



**2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
YEAR B
6 December 2020
Liturgy and Bulletin**



OPENING PRAYER

*God of power and mercy,
open our hearts in welcome.
Remove the things that hinder us from receiving Christ with joy,
so that we may share his wisdom
and become one with him
when he comes in glory.
Amen.*

FIRST READING: A reading from the prophet Isaiah

'Console my people, console them'
says your God.
'Speak to the heart of Jerusalem
and call to her
that her time of service is ended,
that her sin is atoned for,
that she has received from the hand of the Lord
double punishment for all her crimes.'
A voice cries, 'Prepare in the wilderness
a way for the Lord.
Make a straight highway for our God
across the desert.
Let every valley be filled in,
every mountain and hill be laid low,
let every cliff become a plain,
and the ridges a valley;
then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed
and all mankind shall see it;
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.'
Go up on a high mountain,
joyful messenger to Zion.
Shout with a loud voice,
joyful messenger to Jerusalem.
Shout without fear,
say to the towns of Judah,
'Here is your God.'
Here is the Lord coming with power,
his arm subduing all things to him.
The prize of his victory is with him,
his trophies all go before him.
He is like a shepherd feeding his flock,
gathering lambs in his arms,
holding them against his breast
and leading to their rest the mother ewes.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

Response: Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

1. I will hear what the Lord God has to say,
a voice that speaks of peace,
peace for his people.
His help is near for those who fear him
and his glory will dwell in our land. (R.)

2. Mercy and faithfulness have met;
justice and peace have embraced.
Faithfulness shall spring from the earth
and justice look down from heaven. (R.)

3. The Lord will make us prosper
and our earth shall yield its fruit.
Justice shall march before him
and peace shall follow his steps. (R.)

SECOND READING: A reading from the second letter of St Peter

There is one thing, my friends, that you must never forget: that with the Lord, 'a day' can mean a thousand years, and a thousand years is like a day. The Lord is not being slow to carry out his promises, as anybody else might be called slow; but he is being patient with you all, wanting nobody to be lost and everybody to be brought to change his ways. The Day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then with a roar the sky will vanish, the elements will catch fire and fall apart, the earth and all that it contains will be burnt up.

Since everything is coming to an end like this, you should be living holy and saintly lives while you wait and long for the Day of God to come, when the sky will dissolve in flames and the elements melt in the heat. What we are waiting for is what he promised: the new heavens and new earth, the place where righteousness will be at home. So then, my friends, while you are waiting, do your best to live lives without spot or stain so that he will find you at peace.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

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

Alleluia!

GOSPEL: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

The beginning of the Good News about Jesus Christ, the Son of God. It is written in the book of the prophet Isaiah:

Look, I am going to send my messenger before you;
he will prepare your way.

A voice cries in the wilderness:

Prepare a way for the Lord,
make his paths straight,

and so it was that John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. All Judaea and all the people of Jerusalem made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. John wore a garment of camel-skin, and he lived on locusts and wild honey. In the course of his preaching he said, 'Someone is following me, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to kneel down and undo the strap of his sandals. I have baptised you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.'



Reflection on the Gospel - Comfort

"There's good news, and there's bad news". A whole body of jokes begins this way, and we laugh ruefully because that statement is generally true. The news is hardly ever good or bad, but rather an amalgam of results better for some than for others. One ball team beats another; is this good news or bad?

John the Baptist preaches repentance for the forgiveness of sins. Good news or bad? It's great news for sinners who repent. It's good news for people who yearn to be forgiven and know they have reason to be. It's not so good for people who have no intention of leaving their sin behind. And it is positively bad news for the self-righteous, convinced of their innocence and resentful that sinful types are getting off the hook.

The message of John the Baptist is comfort with a catch. The catch is baptism, a drowning of the old way and a resurrection into gasping new life. We can't find comfort in religion - not this religion! - if we intend to remain just as we are. John's baptism is with water, bracing and cold. The Mighty One is coming along soon with fire and Spirit. Things are going to change
How does the message of John comfort you? How does it challenge you?

Give a little comfort this season. Listen to someone who has a story to tell. Include the lonely at your table. Remember the poor.

"His baptism will change you from the inside out". GPBS 1/12/2020

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Reader: That basic rights and respect for human persons be established in all nations. (pause) In your kindness:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That those who daily live with anger and disharmony will find peace and unity. (pause) In your kindness:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That this community will repent of its sins and prepare for the coming of the kingdom. (pause) In your kindness:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That those who are sick, including Norah Bradley, Don Raper, Felicity McNamara, Rupert Ermert, Dennis Dempsey, Ann McDougall, Val Biggers, Celia Roach, Cilla Ryan, and Mark Sissian will be comforted by the Good Shepherd. (pause) In your kindness:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That those who have died, including Tom Richardson, Ida Feld, Frank Stephens, Peter Camiller, Hec Kain, and our own deceased relatives and friends, will dwell in the house of God. (pause) In your kindness:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

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.

Hello St Bede's Parishioners,

Mass last Saturday evening was attended by 32 parishioners. Social distancing, hygiene requirements and recording attendance procedures are still being observed. **Please try to arrive in good time** as all these regulations and requirements will take time. The protocols are being slowly relaxed, singing is now allowed but the distancing remains the same inside the church.

Weekday Masses: Tuesday 8 Dec and Thursday 10 December at 10am in the Church. If you cannot make Mass on Saturdays you might like to come on a weekday, when there are fewer people present.

Meditation: Thursdays at 10.30am in the Presbytery.

Adoration: Everyone is welcome to Adoration every Friday 9am-10 am

Social Justice Group: meets in the Church Sunday 6th December at 10.30am.

Christmas Masses: 24 December: 5pm Family Mass; 7pm Vigil Mass. Bookings will be either online at <https://www.trybooking.com/BMYAJ> or phone/text Helen on 0430169849. Bookings for Family Mass will be in Families; 7pm to be booked as individuals. Bookings open 1 December and close 23 December. Please let any family coming home for Christmas know that they (or you) **must book to be sure of a place** at their Mass of choice. We might not like them but the restrictions are there to keep us safe.

Araluen Stations of the Cross: 3.00pm First Friday of every month, commencing 4 December. All welcome.

Accommodation wanted for new teacher at St Bede's - 3BR home within 20mins of Braidwood, or in Braidwood itself. Needing to move in January. Please call Tiana on 0413 652 078 or email tianahwills@y7mail.com Hopefully we can find them somewhere to live as rentals are hard to come by.

Advent: There are still plenty of the "Adore" booklets available. We have purchased 1 for each family. Those of you who receive this by email but cannot attend Mass – if you are able to call on Brian, when you are in town, he will give you a copy. We hope you find it helpful in preparing for the Christmas season.

Reconciliation for Christmas will be held as last year – as an extended penitential Rite at the beginning of the December 19 Mass. Please come along if you can.

Next week's Readings: 3rd Advent: 1st: Is. : 61:1-2,10-11. 2nd: 1 Thess. 5:16-24. Gospel: Jn. 1:6-8,19-28.

Ministry Rosters for Restrictive Masses

Date	Acolyte	Welcomer	Readers	PowerPoint
5 Dec	Geoff	Geraldine	Michael/Bobbie	Helen H
12 Dec	Felix	Helen P	Helen B/Germaine	Helen H
19 Dec	James	Cathy F	Trish/Ann	Helen H

Please let me know as soon as possible if you won't be attending Mass so other arrangements can be made. **Please let me know if you will be available for Christmas Masses and which one.**

COVID-19 Links for information: <https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19>

Mass Online Link: <https://catholicvoice.org.au/mass-online>

Masks are not yet mandatory but recommended. Please feel free to wear one to Mass if you wish.

Look after each other,
Helen Hart