

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

**BACKGROUND ON
THE GOSPEL READING**

Loyola Press

Jesus tells John the Baptist of the signs of the kingdom that are being worked through him and praises John as more than a prophet.

The third Sunday of Advent is traditionally called *Gaudete Sunday*. *Gaudete* is the Latin word meaning "rejoice." This Sunday is so named because "Rejoice" is the first word in the entrance antiphon for today's Mass taken from Philippians 4:4,5: "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice! The Lord is near." Some people mark this Sunday on their Advent wreath with a pink candle instead of a purple candle. This Sunday is a joyful reminder that our salvation is near.

This week's Gospel Reading continues our Advent reflection on the person and message of John the Baptist. Last week we heard John speak about his relationship to the coming Messiah, Jesus. This week, we hear Jesus' message to John the Baptist, now in prison, about the signs of the kingdom found in Jesus' ministry and Jesus' assessment of John's role in the Kingdom of God.

The Gospel of Matthew tells the story of John's arrest in chapter [14:3-12](#). In today's Gospel, John sends word to Jesus from prison, asking if Jesus is the Messiah for whom he has been waiting. Jesus responds by pointing to the miracles that he has worked and invites John and the other hearers to make their own determination. In his next breath, however, Jesus praises John for his role in preparing the way for Jesus. Then Jesus says that all of those who work for the Kingdom of God will be as great as John and even greater.

Jesus' message to John about the signs of the kingdom being performed recalls the salvation described by the prophet Isaiah. This passage is a reminder that the beginning of salvation is already mysteriously present to us, but also yet to be fulfilled. Salvation is already in our midst as manifest in the miraculous deeds of Jesus and in the Church. But salvation is also to be fulfilled in the coming reign of God. Even as we observe our world today, we can find glimpses of God's work among us. Even more, we help to prepare the way for God's kingdom by our words and our deeds. This message is indeed a cause for rejoicing.

**Parish Office Closure:
Christmas & New Year**

Please note that the **Parish Office will close at 12:30pm on Friday, 19 December 2025, and will reopen on Tuesday, 6 January 2026.**

While the office is closed, **regular Masses on Saturdays, Sundays, and weekdays will continue as usual.**

We wish all parishioners a joyful and blessed Christmas season, and thank you for your understanding during this holiday period.



Parish Bulletin

St Joseph's Catholic Church Tranmere Parish, 484 Magill Rd, Kensington Gardens, SA 5068
www.stjosephsparishtranmere.org.au info@stjosephsparishtranmere.org.au (08) 8431 6932

Third Sunday of Advent, Year A

13/14 Dec 2025

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING

Isaiah 35:1-6, 10

God himself will come and save us.

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.

The word of the Lord

SECOND READING

James 5:7-10

You also must be patient; do not lose heart, the Lord's coming will be soon.

Be patient, brothers, 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, so as not to be brought to judgement yourselves; the Judge is already to be seen waiting at the gates. For your example, brothers, in submitting with patience, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

The word of the Lord

Are you the one who is to come, or must we wait for someone else?

THE BLIND SEE AGAIN

Many of the Jewish people did not expect a Messiah like Jesus.

Many wondered: 'Are you the one who is to come?' Jesus came not to exercise sovereignty and power over the people but to bring blessing to the poor and needy. Let us celebrate his birth this Christmas by being good news for the poor.

PRAYER BEFORE HOLY MASS

Heavenly father, we are about to offer this wonderful memorial of the passion and death of your Son. Bless our Priest as he stands in the person of Christ and makes present for us the great sacrifice of Calvary.

Bless our Ministers here present today-our ministers of the Eucharist, our readers, our Altar Servers, our musicians and ushers. When we reflect on the magnificence of these Sacred Ministries, we are somewhat overawed at our calling. But also we are overjoyed that You have asked us to stand at Your altar and serve You.

Help us to be reverent and to be faithful to our responsibilities. May this Eucharist that we are about to offer be a bond of unity and a sacrament of love for our people. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.

GOSPEL

Matthew 11:2-11

Are you the one who is to come, or must we wait for someone else?

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.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

**CHRISTMAS RAFFLE
BY CHRISTIAN WOMEN'S LEAGUE**

\$1.00 tickets on sale at Masses **Sat 13 Dec, Sun 14 Dec**
Proceeds will go to Vinnies Tranmere/ Hectorville
We thank you for your support!

Christmas
MASS TIMES 2025

24 December 2025
Wednesday 6:30pm
Vigil – Family Mass

24 December 2025
Wednesday 11:30pm
Christmas Carols and
Midnight Mass

25 December 2025
Thursday 9:30am
Christmas Mass

St Joseph's Church, Tranmere Parish
484 Magill Road, Kensington Gardens

St Joseph's Catholic Church
Tranmere Parish

Parish Priest
Fr Anthony Adimai SdM
parishpriest@stjosephsparish
tranmere.org.au

Assistant Priest
Fr Benny Lawrance SdM

Parish Secretary
Pat Kwok – Tue to Fri
info@stjosephsparishtranmere.org.au

Finance Officer
Christine Sullivan—Mon, Tue
finance@stjosephsparish
tranmere.org.au

Sacristan
Sundays: Terence Yeow
& Roger Worth

Parish Office Hours
Tue 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: 8217 8300

Knights of the Southern Cross
Michael Boyle Ph: 8337 3270

Parish Pastoral Council
Chair – Alan Tyson Ph: 0412 389 875

Parish Finance Council
Chair— Brendan Moran

Safeguarding Contact Person
Anne Dudzinski Ph: 0418 847 804

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

ROSTERS— 20/21 Dec 2025 Fourth Sunday of Advent	
Time	Commentator/Readers
6.30pm Vigil	Josh Page Michelle Page Fil Ciancio
9:30am	Bridgette Barrett Sandy Mazzarolo Sheila Hoogland
Children's Liturgy	SCHOOL HOLIDAYS
Count team	Ron Hoogland Sheila Hoogland Peter Rees Indira Seimon
Altar and Flowers	Dolores Arboit Christina Wong Sarita Ingham and volunteers

All those who have volunteered please arrive at least 15 minutes before the start time and report to the commentator for that Mass

SUNDAY COLLECTION SUMMARY	6/7 Dec 2025
Open Plate	\$323.30
Planned Giving	\$483.00
PARISH TOTAL	\$806.30
Contribution to the Diocesan Presbytery Fund	\$696.90

TAP and GO
Nov 2025: \$900.00


Let's pray together


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:
Luigi Scardigno
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.

 **DEFIBRILLATOR**
An Automated External defibrillator (AED) has been installed in the church near the main entrance door for use in case of emergency. A clear sign has been placed and instructions are posted next to the device.

 **FIRST AID KIT**
The parish First aid kit is located in the Sacristy, inside the cabinet. A sign has been placed on the cabinet door to make it easy to locate when needed.

ELECTRONIC PLANNED GIVING
Nov 2025: \$2,175.00

ARCHDIOCESE EVENTS

Christmas Carols
Friday December 12, 7pm
Bethany, 4 High St, Kensington
Presenter: Majella O'Sullivan RSJ
Hosted by the Josephite Companions SA
Join us for an evening filled with fun and laughter, and singing Christmas carols, both traditional and contemporary.
RSVP appreciated: 0417 871 904 or SA.Companions@sosj.org.au
Supper will be available – please bring a small plate to share if you can.
There will also be a raffle. *Please bring along a wrapped pre-loved book to gift.* ALL ARE WELCOME

An Advent Zoom Retreat
Advent is a special time to prepare ourselves for the birth of the Saviour. On the two Saturdays before Christmas, December 13 and 20, for one hour, 11am to 12 noon, Fr Michael Trainor invites you to join others via ZOOM for an Advent 'retreat'. The focus on the first session will be on Luke's story of Jesus' birth and for the second on Matthew's story of Jesus' birth.

Both sessions will offer a spiritual path into these two Gospel stories, quietly meditative and without discussion. If you would like to register for these sessions and receive the ZOOM link to join the retreat, please register with info@lockleysparish.com Please note: the retreat will start at precisely 11am and not go beyond the hour. When you enter the ZOOM room, please do so with microphones muted and cameras turned off. The retreat will also be recorded.

Music Concerts
The Cathedral music team invites you to the following events:
Schola Concert
Sunday December 14, 6pm
Sacred Heart Church, Port Rd, Hindmarsh
<https://www.adelcathparish.org/music-in-the-cathedral/choral-concerts/schola-concert>
Young Organist End of Year Concert
Come and witness the progress of the Cathedral Organ Students as they demonstrate their skills on the mighty 1927 Casavant Frères Pipe Organ. With ages ranging from 9-17, hear music from Bach to modern, contemporary pieces from the next generation of aspiring Church musicians.

Thursday December 18, 4pm
Cathedral of St Francis Xavier
<https://www.adelcathparish.org/music-in-the-cathedral/pipe-organ-recitals/end-of-year-student-concert>

Walking Together Through Advent - 2025 Advent Reflection Resource
Advent is a time of waiting, watching and preparing for the coming of Christ into our midst – Emmanuel, God with us. As we prepare for the 2026 Archdiocesan Synod, we are invited to listen to the Word of God and to one another. The Advent season offers us time and space for shared reflection. *Walking Together Through Advent*, is the 2025 Advent group reflection resource from the Archdiocese and is now available at your parish or online at www.togetheronetheway.au/resources.

The Kids' Bulletin

www.thekidsbulletin.com
Advent is Half Over!

Today is the third Sunday of Advent. That means that half the wait is over! If you have an advent wreath, this is the week to light the pink candle. Pink is a symbol the joy we have because we're half-way to Christmas.



In today's Gospel, Jesus tells the people that John the Baptist was a prophet and messenger. A prophet is someone who tells the truth. In the Old Testament the prophets told God's people the truth about God. Saint John was a prophet because he told the people that the Messiah, or saviour, was coming soon, and that they needed to repent of their sins.

Saint John the Baptist prepared the way for Jesus by calling people to repentance. You can help prepare for Christmas by thinking and talking about how Jesus came to earth on the first Christmas. Can you tell somebody the story of the first Christmas today?



Saint John the Baptist was the messenger who prepared the world for Jesus' coming.

*Where was he in today's Gospel reading?
Connect the dots to find out!
Then you can finish colouring in the picture.*

Vinnies Christmas Appeal



At the end of each seat there are envelopes for the St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal. Please help those facing the cycle of poverty and disadvantage (Donations over \$2 are tax deductible). Your donation will help the Tranmere (Hectorville branch) provide a Christmas Hamper, some joy and importantly some hope that comes with actions of caring.

Take an envelope home and in the coming weeks return it to a poor box (at each entrance) or post it. Thank you also for your support via groceries. These can always be put at the stairs by the main entrance.