



**3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
YEAR B
13 December 2020
Liturgy and Bulletin**



OPENING PRAYER

*Lord God,
May we, your people,
who look forward to the birthday of Christ
experience the joy of salvation.
Amen.*

FIRST READING: A reading from the prophet Isaiah

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me,
for the Lord has anointed me.
He has sent me to bring good news to the poor,
to bind up hearts that are broken;
to proclaim liberty to captives,
freedom to those in prison;
to proclaim a year of favour from the Lord.
'I exult for joy in the Lord,
my soul rejoices in my God,
for he has clothed me in the garments of salvation,
he has wrapped me in the cloak of integrity,
like a bridegroom wearing his wreath,
like a bride adorned in her jewels.
'For as the earth makes fresh things grow,
as a garden makes seeds spring up,
so will the Lord make both integrity and praise
spring up in the sight of the nations.'

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

Response: My soul rejoices in my God.

1. My soul glorifies the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God, my Saviour.
He looks on his servant in her nothingness;
henceforth all ages will call me blessed. (R.)

2. The Almighty works marvels for me.
Holy his name!
His mercy is from age to age,
on those who fear him. (R.)

3. He fills the starving with good things,
sends the rich away empty.
He protects Israel, his servant,
remembering his mercy. (R.)

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

Be happy at all times; pray constantly; and for all things give thanks to God, because this is what God expects you to do in Christ Jesus.

Never try to suppress the Spirit or treat the gift of prophecy with contempt; think before you do anything – hold on to what is good and avoid every form of evil.

May the God of peace make you perfect and holy; and may you all be kept safe and blameless, spirit, soul and body, for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. God has called you and he will not fail you.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me;
he sent me to bring Good News to the poor.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL: A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

A man came, sent by God.

His name was John.

He came as a witness,
as a witness to speak for the light,
so that everyone might believe through him.

He was not the light,
only a witness to speak for the light.

This is how John appeared as a witness. When the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' he not only declared, but he declared quite openly, 'I am not the Christ.' 'Well then,' they asked, 'are you Elijah?' 'I am not,' he said. 'Are you the Prophet?' He answered, 'No.' So they said to him, 'Who are you? We must take back an answer to those who sent us. What have you to say about yourself?' So John said, 'I am, as Isaiah prophesied:

a voice that cries in the wilderness:

Make a straight way for the Lord.'

Now these men had been sent by the Pharisees, and they put this further question to him, 'Why are you baptising if you are not the Christ, and not Elijah, and not the prophet?' John replied, 'I baptise with water; but there stands among you – unknown to you – the one who is coming after me; and I am not fit to undo his sandal-strap.' This happened at Bethany, on the far side of the Jordan, where John was baptising.



Reflection on the Gospel

Our common understanding of the word 'witness' tends to be related to legal situations: providing a witness statement or acting as a witness to a fact in court. The use of witness in this gospel carries a different connotation: to provide witness through action and lifestyle that draws others to wonder about and perhaps come to accept the motivating belief. It is this understanding of witness that all Christians are called to provide. We are called to witness to our beliefs in the way that we live our lives, engage with others and hold to certain truths. Of course, there are some Christians who believe that their witness needs to be more obvious and more clearly stated. They feel that providing witness, or testimony, to their faith through spoken proclamation has a greater potential

to change lives. Whether we choose to witness through our words or through our actions it is essential that both words and actions have integrity; that there is no clash between what we proclaim and the way we live. Greg Sunter

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Reader: May our Australian government show respect and justice for refugees in our detention centres, especially the family on Christmas Island.

(pause) In faith we pray:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: For all the members of our community, that we may make a straight way for the Lord.

(pause) In faith we pray:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: For all families, that they may be reunited this Christmas. (pause)

In faith we pray:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: For the sick and suffering that they experience the support and love of their friends, especially

Norah Bradley, Don Raper, Felicity McNamara, Rupert Ermert, Ann McDougall, Val Biggers, Celia Roach, Cilla Ryan, and Mark Sissian. (pause) In faith we pray:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: For those who have died recently, including

Tom Richardson, Ida Feld, Frank Stephens and our own deceased relatives and friends (pause) In faith we pray:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

CONCLUDING PRAYER

*God of mercy, we implore your blessing
as we prepare for the birthday of our Saviour
who is Lord for ever and ever.
Amen.*

Hello St Bede's Parishioners,

Mass last Saturday evening was attended by 46 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 and distancing is now 2 square metres inside the church (which won't make much difference in our church as we stretched the 4sq metre a bit to start with).

Weekday Masses: Tuesday 15 Dec and Thursday 17 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 7th February 2021 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.

Reconciliation this year will take place within Mass on Saturday night 19 December – as an extended penitential Rite at the beginning of the December 19 Mass. Please come along if you can.

Markets in Ryrie Park: 8am - 2pm next Saturday.

We have missed our markets so let us support them as well as we can.

Produce; Crafts; Plants; Antiques & Collectibles; Trash & Treasure;

Monthly wood Raffle; Donations of cooking etc gratefully accepted.

Enquiries: Geraldine 4847 5061 AH.



Once again we thank Geraldine, Elizabeth and Robert for the generous giving of their time to facilitating the markets. We have a new person to co-ordinate the stallholders but we need volunteers to run the raffles – wood and otherwise. Please speak to Laurie or Cathy Ffrench if you can help.

Father Praveen has been appointed to Kambah Parish, commencing 1 January 2021. His last Mass will be on Boxing Day. His replacement here has not yet been advised.

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.

Next week's Readings: 4th Advent: 1st: 2 Sam. 7:1-5,8-12,14,16. 2nd: Romans 16:25-27 Gospel: Luke 1:26-38.

Ministry Rosters for Restrictive Masses

Date	Acolyte	Welcomer	Readers	PowerPoint
12 Dec	Felix	Helen P	Helen B/Germaine	Helen H
19 Dec	James	Cathy F	Trish/Ann	Helen H
24 Dec 5pm	Felix	Cathy F	Wendy H/G Hannaford	Helen H
24 Dec 7pm	James	Geraldine	Rod/Mia	Geoff Pollard

Please let me know as soon as possible if you won't be attending, **especially the Christmas Masses** so other arrangements can be made.

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