



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!

Gospel Mk 1:1-8

Make straight the paths of the Lord.

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 by Fr Michael Tate

John immersed, baptised, his followers in water, symbolising the washing away of the sins of the past. But he could not empower people by drenching them in the dynamic life of God. John anticipates 'Someone' (not named!) who *does* have the power to inundate, baptise, people with the Holy Spirit.

From the heading of St Mark's Gospel, we know that that 'Someone' is 'Jesus Christ, Son of God' who came to flood our lives with that Divine Power which can effect a completely new *future* for humanity.

That is why St Mark took the term 'gospel' (good news) which was used on inscriptions announcing an Emperor's birth or victory, and used it to describe his inspired rendering of the mission of Jesus Christ, which was to inaugurate the 'Kingdom of God', overcoming the pretensions of all Emperors of any kind throughout history.

We could pause for a moment to thank God for the Good News of our being baptised with *water* in the 'Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.'

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The Living Word

Second Sunday of Advent, Year B

10 December 2023

First Reading Is 40:1-5. 9-11

Prepare the way for the Lord.

'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,

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

Ps 84:9-14. R. v.8

(R.) *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 2 Pt 3:8-14

We wait for new heavens and a new earth.

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.



St Anthony of Padua Church

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Weekend Masses: Saturday Vigil: 5.00pm Sunday: 9.00am

Weekdays: Tuesday to Friday 9.00am

Reconciliation: Saturday 4.00pm to 4.30pm or by appointment



2nd Sunday of Advent

10 December 2023



CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Christmas Eve Sunday 24 December Carols 6.30pm

Mass 7.00pm

Christmas Day Monday 25 December Mass 9.00am

Please note that our usual weekend Masses will be celebrated on
Saturday 23 December 5.00pm and
Sunday morning 24 December 9.00am.

Reconciliation 7pm to 8pm on Tues. 19 Dec. as well as the usual 4pm Sat.
Advent and Lent are ideal times to receive the Sacrament of Penance.

Symbolism of the Advent Wreath

The candles and the light remind us of the light Jesus brought into our world.
The waiting for all the candles to be lit symbolizes the long years of waiting for
the Savior. The greenery suggests life, growth and hope.

PARISH MEETING

Thanks to all those who attended the parish meeting last Sunday.

It's good for us all to spend time sharing ideas and concerns.

Your support is really appreciated.

Entrance Antiphon: O people of Sion, behold, the Lord will come to save the nations, and the Lord will make the glory of his voice heard in the joy of your heart.
Communion Antiphon: Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the heights, and behold the joy which comes to you from God.

Jesus is the Reason for the Season
Let's Keep Christ in Christmas

Musicians/singers are needed at our weekend masses and for Christmas.
If you are blessed with such a gift, come and share it to give praise to God.

Charitable Works Fund

Your donation supports vital works such as our Seminary, hospital and prison chaplaincies, CatholicCare, support and training of catechists etc

Donations made through the special envelopes are 100% tax deductible.

Catholic Weekly is available at church entrances.

Find out what is happening in the Catholic Church around the world.

CHRISTMAS AT THE CATHEDRAL

Starting this Thursday 14 December and running right up until Christmas Day, this year's theme will focus on *The Twelve Days of Christmas* marking *twelvetide*, the festive Christian season celebrating the Birth of Jesus. Every evening, festivities will commence at 5.30pm with dinner options, stage performances, face painting, and gift stalls underneath more than 600 fairy lights, before the illumination of the Cathedral at 8.30pm.

The Cathedral will also be open each night to the public until the extended time of 10pm, with traditional Christmas displays, including a holy nativity scene, towering real Christmas tree and displays explaining the true Christian teachings and origins of the twelve days of Christmas. For more information visit christmasatthecathedral.org.au

READERS NEXT WEEKEND: S Davies, S Bell, N Whittaker; A MacNally, S Cannons.

Covid-19 is still around.

Please use sanitiser when you enter our church.

Please remember in your prayers:

Recently deceased: Jeong Wook Park, Shirley Love, Monica McAuliffe, David McKenzie, Charlie Farrugia, Nola Dooley (né Vaughan), Gaye Zammit, Janice Peterson

Anniversary: All the Faithful Departed, John Burke, Jim Taylor

A message from the Archdiocese of Sydney: Child sexual abuse is a crime. The appropriate people to deal with crimes are the police. If you, or anyone you know, has been abused, please contact the police. Alternatively, you can contact the Safeguarding & Ministerial Integrity Office at (02) 9390 5810 or safeguardingenquiries@sydneycatholic.org You may also want to speak to your Parish Priest who will be able to provide support & guidance. The Archdiocese has a legal obligation to report crimes to the police.