

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

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 who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to kneel down and undo the strap of Spirit.’

The Gospel of the Lord

VOLUNTEERS FOR CHRISTMAS MASSES ROSTER

We are seeking Liturgy Volunteers for the Christmas. If you are interested to take the roles, please write your name on the Christmas Roster, which is posted on the door of the Eastern entrance. Your support and participation will be very much appreciated.



Christmas
 MASS TIMES
24 December
 Sunday 6:30pm
 Vigil – Family Mass
24 December
 Sunday 11:30pm
 Christmas Carols and
 Midnight Mass
25 December
 Monday 9:30am
 Christmas Mass
 St Joseph's Catholic Church, Tranmere

BACKGROUND ON THE GOSPEL READING

Today's Gospel is taken from the beginning of Mark. Unlike Luke and Matthew, Mark does not include any details of Jesus' birth. Instead Mark begins with the appearance of John the Baptist in the desert. On this the Second Sunday of Advent, we are invited to reflect upon the role of John the Baptist, who prepared the way for Jesus and the salvation that he would bring to us.

Mark's description of the appearance of John the Baptist highlights John's continuity with the Jewish prophetic tradition. Mark combines quotations from the Old Testament books of Malachi, Isaiah, and Exodus. Mark's description of John as an ascetic, living in the desert, clothed in camel hair, and eating locusts and wild honey, is reminiscent of the description of the prophet Elijah found in Second Kings. The people of Judea and Jerusalem flock to him, listening to his message of repentance and forgiveness; they also come to him to be baptized. Mark's Gospel is clear, however, that John the Baptist's role is only to prepare the way for another who will come, one who is greater than John.

Many scholars believe that the Gospels reflect the tension that likely existed between followers of John the Baptist and disciples of Jesus. Each of the four Evangelists report on John's preaching and baptizing, and they each emphasize the importance of Jesus' baptism by John. The four Gospels also explain that John was sent to preach in preparation for another. In the Gospel of Luke, the question is raised as to whether John the Baptist was himself the Messiah. Just as in today's Gospel, however, John speaks quite explicitly that the Messiah was to come after him.

In today's Gospel we hear John the Baptist contrast his baptism of repentance with the baptism that Jesus will inaugurate. John says that he has baptized with water, but that the one who is to come will baptize with the Holy Spirit. John's baptism was not yet a Christian baptism, but a preparation for the Sacrament of Baptism through which sins are forgiven and the gift of the Holy Spirit is received.

John the Baptist is presented to us as a model during Advent. We, too, are called upon to prepare a way for the Lord. Like John the Baptist, we are messengers in service to one who is greater than we are. Our Baptism commissions us to call others to life as disciples of Jesus.

WORKING BEES - SAT, 16 DEC, 9AM

To have our church and surrounds looking good for Christmas, your help is needed to skim weeds on asphalt; sweep/blow leaf litter in car park and on kerbs/paths/steps and put into bin. Also to trim bushes on the edge of car parks. Some barrows and brooms available. Bringing your own equipment would be helpful.



Parish Bulletin

Second Sunday of Advent, Year B 9/10 Dec 2023

Make straight the paths of the Lord



PREPARE A WAY FOR THE LORD.

Engulfed by many chores in the lead-up to Christmas, we can fail to hear a voice that cries in the wilderness: prepare a way for the Lord. Let us resolve to include some time to pray, to reflect on the Gospel stories of Jesus' birth, and to seek reconciliation with God and others, in our Christmas preparations.

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

cf. Isa 30:19,30

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.

BLESSING OF CRIBS & DECORATING THE CHRISTMAS TREE

On the 3rd Sunday of Advent, Dec 17, we can bring our family Nativity sets to church and arrange them along the altar rails to be blessed. On the same day, all children are invited to put the ornaments on the sanctuary Christmas tree, a time of excitement and enjoyment for all of us.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING

Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11

‘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.

The word of the Lord

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalms 84:9-14

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

2 Peter 3:8-14

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.

The word of the Lord.

St Joseph's Catholic Church
484 Magill Rd, Kensington Gardens
SOUTH AUSTRALIA 5068

Parish Priest

Fr Roy John Elavumkal SMM
parishpriest@stjosephsparish
tranmere.org.au

Parish Secretary

Pat Kwok – Tue to Fri

Planned Giving Coordinator

Helen Mysak – Monday

WHS Officer

Angela Girolamo – Thursday

Sacristan

Sundays: Terence Yeow
& Roger Worth

Parish Office Hours

Mon to Fri 9:30am – 12:30pm
Ph: (08) 8431 6932
info@stjosephsparishtranmere.org.au

Mass Times

Sunday 9:30 am
Saturday Vigil Mass 6:30 pm
Tuesday to Friday 9:15 am

Confessions

Saturday 6:00 pm

Rosary

Tues to Fri 8:45am

Adoration of the Eucharist

Friday before Mass 8:30am

Novena to St. Joseph

Wednesday after Mass

St. Joseph's Primary School

Principal - Adrian Grbin
Ph: 8431 2834

Knights of the Southern Cross

Michael Boyle Ph: 8337 3270

Parish Pastoral Council

Chair – Alan Tyson

Parish Finance Council

Chair -Edward Konieczny

Child Safe Contact Person

Anne Dudzinski Ph: 0418 847 804

Vinnies Assistance Hotline

1300 729 202 - 9:00am to 4:30pm

Rosters—16-17 Dec 2023 3rd Week Advent	
Time	Commentator/Readers
6.30pm Vigil	Jim Litchfield Fil Ciancio Bronwyn Gleeson
9:30am	Stephanie Roach Antonetta Bartley Mikayla Bartley
Children's Liturgy	Anne Dudzinski Angela Mealey
Count team	Paul Halliwell Paul Roocke Danielle Roocke Denise Rutt
Altar and Flowers	Dolores Arboit Christina Wong Sarita Ingham and volunteers

SUNDAY COLLECTION SUMMARY	2-3 Dec 2023
Planned Giving	\$503.00
Open Plate	\$552.00
PARISH TOTAL	\$1055.00

This week's contribution to the Diocesan Presbytery Fund : \$578.00

VINNIES CHRISTMAS APPEAL
By supporting the St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal you will assist at a local level directly to families and individuals in dire need and facing poverty. At a broader level, you will be contributing to the large and varied network of short and long term support services for people who need specialised care. TO DONATE; On each pew there are Vinnies Envelopes. Please return it to the Poor Boxes at each entrance or by Post. Donations of \$2 or more are tax deductible.

CHRISTMAS HAMPERS
We invite parishioners to donate items for hampers in the coming weeks up to Wednesday 13 December. Members will be packing 50 hampers on Thursday 14 and Friday 15 and distributing them to those in need on Saturday morning 16 December. Suggestions for suitable items are on a notice at each door. Unfortunately, no home-made goods can be accepted (OHSW) nor can chocolate (it melts), please leave your donated items in shopping bags at the main entrance..



Please remember in your prayers
We pray for those listed and all the deceased relatives and friends of our Parishioners.

For the Repose of the Soul:
Brian Nightingale

Death Anniversary:
Eternal rest grant to them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them; present them to God the Most High.

Sick:
We pray for the sick and housebound of our Parish and our relatives and friends who are unwell.

If you know of sick or elderly parishioners who are house-bound or in care and would appreciate a visit, please phone and leave a message with the parish office.

WELCOME
Camilla CAPALDO
To God's family through Baptism
on 10 December 2023

Pope Francis @pontifex
God chose poverty when He took on our human condition. We too are called to return to what is essential in our lives, to discard all that is superfluous and can become an obstacle on the path to holiness.

ADVENT WEEK 2: THE CANDLE OF PEACE

Fr. Roy John Elavumkal SMM



I AFFIRM THE PEACE OF GOD AS MY WELCOMED COMPANION

What Is the Candle of Peace for the Second Week of Advent? One of the hallmarks of the Christmas story is when the angels appear to the shepherds and proclaim, "Peace on earth," in Luke 2:14. Jesus brought about peace, in the most unexpected ways, when he arrived. The Jews, particularly the zealots, wanted a rebellion. They wanted their Saviour to overturn the oppressive rule of the Romans and bring about peace in a violent way.

The peace of God allows us to look at others through heaven's eyes and help guide the world to see God's here and not-yet here kingdom. Peace from God, biblical peace, allows us to trust in God's promises (Proverbs 3:5), through restful, tranquil faith, despite the dark, scary world around us. Most renditions of the Christmas story begin with the angel Gabriel telling Mary she is to bear a son.

But in the Gospel of Luke, Jesus' birth story parallels John the Baptist's. Months before visiting Mary, Gabriel appeared to Zechariah to announce that Zechariah's wife, Elizabeth, would bear a son to be named John.

Because he is so old, Zechariah questions whether paternity is possible, like Mary's initial response to her improbable pregnancy. But while Mary's question is answered, Zechariah is chastised for doubting, then struck mute for the duration of his wife's pregnancy.

The situation and the question are the same, but Mary gets encouragement while Zechariah gets silenced. Why? ...

"All manifestations of life originate in the Silence," the Society of Silent Unity wrote in Unity, Vol. 17 (Unity Tract Society, 1902). "The thoughts that rise in you and come to the surface in deed and act, are they not from the Silence?" ...

Muting the perpetual cycle of thought is a gift that brings greater peace. For Zechariah, muteness was imposed. We are called to mute our own thoughts ... With quiet minds and open hearts, we find rest in the peace that surpasses all understanding.

It's why I've come to believe Zechariah's muteness was not a punishment but a gift. It's a gift we are all invited to give as well as receive.

MORNING TEA
10 Dec 2023 after Sunday Mass
Please come and join us!

CWL CHRISTMAS RAFFLE
The Catholic Women's League is running a Christmas Raffle on 10 Dec during the Morning Tea after the Sunday Mass. Tickets are \$1 each on sale at both Masses on 9/10 December. Proceeds will go to Vinnies. We look forward to your generous support.

The Kids' Bulletin

Second Sunday of Advent
December 10th, 2023

I am the voice of one crying out in the desert, "Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths!"

What did God send before Jesus to prepare the people for His coming? Connect the dots to find out!

Prepare the Way of the Lord!

The readings in today's Mass remind us that we are preparing for the coming of Jesus. The first reading says, "A voice cries out in the desert, 'Prepare the way of the Lord!'" Saint Paul, in the second reading, tells us to conduct ourselves in holiness and devotion, waiting for the day of the Lord.

In the Gospel reading we hear about Saint John the Baptist preparing the people for the coming of Christ. *YOU'RE BEING SUCH A GOOD HELPER!*

What can we do to prepare for the coming of Jesus, which we remember especially at Christmas?

First, we should try to be holy like Saint Paul says. We should pray and do good. Then, we should make sure that we have repented of all our sins, like Saint John the Baptist taught the people. Finally, we should tell people about Jesus! The first reading tells us, "Fear not to cry out and say to the cities of Judah: Here is your God!"