



## **Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish**

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### **3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent. Year A. 11<sup>th</sup> December 2022**

**The Gospels make explicit God's Word to us, through the teachings of Jesus Christ.  
We are disciples of Jesus!**

#### **Gospel: Matthew 11: 2-11**

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.'**

#### **Summary**

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 others, to make their own determination. In addition, Jesus praises John for his role in preparing the way for Him. Finally, Jesus speaks to all us (**children born of women**), when He says that all of those who enter the Kingdom of God, will be as great as St John the Baptist - and even greater: "**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.**"

#### **In Conclusion**

This week's Gospel continues our Advent reflection on John the Baptist and his message of preparation for the coming of the Messiah, and repentance. 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, that the signs that the Messiah has come, are found (evidenced) in His (Jesus') ministry. Jesus also explains John's role in God's plan: he is **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.'**

**Note:** John's preaching of the coming of the Lord is a key theme of the Advent season. As John's message prepared the way for Jesus in the first century, we, too, are called to prepare ourselves for Jesus' coming, by repentance through the Sacrament of Penance/Reconciliation.



**RECONCILED**  
*with God*

*At Reconciliation, we acknowledge our sins before God. We express our sorrow/contrition, receive the forgiveness of Christ and make reparation for what we have done (penance) – this is what Dismas did on his cross and Jesus was merciful and forgiving. **We too can be like Dismas, and receive God's mercy and forgiveness, through the Sacrament of Reconciliation!***

#### **Advent Reconciliation at Nearby Parishes**

**We respond to John the Baptist's message, by repenting for our sins.**

We can follow the example of St Dismas (the "good" thief who was crucified with Jesus). Dismas was contrite and repentant (he admitted his sins and accepted his suffering). Dismas had hope and faith in the Lord's mercy - "**remember me when you come into your kingdom.**" Jesus is merciful and forgiving, and assured Dismas of his salvation – "**today you will be with me in paradise.**"

#### **Second Rite of Reconciliation will be Celebrated at Following Nearby Parishes:**

Our Lady of the Most Blessed Sacrament, Gosnells Parish, **Tue 13th December, at 7.00pm.**

Good Shepherd Church, Kelmscott Parish, **Wed 14th December, 7.00pm.**

St Francis Xavier Church, Armadale Parish, **Thu 15th December, 7.00pm.**

Sacred Heart Church, Thornlie Parish, **Tue 20th December, 7.00pm.**



#### **On Gaudete Sunday We Light the Pink Advent Candle**

**Advent is a time for pause, reflection, and preparation for the gift of God's love coming to us through the baby Jesus.** Gaudete is the Latin word meaning "**rejoice.**" The theme of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Advent is: "**Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice! The Lord is near.**" This Sunday is a joyful reminder that our salvation is near.

***Come Lord Jesus!***

**Note:** In the 4<sup>th</sup> week of Advent, Isaiah speaks of the maiden who will conceive and give birth to one, who is '**God-is-with-us**'.

## Parish Worship Schedule

A parish is a community of disciples of Jesus, who gather to celebrate the Mass and to “live the Gospel.” **We are a community of Jesus’ disciples and our church is here for our collective and individual worship and prayers.** We welcome the faithful to our Mass, or, to light a candle at our Marian chapel, or, to just pray in silence; and to grow spiritually.

<b>Mass Times</b>	Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu & Fri	8.00 am (the Rosary after)
<b>Mass Time</b>	Saturday	6.00 pm
<b>Mass Time</b>	Sunday	9.30 am
<b>Reconciliation</b>	Saturday night	5.15 – 5.45 pm
<b>Anointing of the Sick</b>	Liaise with Fr Greg	
<b>Baptisms, marriages and funerals</b>	Liaise with Fr Greg	

## Our Prayers of the Faithful

**The Church expects that each parish community would prepare their own prayers so that all the community can join in the sacred intercessory prayer (Prayers of the Faithful) at Mass.** In our parish prayers of the faithful, we pray to the Lord, to help and comfort our sick and suffering. We also pray for the souls of our recently departed, as well as, for those whose anniversaries, we remember at Mass today.

### Prayers for Our Sick and Suffering

Lorna Johnstone, Catherine Poulouse, Fr Francisco, Heron Sharpe, Antoinette De Silva, Tony Galvez, Jenny Cassin, Betsy De Wass, Frank De Luis, Nigel, Christina Sim, Maria Marshall, Claire Webster, Ivan Fletcher, Fabian Edmunds, Celia, Crowley family, Joe Sundaram, Thilak, Diana Scully, Bluey Thompson, Celeste Vicensoni, Carla, Annette, Joe Gibson, Georgina and Ronnie Ghosh, Gemma Altieri, Fred Kara, Reg Brown, Mary & Derrick Jansen, Marie Webster Viola, Gerry and Maisie Prendergast, James Rydqvist, Annie Magdalena Rydqvist, Anne Rydqvist, Dr Andrew Chilufya Snr, Robbie Iliffe, Donna Green, Horatio Hill, Ilean Wright, Cathy and Peter Ghouse, Jimmy Olivero, Kaye McIntyre, Jeff and Tony Francis, Fr Andre, Sheila Vanwieringan, CD Joseph, Marina Lim, Wendy Price, Julie Pinto, Christopher Jaffer, Bonnie Sullivan, Joslyn De Sylva and Philomena Rodrigues.

### Prayers for our Recently Deceased

Denis Critchley, Cleone Stephenson and Charles Stephenson.

**“God blesses those people who grieve. They will find comfort” (Matthew 5:4).**

### Anniversaries of our Beloved Departed

Adam Mouttet (09 Dec), Gloria Ashby (10 Dec), Rendle De Mello (10 Dec), Thomas D’Souza (12 Dec), Malcolm Boswell (12 Dec), Donny Nelligan (12 Dec) and all our departed relatives and friends.

**Jesus assured Martha at the tomb of Lazarus: “I am the Resurrection and the life; whoever believes in Me will live even though he dies” (John 11: 25-26).**

**Note:** Parishioners may email Cliff at: [cliffordgerard@biqpond.com](mailto:cliffordgerard@biqpond.com), for any additions (or deletions) to our lists of sick, recently deceased and anniversaries, whom you wish to be included in our “Prayers of the Faithful.”

**Everyone has a name, and if we are to pray for them, we should say their name.**

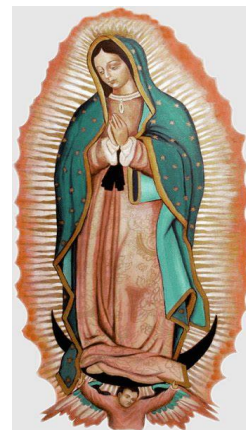
## We Welcome “God’s Little Children” to Our Mass



*“Let the little children come to me ....”*

*People were bringing little children to Jesus to have him touch them, but the disciples rebuked them. When Jesus saw this, he was indignant. He said to them, “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.” Mk 10: 13-14.*

Activity sheets and colour pencils, are available at the rear of the church, to occupy the children during Mass. Parents may even pin their child’s work on the noticeboard (when space is available) for others to appreciate their efforts.



### Monday 12<sup>th</sup> December is the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe

**The appearance of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico, in the 16th century, precipitated the greatest flood of conversions in the whole history of Christianity.** The Aztecs at the time were performing thousands of children sacrifices, however, Mary’s miracle ended this. In the seven years following this miracle, eight million Aztecs converted to Christianity, and Christianity spread across Central and South America.

Our Lady of Guadalupe, like the shroud of Turin, appears on a piece of fabric (a cactus fibre cloak, or “tilma”) **which still exists today**, for all to see, in the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe (situated on the very same hill on which Our Lady appeared) in Mexico. Both are sacred objects, hundreds of years old, and both depict an image said to be miraculous. Our Lady of Guadalupe was declared Queen of Mexico and is Patron of the Americas. Over 20 million people visit the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe each year.

**Note.** *The image cannot be explained. It shows no sign of deterioration after 450 years (the fabric is made from the threads of cactus which disintegrates within 20-60 years!). Microscopic examination reveals no brush strokes, or, protective over-varnish. The image appears to increase in size and to change colours due to an unknown property/substance. The stars on Our Lady’s mantle, coincide with the constellation in the sky on 12<sup>th</sup> December 1531 (the day of her apparition). Scientists who have examined the image confess that it is so inexplicable that it can only be supernatural!*

### Our Parish Christmas Masses

Sat 24<sup>th</sup> December. **Childrens’/Vigil Mass.** Carols from 5.45pm with Mass commencing at 6pm.

Sat 24<sup>th</sup> December. **“Early” Midnight Mass.** Carols from 7.45pm with Mass commencing at 8pm.

Sun 25<sup>th</sup> December. **Christmas Day Mass.** Carols from 9.15pm with Mass commencing at 9.30pm.



