A. 2019.

Weekend Masses: Moruya Saturday 6 pm. Sunday 10am.

Tuross Head 'The Pines' 8am Sunday.

Weekday Masses: Monday Communion Service 9.15am.

Tues. Mass 5.30, Wed. Thurs & Fri 9.15am.

Wednesdays 2pm Banksia Village.

1st Thursday of the month 10.30am at IRT, Moruya.

Rosary: After Mass

Reconciliation: Saturday 10—10.30am

Baptisms, Anointings, Weddings and Funerals by appointment.

For the sick: Fr Kevin Murphy, Lee and Jerome Maat, Gail Moss, Kay Morton, Laurie-Anne Foran, John Bolton, Norma Collins, Graham Beer.

For the souls of : Nick de Grave who died on Saturday 30th November and Kathrine Harris's father who died on Sunday 1st December.

Christmas Masses 2019: Sat 21/12 6pm Moruya.

Sun 22/12 8am Tuross Head 10am Moruya

Mon 23/12 No Mass

Tues 24/12 6pm (St Mary's Oval) & Midnight in Moruya.

Wed 25th 8am Tuross. 10am Moruya 6pm Bodalla

FR. ASTILL ON HOLIDAY INDEFINITELY.

The announcement that Fr Steve will be on holidays for an indefinite period has come as a shock to the parish. He will be staying at a Jesuit House up the coast and during that time will be having a few health checks. Many will miss his stimulating sermons and articles reproduced in the Bulletin. Keep him in your prayers.

While he is away Fr George Azhakath will be looking after the parish along with the Parish Council and Finance Committee. Pat Anderson is helping out in the office until permanent arrangements are made with no set office hours. There will need to be a few changes so please read the Bulletin for updates and as all families do, kick in with help if you see a need, tell a PPC member or let the parish office know by phone as calls will be diverted to Fr George.

During Advent we can seek to see the world with childlike eyes, so that our vision might take in the kingdom of God in our midst, to change how we look and listen to the sounds and sights around us. Let us pray and ask God that we be blessed with a pure heart that is open to see the world as God sees it.

Our readings today are beautiful. Isaiah paints a picture of Peace. The whole world of people and animals living together in harmony. What a wonderful thought! This may challenge us to ask what words or actions can I do that would help this to come about.

The Psalm too speaks of this hope for peace and justice for all. Saint Paul, when he writes to the Romans, also mentions the hope which can be found in Scripture. This Hope is spelled out in the gospel where Matthew presents Saint John the Baptist, with the message: *'Repent for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.'*

Let us look at how we can answer John's call: Firstly by preparing the wilderness of our human hearts to be free from the clutter that may be grudges or resentments or something personal to you.

God is asking us to change some of our paths. Where do I need to change within myself? In my dealings with my family, colleagues, friends and even strangers?

Perhaps I may see in myself, as the Pharisees were targeted, a complacency that is quite soul destroying, if we continue this laziness in preparation for Christ.

Let us take time during these busy days of Advent to **STOP** and spend even a few minutes a day to acknowledge the Divine Presence and talk about my day...it's joys, sorrows, frustrations and why I feel the need to be with God

today. The one thing that we can be sure of is this: God hears every prayer but we need to be still to hear a response.

Mindful of this week's readings and opening prayer of the Mass, I can perhaps look around me and, whether by word or deed, encourage others to join me as I set out in haste to meet Jesus this Christmas. ***Sr Marie***

CARING GROUP. By Pat Anderson.

Before Fr Steve's announcement he had agreed for me to speak at Masses this weekend. Instead of that I include what I wanted to say in the Bulletin.

Basically we need more volunteers in Moruya. We had eleven volunteers. People signed up and with a Working With Children's Check so generous with their time and energy. One has moved away. Two are on leave and the de Graves and Harris's have both had recent deaths in their families and are unable to help. We only have three we can call on at the moment.

Through the efforts of both caring group volunteers we have been able to keep people in their homes longer, get them to doctors appointment or the bus stop, looked after a pet when no one else was available, mowed lawns, changed lights and many other things. Best of all we provide a time out in the community for both volunteers and anyone who likes to have a chat with no strings attached to come along. In Tuross a number of our regulars are living on their own and enjoy the company.

In a Forum recently organised by Fr Steve, Loneliness was one of the main areas of concern. Next year we are planning to look at this issue in detail and to discern what we might be able to do to assist others. Recently we had a talk by Mark Hewson on Funerals. From this we will look at Grief and that will lead to our discussions on loneliness. Loneliness has many spokes to its wheel and each of us has a cure; it could be a smile, a card, phone call or visit.

If you can help please contact the Caring Group or Pat.

NELLIGEN BOAT TRIP.

All are invited to join us on Thursday 16th January as we travel up the Clyde to Nelligen. Leaves at 11.30am. Cost is \$45 pp, \$22 child 5-14. This includes the trip, fish and chips lunch and afternoon tea on the way back. We will get a close up look at the bridge being built. If you have your grandchildren bring them along, it is why we have chosen January. A list will go up at the back of the church for numbers and we will need pre payment. We can car pool.