



Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish

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2nd Sunday of Advent. Year A. 04th December 2022

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

Gospel: Matthew 3: 1-12

In due course John the Baptist appeared; he preached in the wilderness of Judaea and this was his message: 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.' This was the man the prophet Isaiah spoke of when he said:

A voice cries in the wilderness

*Prepare a way for the Lord,
make his paths straight.*

This man John wore a garment made of camel-hair with a leather belt round his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judaea and the whole Jordan district made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. But when he saw a number of Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism he said to them, 'Brood of vipers, who warned you to fly from the retribution that is coming? But if you are repentant, produce the appropriate fruit, and do not presume to tell yourselves, "We have Abraham for our father," because, I tell you, God can raise children for Abraham from these stones. Even now the axe is laid to the roots of the trees, so that **any tree which fails to produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown on the fire. I baptise you in water for repentance, but the one who follows me is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to carry his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire.** His winnowing-fan is in his hand; he will clear his threshing-floor and gather his wheat into the barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go out.'

Summary

We are reminded that the kingdom of God is close at hand and that to be a part of the kingdom, we must produce good fruit or be judged unworthy: "**any tree which fails to produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown on the fire**" and "**he will clear his**

threshing-floor and gather his wheat into the barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go out."

In Conclusion



John the Baptist Prepares the Way

John the Baptist preaches repentance and reform. Here John even directs a particularly pointed call to repentance, to the Pharisees and Sadducees because "**any tree which fails to produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown on the fire.**" John clearly alludes to the difference between his baptism and the one yet to come: "**I baptise you in water for repentance, but the one who follows me . . . will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire.**" John the Baptist, also makes clear that he is the forerunner to the Messiah (Jesus): "**the one who follows me is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to carry his sandals.**"

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.



Advent Reconciliation at Nearby Parishes

We respond to John the Baptist's message, by repenting for our sins this Advent. 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 trust 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.**" We too can be like Dismas!

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is available at the following churches:

St John and Paul, Willetton Parish, **Wednesday 7th Dec – 7.00pm.**

St Thomas More, Bateman Parish, **Thursday 8th Dec – 7.00pm.**

Queen of Apostles, Riverton Parish, **Tuesday 13th Dec – 7.00pm.**

St Jude, Langford Parish, **Tuesday 20th Dec – 7.00pm.**



Today We Light the 2nd Purple 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. The theme of the Second week of Advent is repentance and forgiveness. The second purple candle on the Advent wreath is lit as a symbol of our faith in God. We read, pray, and reflect, on God's plan for us, as foretold by the prophets and fulfilled by the life and death of Jesus, and the promise of Christ's second coming.

Come Lord Jesus!

Note: In next week's Liturgy of the Word, Isaiah describes the glorious and triumphant coming of the Lord and the healing of all that is broken. In the 4th week of Advent, Isaiah speaks of the maiden who will conceive and give birth to one, who is 'God-is-with-us'.

Thursday 08th December is the Feast of the Immaculate Conception

The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, means that Mary (whose conception was brought about with her father St Joachim and mother St Anne) was conceived without original sin. That's what immaculate means: without stain. Mary was pure - her soul was not stained with original sin. Mary was preserved from original sin by God's grace - from the first instant of her existence, she was in the state of sanctifying grace.

Healing Mass in Honour of St Peregrine, Patron Saint of Cancer Sufferers

The healing mass is for cancer sufferers and all those suffering, as well as, for their carers and members of their family. Mass will be celebrated at **7pm, Thursday 08th December, at the Church of Saints John and Paul, Willetton**. There will be veneration of the relic of St Peregrine and anointing of the sick. Please come and join in prayers for those suffering from cancer, as well as, for their family members and carers.

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.

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

Cleone Stephenson and Charles Stephenson.

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

Anniversaries of our Beloved Departed

Elizabeth McIntyre (01 Dec), John Hedges (03 Dec), Johnathan Gibbs (04 Dec), Josephine Vattamakkal (05 Dec), Leofred Joseph (07 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: cliffordqgerard@bigpond.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.

Today is Our Parish Christmas Gifts Sharing and Goodwill

On behalf of our local St Vincent de Paul (SVDP) group, a big thank-you to parishioners, for contributing to our Parish SVDP Christmas gifts to the needy in our local community. We pray that our "Christmas sharing" will bring peace, hope and joy, to the needy, lonely and forgotten in our local community. Please leave your parcels at the rear of the church, or, at our parish centre. Cash donations may be deposited in the SVDP Poor Box, at the door of the church.



Parishioners who may need a "helping hand," may contact the SVDP Society for assistance, or speak with our local SVDP representatives: Penny D'Souza (mobile: 0421 215 620), or, Michael Hardless (mobile: 0419 421 122), at Riverton Parish. **The names of those requesting and receiving assistance is always confidential.**

Our Parish Christmas Raffle

The Christmas Raffle was drawn following the 9.30am Mass, at morning tea last week. The following are the lucky prize winners:



1st Prize. Purple ticket C73 - Cathy De Nardi.

2nd Prize. Purple ticket C 67- Fran (From the Village).

3rd Prize. Orange ticket B42- Mary McLure.

The Social Committee would like to thank everyone who supported the raffle.

Our Parish Christmas Masses

Sat 24th December. **Childrens'/Vigil Mass.** Carols from 5.45pm with Mass commencing at 6pm.

Sat 24th December. **"Early" Midnight Mass.** Carols from 7.45pm with Mass commencing at 8pm.

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



