



2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
YEAR A

4 December 2022

LITURGY AND BULLETIN

OPENING PRAYER

Father in heaven,
the day draws near when the glory of your Son
will make radiant the night of the waking world.
Amen.

FIRST READING: A reading from the prophet Isaiah

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:

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

1. O God, give your judgement to the king,
to a king's son your justice,
that he may judge your people in justice
and your poor in right judgement. (R.)

2. In his days justice shall flourish
and peace till the moon fails.
He shall rule from sea to sea,
from the Great River to the earth's bounds. (R.)

3. For he shall save the poor when they cry
and the needy who are helpless.
He will have pity on the weak
and save the lives of the poor. (R.)

4. May his name be blessed for ever
and endure like the sun.
Every tribe shall be blessed in him,
all nations bless his name. (R.)

SECOND READING: A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

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!

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 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.’



Reflection on the Gospel of Matthew 3:1-12 by Dianne Bergant CSA

Today's readings are like Chaucer's Canterbury Tales. The biblical authors sketch profiles of individuals after whom we can model our lives as we embark on our pilgrimage to eschatological fulfilment. Isaiah depicts the righteous messianic king; Paul provides us with a glimpse of Jesus, the one who ministers to all; and Matthew describes John the Baptist, the prophet who prepared for the Advent of Christ.

The gifts Isaiah attributes to the messianic king are the same gifts that we receive with the anointing of the Spirit: wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety and fear of the Lord. The image of the messianic king may have been fulfilled in Jesus, but it is also offered to us as a model after which we can pattern our lives.

Paul declares that Christ came for all. Just as the Canterbury tales describe pilgrims of all backgrounds and characters, so our companions on the pilgrimage come from diverse circumstances. Since the invitation was extended to all, we are expected to welcome all. Some of Chaucer's characters were quite unpleasant, but they were part of the group. Many of the people to whom Jesus ministered were quite unpleasant, but this did not deter him. His example is set before us today.

John the Baptist lived a life of radical self-denial, but he did not require this of others. He preached repentance or change of heart, not a rejection of the circumstances of life. He called for a return to righteousness, to relationships rooted in honesty and respect. He condemned presumption and arrogant reliance on one's religious origin, complacency and the shirking of responsibility, disinterest in the welfare of others.

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

We pray for the world-wide community of Christian believers. May they be a joyful sign of God's boundless mercy to all. (Pause) Lord, hear us.

We pray for those attending the world biodiversity conference starting in Montreal this week. May they pledge to protect earth's creatures and restore the wealth of nature's life. (Pause) Lord, hear us.

We pray for all people deprived of their human rights. May this week's United Nations observance call member states to uphold in full the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. (Pause) Lord, hear us

We pray for students completing a significant stage of their education at this time. May they readily find pathways to employment or further study. (Pause) Lord, hear us.

We pray for all who seek out the sacrament of reconciliation in Advent. May they be blessed with the grace of repentance, forgiveness and freedom of heart. (Pause for silent prayer) Lord, hear us.

We pray for all who suffer in mind, body or spirit, especially Michael Crosby, Ann McDougall, Ross Lawless, Val Biggers, Paul Fa'Oa, Rongo Tee Peeti, Helen Montgomery, Judy Nielson, Tony Riley and all who need our prayer; that they will be cared for by loving family, friends and community. (Pause) Lord, hear us.

We pray for the recently deceased - Darcy Stewart, Bob Haigh, Ray Bartley. . . and for those whose anniversary of death occurs around this time. May they join the saints and give glory to God for ever. (Pause) Lord, hear us.

CONCLUDING PRAYER

Lord, have mercy on your people.

Grant us in this life the good things that lead to the everlasting life you prepare for us.

Amen.

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PARISH OFFICE HOURS: Tuesdays: 9am – 3pm; Fridays: 9am – 12pm

Next weekend Mass time: Saturday 6pm in the church.

1st Rite of Reconciliation will be available before Mass each week during Advent, 5-5.15pm

Weekday Mass: Tuesday at 10am with a Blessing of the Sick.

Meditation: Thursdays at 10.30am in the Presbytery.

Social Justice Group: now Wednesdays. Next is 7 December at 9.30am, at the Presbytery

Christmas Mass: 5.30pm on 24th December

Dear Parishioners,

1st Rite of Reconciliation will be available before Mass each week during Advent, 5-5.15pm

There will also be a communal Rite of Reconciliation. Date to be advised.

For the December markets the committee has decided to have a Christmas food hamper for the raffle. We ask for your kind contributions to this hamper. Non-perishable items only please. Make them as Christmassy as you like 😊

Christmas drinks under the bell after Mass this year to be held on 10th December. Please bring a small plate to share.

Ecumenical Advent Breakfast for Braidwood women

St Bede's warmly invites all women to an Advent prayer Breakfast on Saturday 3rd December 2022, 8-10am in St Bede's school hall, Park lane. Cost: \$10 in a marked envelope with your name to James' coffee window RSVP with money for catering purposes, by the 28th November (no refunds possible due to purchasing costs)

A message from Aid to the Church in Need Australia: ACN is the Pontifical Foundation dedicated to supporting the suffering and persecuted Church.



That Catholic Shop - Christmas orders from Aid to the Church in Need's online store – That Catholic Shop – can still be made all the way up to 19 December! Choose from our broad range of religious gifts and receive free shipping for orders over \$100. Peruse our Christmas range at www.thatcatholicshop.com

Readings for Mass: 1st: Isaiah 11:1-10. 2nd: Romans 15:4-9. Gospel: Matt. 3:1-12.

Readings for next week: 1st: Isaiah 35:1-6,10. 2nd: James 5:7-10 Gospel: Matt. 11:2-11.

Ministry Rosters for our Masses

Date	Acolyte	Welcomer	Readers
3 Dec	Felix	Cathy F	Bobbie/Tommy
10 Dec		Geraldine	Wendy H/Germaine
17 Dec	Felix	Cathy F	Wendy M-B/Ann
24 Dec		Helen P	Michael/Wendy H

Ministries of service:	9 Dec	16 Dec	23 Dec	30 Dec
Altar Decorating:	Helen P	Cathy	All please	Joy
Cleaning:	Pauline & Wendy		Bronnie & Felix	

Counters: 1st Sunday: Pauline & Bobbie. 2nd: Sunday: Wendy H
 3rd Sunday: 4th: Phil Owen

Please advise if you are unable to fulfil your roster, so alternative arrangements may be made.

News from the pews: If you have any news or photos to share, please email me. Sharing our news (happy and sometimes sad) is part of "Walking Together" as a parish and community.

Mass at Nerriga on 4th December, commencing at 11am. Lunch afterwards at the pub.

Our bottle brushes have started flowering, thanks to the great work by the Grounds Committee. The continual rains have kept our Groundsmen extra busy this year and we greatly appreciate their ongoing dedication to improving our church and surrounds.

The hailstorm caused inundation of the sacristy again plus water got in the back door of the Presbytery and wet the carpet past the stairs. Did anyone else experience water damage?

Take care of each other,

Helen Hart

