



3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
YEAR A

11 December 2022

LITURGY AND BULLETIN



OPENING PRAYER

Lord God,
may we, your people,
who look forward to the birthday of Christ
experience the joy of salvation
and celebrate that feast with love and thanksgiving.
Amen.

FIRST READING: A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Let the wilderness and the dry-lands exult,
let the wasteland rejoice and bloom,
let it bring forth flowers like the jonquil,
let it rejoice and sing for joy.

The glory of Lebanon is bestowed on it,
the splendour of Carmel and Sharon;
they shall see the glory of the Lord,
the splendour of our God.

Strengthen all weary hands,
steady all trembling knees
and say to all faint hearts,
'Courage! Do not be afraid.
'Look, your God is coming,
vengeance is coming,
the retribution of God;
he is coming to save you.'

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
the ears of the deaf unsealed,
then the lame shall leap like a deer
and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy,
for those the Lord has ransomed shall return.
They will come to Zion shouting for joy,
everlasting joy on their faces;
joy and gladness will go with them
and sorrow and lament be ended.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

Response: Lord, come and save us.

1. It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever,
who is just to those who are oppressed.
It is he who gives bread to the hungry,

the Lord, who sets prisoners free. (R.)

2. It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind,
who raises up those who are bowed down,
the Lord, who protects the stranger
and upholds the widow and orphan. (R.)

3. It is the Lord who loves the just
but thwarts the path of the wicked.
The Lord will reign for ever,
Zion's God, from age to age. (R.)

SECOND READING: A reading from the letter of St James

Be patient, brothers and sisters, until the Lord's coming. Think of a farmer: how patiently he waits for the precious fruit of the ground until it has had the autumn rains and the spring rains! You too have to be patient; do not lose heart, because the Lord's coming will be soon. Do not make complaints against one another, brothers and sisters, so as not to be brought to judgement yourselves; the Judge is already to be seen waiting at the gates. For your example, brothers and sisters, in submitting with patience, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

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

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 11:2-11

John in his prison had heard what Christ was doing and he sent his disciples to ask him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or have we got to wait for someone else?' Jesus answered, 'Go back and tell John what you hear and see; the blind see again, and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised to life and the Good News is proclaimed to the poor; and happy is the man who does not lose faith in me.'

As the messengers were leaving, Jesus began to talk to the people about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swaying in the breeze? No? Then what did you go out to see? A man wearing fine clothes? Oh no, those who wear fine clothes are to be found in palaces. Then what did you go out for? To see a prophet? Yes, I tell you, and much more than a prophet: he is the one of whom scripture says: Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way before you. I tell you solemnly, of all the children born of women, a greater than John the Baptist has never been seen; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he is.'



Reflection on the Gospel of Matthew 11:2-11 by Greg Sunter

Why would John the Baptist send messengers to question Jesus? We recall from last week's gospel passage that John had a somewhat 'fire and brimstone' perception of what Jesus would be like. Perhaps as he sat in his prison cell John began to wonder whether Jesus was indeed the Messiah that John believed him to be. Perhaps the question was not for himself but rather for his

disciples that he sent to Jesus. Given the answer that Jesus provided them, perhaps John's intention was for the disciples to recognise that Jesus was in fact the one that John had proclaimed and that the disciples should switch their allegiance to Jesus. John probably guessed that he would not be leaving that prison alive and may have been leading his disciples to the next step in their discipleship by having them go and scrutinise Jesus.

The indirect answer that Jesus provides to the query would have not sounded like such a roundabout response as it does to us. The picture Jesus describes of the blind seeing, the lame walking, lepers cleansed, and the deaf hearing would have been very familiar to those who were listening and the first audience of this gospel. These were signs of the coming of the Messiah that had been foretold by the prophets. In his answer, Jesus effectively says, 'Well, all the things that are supposed to happen when the Messiah comes are happening now with me. There's your answer!'

The reading continues to build on the Advent themes of anticipation, preparedness and hope. As we draw closer to the celebration of the Nativity, in this reading is confirmation that our hope is not misplaced. Today's readings emphasise the joy that lies in the anticipation and expectation of what is coming.

The third Sunday of Advent was traditionally known as Gaudete Sunday. The word, gaudete, (pronounced gow-day-tay) is from Latin and means *Rejoice!* The name was given to this Sunday because the entrance antiphon for the day is: 'Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice! The Lord is near.' When Advent was observed as a more penitential season, this third Sunday was a break from the sombre mood and was more celebratory. The rose-coloured candle in the Advent wreath and rose-coloured vestments convey a mood of joy and celebration.

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

For Pope Francis, that as Christmas approaches his appeal for a new human family of true sisters and brothers will be taken to heart. (Pause) Let us pray to the Lord.

For prisoners of conscience and all who are unjustly detained, that they will not lose hope in the promise of justice and freedom. (Pause) Let us pray to the Lord.

For all who languish in refugee camps around the world, especially children who have known no other life, that their basic needs for food, shelter, safety and sanitation will be met. (Pause) Let us pray to the Lord.

For the many people in the Northern Hemisphere facing a harsh winter with limited power supplies, that ways will be found to alleviate their suffering. (Pause) Let us pray to the Lord.

For a Spirit-renewed church, that the voices of women and young people will be heard, respected and acted on. (Pause) Let us pray to the Lord.

For workers in industries under pressure from climate change, that they and their families and communities will be well assisted in moving to new employment. (Pause) Let us pray to the Lord.

We pray for all who suffer in mind, body or spirit, especially Michael Crosby, Ann McDougall, Ross Lawless, Val Biggers, those on our prayer list and all who need our prayers; that they will be cared for by loving family, friends and community. (Pause) Let us pray to the Lord.

For the recently deceased, Gordon Shorrocks, Darcy Stewart . . . and for those whose anniversary of death occurs around this time, that they will be raised to eternal life in Christ Jesus. (Pause) Let us pray to the Lord.

CONCLUDING PRAYER

God of mercy,
free us from our sins,
and prepare us for the birthday of our Saviour
who is Lord for ever and ever.
Amen.

PARISH ADMINISTRATOR: Father Mick Burke

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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

Communal Rite of Reconciliation on Saturday 17th December at 6.45pm

Weekday Mass: Tuesday at 10am End of year Mass for St Bede's school.

Meditation: Thursdays at 10.30am in the Presbytery.

Social Justice Group: now Wednesdays. Next is 1 February 2023 at 9.30am, at the Presbytery

Christmas Mass: 5.30pm on 24th December

Araluen: First Friday Stations of the Cross at 3.00pm. All welcome.

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 on Saturday 17th December commencing at 5.45pm.

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 😊

Markets in Ryrie Park: 9am - 1pm Saturday 17 December. This is a great place to find that last minute Christmas gift. Produce; Crafts; Plants; Antiques & Collectibles; Trash & Treasure; Monthly Raffle – this month the raffle prize is a hamper of goodies. Donations of cooking etc gratefully accepted at the Parish table. Enquiries to Cathy Ffrench on 0418 262 011
Email: braidwoodmarkets@yahoo.com

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

		<p>Archdiocesan Appeal for Ukraine: Supporting the work of Mudra Sprava, a Patriarchal Charitable Foundation in Ukraine. Their three focus areas: Evacuation of people from frontline territories; Food packages and Shelter. Scan the code to donate or give in cash as a retiring donation.</p>
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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 35:1-6,10. 2nd: James 5:7-10 Gospel: Matt. 11:2-11.

Readings for next week: 1st: Isaiah 7:10-14. 2nd: Romans 1:1-7. Gospel: Matt. 1:18-24.

Ministry Rosters for our Masses

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

Ministries of service:	<u>16 Dec</u>	<u>23 Dec</u>	<u>30 Dec</u>	<u>6 Jan</u>
Altar Decorating:	Cathy	All please	Joy	Margaret
Cleaning:		Bronnie & Felix		Sarah & Helen P

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

Please advise if you are unable to fulfil your **Christmas 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.

Brother Brian will be taking his annual vacation from 2 January; a well-deserved rest.

There won't be any weekday Masses from Christmas until school resumes in February 2023 (a bit of a break for Father Mick)

Take care of each other,

Helen Hart

