

Alleluia, alleluia!

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

GOSPEL John: 1:6-8,19-28

'There stands among you the one coming after me'

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.

The Gospel of the Lord.

BACKGROUND ON THE GOSPEL READING

This Sunday's Gospel invites us to continue our reflection on the person and mission of John the Baptist. Today we depart from the Gospel of Mark and read a selection from the Gospel of John.

The Gospel for today combines a brief passage from the prologue to John's Gospel with a report about John the Baptist. As in Mark's Gospel, the Gospel of John contains no birth narrative. Instead, John's Gospel begins with a theological reflection that has come to be called the "prologue." This prologue places the story of Jesus in its cosmological framework. It speaks of Jesus' existence with God since the beginning of time. In John's Gospel, Jesus is presented as the fulfillment of the Old Testament and the culmination of the Word, the light that is coming into the world's darkness.

Following this prologue, John reports on the ministry of John the Baptist. We learn about the attention that John the Baptist received from the Jewish authorities. Messengers from the Jewish priests, the Levites and the Pharisees question John about his identity and the meaning of the baptisms that he is performing. John's Gospel uses these questions to establish the relationship between Jesus and John the Baptist. John the Baptist is not the Messiah, nor is he Elijah or the Prophet. In John's denials, we hear echoes of the kind of messianic expectations that were common in first-century Palestine.

The only affirmative response that John the Baptist gives is when he quotes the prophet Isaiah. Upon answering the next question, John announces that the savior they seek is already among them, but as yet unrecognized. John's response highlights for us an important Advent theme: Jesus has already come into the world as our savior. During Advent, we pray that we will be able to recognize Jesus' presence in our midst. Advent also reminds us that Jesus will come again to fulfill the promise of salvation. We pray that we will continue to be watchful as we anticipate that great day.

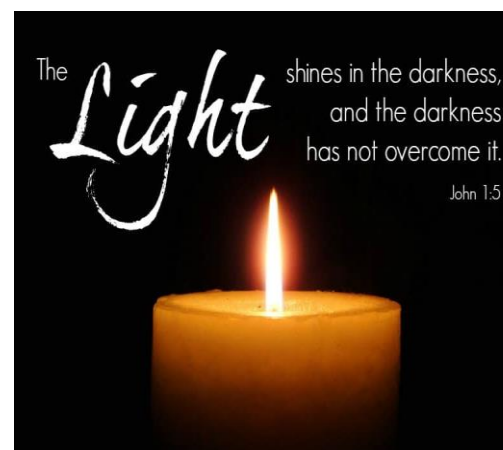
The third Sunday of Advent is also called *Gaudete Sunday*. *Gaudete*, a Latin word which means "rejoice," is taken from the entrance antiphon for Sunday's Mass. This theme is echoed in today's second reading from the first Letter to the Thessalonians. It is a reminder that Advent is a season of joy because our salvation is already at hand.



Parish Bulletin

Third Sunday of Advent, Year B

16/17 Dec 2023



REJOICING IN GOD OUR SAVIOUR.

Christmas is a feast of joy and light. We celebrate God who comes to dwell among us and save us. With the prophet Isaiah, we exult for joy in the Lord. With Mary, our spirits rejoice in God our saviour. We do not deny the pain and evil that exist in the world, but we rejoice in the knowledge that nothing can come between us and the love of God made visible in Christ Jesus.

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Phil: 4:4-5

Rejoice in the Lord always; again, I say Rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near.

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.

FIRST READING Is: 61:1-2, 10-11

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.'

The word of the Lord

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 71(72):1-2,12-13,18-19

Response: My soul rejoices in my God

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**

The Almighty works marvels for me.
Holy his name
His mercy is from age to age,
On those who fear him. **R**

He fills the starving with good things,
Sends the rich away empty.
He protects Israel, his servant,
Remembering his mercy. **R**

SECOND READING

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

May you all be kept safe for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ 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.

The word of the Lord

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

ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH
484 Magill Rd, Kensington
Gardens SOUTH AUSTRALIA
5068

Parish Priest
Fr Roy John Elavumkal SMM
Email:
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—23-24 Dec 2023 4 th Week Advent	
Time	Commentator/Readers
6.30pm Vigil	Anne Mary Platten Michelle Page Giulia Giuliani
9:30am	Paul Halliwell Antonetta Bartley Mikayla Bartley
Children's Liturgy	Holidays
Count team	Frank Mazzarolo Sandy Mazzarolo Terry Pickering Christine Holmes
Altar and Flowers	Dolores Arboit Christina Wong Sarita Ingham and volunteers
<i>All those who have volunteered please arrive at least 15 minutes before the start time and report to the commentator for that Mass</i>	

SUNDAY COLLECTION SUMMARY	9-10 Dec 2023
Planned Giving	\$431.00
Open Plate	\$449.00
PARISH TOTAL	\$880.00

This week's contribution to the Diocesan Presbytery Fund : \$596.95

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.



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:

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.



"It is the attitude of the sentinel, who in the night is not tempted by weariness, does not fall asleep, but remains awake awaiting the coming light. The Lord is our light and it is good to dispose the heart to welcome him with prayer and to host him with charity, the two preparations that, so to speak, make him comfortable."
Pope Francis

Catholic charities – Special Appeal on 25 December Christmas
There will be a special third collection for Christmas. The Archbishop of Adelaide's Charity supporting special projects for Aboriginal Catholic ministry in South Australia, Hutt Street Centre, St. Patrick's special school, Our Lady of La Vang Special School and Centacare family services.

Advent Week The third candle is pink and represents JOY.



Fr. Roy John Elavumkal SMM

The change in colour reminds us that we are at the midpoint of Advent and we are close to Christmas - the day of Jesus' birth!

Reading: Now the people were filled with expectation, and all were asking in their hearts whether John might be the Christ. John answered them all, saying, "I am baptizing you with water, but one mightier than I is coming. I am not worthy to loosen the thongs of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. Luke 3:10-18

Prayer: God of power and mercy, open our hearts in welcome. Remove the things that hinder us from receiving Christ with joy so that we may share his love and become one with him when he comes in glory. Amen.

Joyfully growing towards wholeness
Joy is the pure and simple delight in being alive. A spiritual and emotional contentment, as well as a deep satisfaction about our life and God given gifts. The joy that the Shepherd's experienced when the angels told them "Today, a saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord" is the same joy that we are called to experience as we learn of Christ's love for us.

As young people grow and develop, they are challenged to see their life in this joyous way. Catholic Care's Growing Towards Wholeness program aims to help young people to see their value and their worth as precious children of God. Although there are obvious physical changes, there are also emotional and social changes that often challenge our young people as they journey through adolescence. The qualified Family Life Educators who facilitate the Growing Towards Wholeness presentations highlight the uniqueness of each child, and the many gifts that God has given to them in order to grow towards a life of wholeness.

PARISH OFFICE - CLOSURE OVER CHRISTMAS / NEW YEAR PERIOD

The Parish office will be closed from 12pm on Friday December 22, 2023 and will recommence normal business hours on Friday January 5, 2024.

NO HOLY MASS
There will not be Holy Mass here in St. Joseph's Church on 26th to 28 December 2023. We will have the Holy Mass as usual on 29th Friday December 2023.

THE KIDS' BULLETIN

The Kids' Bulletin for Sunday December 17th, 2023

Who Will Lead You to God?



Today's Gospel reading tells us about Saint John the Baptist, who prepared the people for the coming of Jesus. At first people thought that he might be the saviour they were all waiting for, but he was very clear when he told them that he wasn't- there was one coming after him Who would be the truly great One.



Sometimes we hear about great or important people. We know about movie stars and singers and government leaders. Who are some important people you know of?

Do those people that you've thought about help to bring you closer to God? Do they teach you well and give good example? Or do they lead people away from God by doing wrong things or making fun of God's truth?



We can know which people are really great by thinking about whether they lead us closer to God, like Saint John the Baptist did, or further away from Him. Which sort of people do you want to follow?



Answer to Word-find: brokenhearted
www.thekidsbulletin.com

Young Adult Summer Eco Camp – February 7-12 2024

This four-day event is for students and any young adults (18-35) who have a concern for the care of Earth. Participants will engage with the local natural environment, hear inspiring speakers and have time to reflect and share. Through attentiveness to Earth and each other, it is envisaged that participants will feel empowered to act for the care of our planet with hope. For more details see <https://jisa.org.au/2024-young-adult-summer-eco-camp/>

The Mass

- The Catholic Mass is the service where there are readings, a homily and the consecration of the Eucharist
 - **Consecrated Eucharist:** the bread and wine transform into the real presence of Jesus
 - **Homily:** The priest speaks about the readings and how they apply to our lives today
- The Mass is the celebration of the Eucharist Roman Catholics see the Mass as a very important event Please be on time and have respect for others.