



2nd SUNDAY OF ADVENT
YEAR B

10 December 2023

LITURGY AND BULLETIN

OPENING PRAYER

*God of power and mercy, open our hearts is welcome.
Remove the things that hinder us from receiving Christ with joy,
so that we may 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 1:1-8

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 of Mark – GPBS 5/12/23

Historical Context – A Baptism of Forgiveness

The understanding that we generally have of baptism today has not always been the case. At the time of John and Jesus, the Jewish tradition used baptism as a ritual bath to cleanse a person who had become ritually unclean and make them able to participate in religious rituals. What John was preaching was a baptism for the forgiveness of sins – a new interpretation at the time. He emphasised that repentance was essential for forgiveness and that there needed to be a conscious returning to God. John's baptism was a symbolic act to signify the willingness of the person to renounce their sins and make a more conscious return to God.

Scriptural context – Mark

The gospel of Mark is sometimes portrayed as a 'no fuss' gospel. Nowhere is this more clearly seen than in this week's passage. We have the first eight verses of the gospel and the author wastes no time in announcing the purpose, 'The beginning of the Good News about Jesus Christ, the Son of God.' The gospel of Mark does not give any infancy narrative or genealogy like Matthew or Luke, nor a theological foreword like John. It jumps straight in with a declaration that Jesus is the Son of God and almost immediately begins to explore his ministry.

Gospel Focus – Preparing the Way

The gospel passage quotes the prophet Isaiah (although text combines Malachi 3:1; Isaiah 40:3; and Exodus 23:20) and casts John the Baptist in the role of fulfilling the prophecy of the voice that cries in the wilderness, 'Prepare a way for the Lord'. The description of John in camel-skin and eating locusts and wild honey is designed to align him with Elijah, the great prophet of Jewish history. In a very short and sharp passage the gospel ties the coming of Jesus to the expectation of a messiah that has run through Jewish history and been foretold by the great prophets.

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

We pray for world leaders. On this United Nations Day of Human Rights, may they pledge to respect the God-given dignity of all human beings and uphold their fundamental rights. (Pause) Lord, hear us.

We pray for the fragile and diminishing Christian population of the Holy Land. May Christians there remain strong in faith and bear witness before all to the peace of Christ. (Pause) Lord, hear us.

We pray for all who are working to sow seeds of peace in the Middle East, Ukraine, Sudan, Yemen, Myanmar and Afghanistan. May they not lose heart at the immensity of the task. (Pause) Lord, hear us.

We pray for young people pleading for the protection of nature. May the world they will inherit be kept safe from the ravages of global warming. (Pause) Lord, hear us.

We pray for women subjected to domestic violence, especially those who fear for their lives. May they find the refuge and support they need to break free. (Pause) Lord, hear us.

We pray for all who suffer in mind, body or spirit, especially Des Pollard, Dennis Dempsey, Fr. Mick, Tony Riley, Jenny Bodman, those on our prayer list and all who need our prayers. May they

not suffer alone but be assured of the love and care of the whole community. (Pause) Lord, hear us

We pray for the recently deceased, Deb Stinson, Elizabeth Whittaker and Joan Henry . . . and for those whose anniversary of death occurs around this time. May they dwell for ever in God's new heavens and new earth. (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: 9.30am – 3.30pm; Fridays: 9.30am – 12.30pm

Mass: Saturdays at 6.00pm. No weekday Masses for now.

Meditation: Thursdays in Presbytery at 10.30am

Christmas Mass: 24th December at 5pm.

1st Rite of Reconciliation: Saturday evenings before Mass 5.30-5.45pm

Vinnies Christmas Appeal is open. Envelopes are available on pews. Place in 2nd (green) bag.

St Bede's Christmas markets: Sat 16 December from 8am – 1pm. Last chance for that last minute gift. We have had a ham donated for the Dec raffle, so feel a hamper is now unnecessary.

Parish Christmas get-together: Drinks and Nibbles under the bell 16th December after Mass. Please bring a plate to share and BYO drinks. Tea/coffee supplied.

Braidwood Community Christmas Party and Shopping Night Thursday 14th Dec from 3-7pm

School events: 7 Dec @ 1.45pm End of Year liturgy in the church; 8 Dec @ 2pm Kinder Nativity in the church; 12 Dec End of Year Presentation Assembly @ 11.45am in National Theatre

Readings for Mass: 1st: Isaiah 40:1-5,9-11. 2nd: 2 Peter 3:8-14. Gospel: Mark 1:1-8.

Next week: 1st: Isaiah 61:1-2,10-11. 2nd: 1 Thes. 5:16-24. Gospel: John 1:6-8,19-28.

Radio Church: Sundays at 6pm

Take care of each other, Helen Hart

Ministries for our Mass:	9 Dec	16 Dec	23 Dec	24 Dec 5pm	30 Dec
Welcomer:	Geraldine	Helen P	Cathy F	Helen P	Geraldine
Acolyte:	Felix (when available)				
Reader 1:	Tommy	Germaine	Ann T	Michael	Cathy
Reader 2:	Bobbie	Wendy M-B	Wendy H	Germaine	Michael
Ministries of service:	8 Dec	15 Dec	24 Dec	29 Dec	
Altar Decorating:	Cathy F	Joy	All please	Cathy F	
Cleaning:	Bunny & Ella		Pauline & Bobbie		
Counters:	1 st Sunday: Pauline & Bobbie. 3 rd Sunday: Brenda		2 nd : Sunday: Wendy H 4 th : Phil Owen		5 th Helen Bopping
Please advise if you are unable to fulfil your roster or get a substitute from the list on the reverse side of the roster, so alternative arrangements may be made.					

The Parish of St Bede's Braidwood acknowledges the Yuin people, the Traditional Custodians who have walked upon and cared for this land for many thousands of years. We pay our respects to Elders past, present and future.