



Gospel Mt 3:1-12

Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.

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 by Fr Michael Tate

John proclaimed that the reign of God was 'at hand' as he immersed and plunged followers into the waters of the Jordan River. (His nickname was John the Immerser, or 'baptiser' in the Greek.) He used flowing water to symbolise the washing away of the past for those who repented so that they could be totally focused on the 'at hand' person who would inaugurate God's kingdom.

In this passage, John does not identify the 'Someone'! But he realised that this 'Someone' would have divine power to affect the future by immersing, baptising, his followers with the Holy Spirit and with fire.


At this stage of Advent, we should be like John's disciples, filled with a sense of anticipation, looking forward to the *coming towards us* ('Advent' in Latin) of the One who can flood our minds and bodies with the Holy Spirit and can immerse our hearts in Divine Fire.

We could pause for a moment to thank God that, even though we are unworthy to carry His sandals, there is One who is coming towards us wanting to transform us with Divine Power.

mtate@bigpond.com

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**JUBILEE 2025
PILGRIMS OF HOPE**

St Patrick's Parish Cooma

St Columbkille's Parish Jindabyne



Second Sunday of Advent, Year A

7 December 2025

First Reading Is 11:1-10

He judges the poor with justice.

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

Ps 71:1-2. 7-8. 12-13. 17. R. cf. v.7

(R.) Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace for ever.

- 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.)

- 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.)
- 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.)
- 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 Rom 15:4-9

Christ, the hope of all people.

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 Lk 3:4, 6

Alleluia, alleluia!

Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths:


all people shall see the salvation of God.

Alleluia!

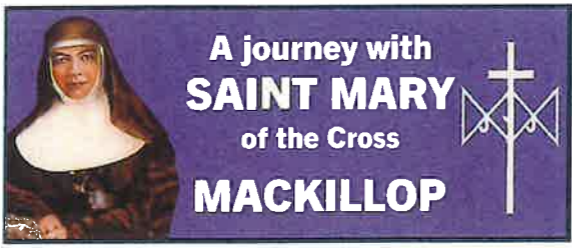
PARISH CONTACTS

PARISH PRIEST
 Father Mark Croker
 0428 190 759
02 6452 2062
Sacramental Program
 Father Mark Croker
 0428 190 759
PARISH WEBSITE
www.cg.org.au/cooma
Parish Secretary
 Mrs Sharon Nesbitt
 02 6452 2062
 Mon, Wed & Thu
 9am -1pm & 2pm - 4.30pm
 Email: cooma@cg.org.au
ST PATRICKS SCHOOL
 02 6452 1721
School Principal
 Dr Mangan
 School Website:
www.stpatscooma.nsw.edu.au
PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL
 Darren 0429 904 291
WEEKEND MASS & LW&HC TIMES
Adaminaby
 No Mass until further notice
Berridale
 2nd & 4th Sunday
 Vigil Mass Saturday 3.30pm
 All other Sundays
 LW&HC 10am Sunday
Cooma
 Mass Sunday 10am
 Mass Tue, Thu & Fri 10am
Except 3rd Friday
 Mass Yallambee Lodge 9.30am
 Mass Hudson House Respect 11am
Jindabyne
 Vigil Mass Saturday 5pm
 Except 5th Sunday
 LW&HC 5pm Saturday
Nimmitabel
 5th Sunday
 Vigil Mass Saturday 5pm
 All other Sundays
 LW&HC 5pm Saturday
Numeralla
 2nd Sunday LW&HC 5pm
 4th Sunday Mass 5pm

PRAYER INTENTIONS

POPES INTENTION DECEMBER
For Christians in areas of conflict

 We pray that Christians living in areas of war or conflict, especially in the Middle East, might be seeds of peace, reconciliation and hope.

*** That all who encounter difficult conditions at work will be rewarded for their perseverance.**
*** That our parish community will bear witness to the Word of God and the coming of Christ.**
*** For rural dioceses and country parishes, including our own, that they may be strengthened by the Holy Spirit, finding creative ways to build a vibrant community and proclaim the Gospel with renewed faith and hope.**




Only what you will, my God. (1.12.1898)
First Mass celebrated in Mary MacKillop Memorial Chapel, North Sydney 8.12.1913

Cooma Christmas Roster Form is available in the Church Entrance
 Volunteers are invited to complete availability for Services, Thank you, all welcome.

FREE - 3 drawer Filing Cabinets available x 2 FREE. Fire proof Safe- Free
 please see Sharon at Parish Office

Please welcome Nicholas Barry into our Parish community, Nicholas joins Fr Mark as 2nd year seminarian for a month, Nicholas is from Seminary of the Good Shepherd.



PARISH CALENDAR

Week 8 December 2025
MON The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
TUE 10am Mass
WED Bombala Parish 12.30 Mass
St Francis Xavier, priest
THU 10am Mass
FRI 10am Mass
2nd Sunday of Advent
1st Sunday of the Month
SAT 5pm Jindabyne Mass
 5pm Nimmitabel LWHC
SUN 10am Cooma Mass
 10am Berridale LWHC

REMEMBERING THEIR FAITH AND LOVE

Recently Deceased
 Marjorie Avery 92 yrs
 sister of Fr Hilton Roberts;
 Joseph Chandy, Leo Upton,
 Christine Schatzle, Joanne Dodd.


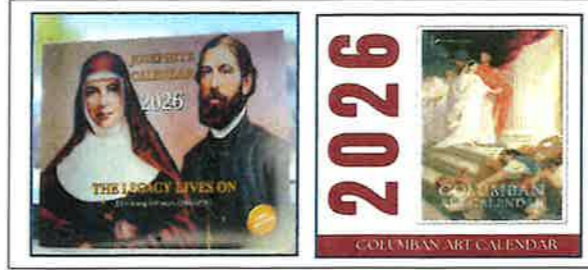
Anniversaries & Intentions
 Danny Nassar, June Kennedy
 Kay Dennis

Please place loved ones in the Holy Souls book placed on the Altar during November

"We have loved them in Life:

Cooma Christmas Roster Form is available in the Church Entrance
 Volunteers are invited to complete availability for Services, Thank you, all welcome.

Please welcome Nicholas Barry into our Parish community, Nicholas joins Fr Mark as 2nd year seminarian for a month, Nicholas is from Seminary of the Good Shepherd.

JOSEPHITE CALENDAR 2026: The Josephite Calendar contains many inspirational quotes from Saint Mary MacKillop and Father Julian Tenison Woods and features many beautiful images, major church feasts and Sundays of the Liturgical Year, public holidays and school term dates. A great gift idea to family and friends!
 Also, **COLUMBAN CALENDAR** available \$10 each

Prayer of the Faithful

Response: (R)
Lord, hear our prayer

PRIEST: As Christmas approaches and our fragile and broken world appears no nearer to that peace which the Christ Child proclaims, let us pray that God's gift will become real in our world, our nation and ourselves.

COMMENTATOR:
 * We pray for the Church, that its proclamation of the Gospel of Christ will continue to prepare our world for the peace and justice of God's kingdom. (pause)

Lord hear us

*We pray for world leaders, that they be endowed with the wisdom to see the need for all nations to live in peace. (pause)

Lord hear us

*We pray for our church that it will recognise and encourage modern prophets as they follow in the footsteps of John the Baptist and call all to repentance and renewal. (pause)

Lord hear us

*We pray for our parish community with its spirit of goodwill, generosity and service. May our gifts of money, and our outreach to the lonely and suffering in our community, bring a little comfort and joy into the lives of those most in need. (pause)

Lord hear us

*We pray that those who have died, we remember Danny Nassar on his anniversary and all those who were near to us in this life, may they be raised to the eternal life of God's promise. (pause)

Lord hear us
 We pray with Mary, the queen of peace, for peace in our time, especially in Ukraine:....**Hail Mary**

PRIEST: Loving God, from the time of Abraham you have invited your people to trust in you. Hear our prayers as we answer your call to prepare the Way of the Lord and, with all Christians, give united witness to your kingdom among us. We make these prayers through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Christmas Lunch ★
Tickets on sale now. Please see Sharon at the Parish Office - \$30 Adult & \$15 for Children U15
 Includes entertainment.

READING FOR NEXT SUNDAY
THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT-YEAR A

First Reading: Isaiah 35: 1-6, 10
 Second Reading: James: 5: 7-10
 Gospel: Matthew 3: 1-12



CHRISTMAS SERVICES

2ND RITE OF RECONCILIATION

7pm Tuesday 16th December- COOMA

Other Parishes offered after Mass

CHRISTMAS EVE 24 DECEMBER

ST JOSEPH'S BERRIDALE 4PM
 ST JOSEPH'S DELEGATE 4.30PM
 ST PATRICK'S COOMA 6PM
 ST ANDREW'S NIMMITABEL 6PM
 ST MARY'S BOMBALA 6.30PM
 THREDBO CHAPEL- LWHC (Pending Leader)

CHRISTMAS DAY 25 DECEMBER

ST MARY'S ADAMINABY 8AM
 ST PATRICK'S COOMA 10AM
 ST COLUMBKILLE'S JINDABYNE 10AM

Weekend 27 & 28 December 2025

(4th Sunday)
 Berridale 3.30pm Vigil Mass
 Jindabyne 5pm Vigil Mass
 Nimmitabel 5pm LWHC
 Cooma 10am Mass
 Numeralla 5pm Mass

NEW YEARS DAY
 Bombala Mass New Years Eve 9.30am
 Cooma Mass New Years Day 10am