



St Patrick's Cathedral Newsletter



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Office hours: 9am-4pm Mon-Thu 9am-3pm on Friday

Administrator/Priest Director STM: Fr. Michael O'Brien
Associate Pastors: Fr. Hal Ranger & Fr. Thomas Duncan

St Patrick's, in communion with St Saviour's Primary School - Madonna Sleba (4637 1555)

St Saviour's College - Sharon Collins (4637 1600)

We acknowledge and respect the Traditional Owners of this place, the Jarowair and Giabal peoples.



SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT – Year A Saturday 07 December/Sunday 08 December 2019

Readings this weekend:

First Reading: Isaiah 11:1-10

Responsorial Psalm: Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace forever. [Psalm 71]

Second Reading: Romans 15:4-9

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths;
all people shall see the salvation of God. Alleluia!

Gospel: Matthew 3:1-12 [John the Baptist prepares the way]

God's Side Show Alley

As in every small town, the Annual Show was a great and welcome event in the community. For the adults it was an opportunity to check out some of the local art, livestock, agriculture and even the biggest marrow! For the younger ones, it was the fun opportunity to visit "sideshow alley" with all the games and cries of "Every child wins a prize!" and all the rides of the Cha Cha, the Octopus, the Hurricane, the mirror maze and many more old favorites. Not to forget the food – Pollywaffles, Shannon's Chips, Fairy floss....but I digress! When I was perhaps 10 years old I was at the Roma Show with my sisters and brothers and we were there until the final rides of the night. I remember getting on a ride with my family that had seats suspended by a chain from a central wheel – like an adult version of a merry-go-round. As the ride gets faster, the seats swing out further. So when it started I felt a little worried about how I would feel. As it was the end of the night they keep us going for quite a while. It was exhilarating, but every time they would say "Let's go round for another minute", my heart would take a jump. My feelings would go from "Yes, how exciting" to "Oh God what if the chair falls off! I'm not sure I want to do this anymore!" and back around it goes again!

This sense of excitement followed by fear is something we encounter throughout life which teaches us to conquer our fears to open ourselves to new experiences, whilst being aware of possible dangers and perils. I guess it is a natural instinct that has helped us to survive from the earliest of ages. I wonder whether it is also what those listening to John the Baptist felt. To hear the words of hope – of someone powerful to come who would right all the wrongs – would make the hearers feel great excitement. At the same time there would have been a little fear. Fear of what is to come, fear of repentance, fear of stepping into, and trusting the unknown.

When we enter this time of the year we too are asked to take stock of our faith lives. When we immerse ourselves in the promises of salvation and the story of God's love for us, we are excited at the wonder of all God has given to us. Not only that, but also the strength and courage in life when we have needed it the most. Deep down though, there is a little niggling fear of the cost of discipleship – of repentance – of the unknown.

Last week's gospel called us to STAY AWAKE! This message firstly assumes that we are already AWAKE. Take a moment to reflect on where/when in your life you are most awake to the presence of God/Jesus? Then STAY AWAKE to that gift! Advent doesn't ask you to take on more prayer or actions, or to concentrate on giving something up – Advent invites you to sit in presence of Christ – EMMANUEL – "God is with us".

BE CONFIDENT that where you are AWAKE to God now, is where God wants you to be. Simply be more deeply aware of God's presence and joy in those moments. In those quiet moments – walking – having a cuppa with friends/family – prayer – laughter – ***SIMPLY STAY AWAKE and know you are already in God's all embracing presence.***

God's Blessings on your Advent Journey,
Fr. Michael



✠ **We remember in our prayers all those who have died recently.** Brian O'Brien, Christina Baryla, Clifford Millford. *May perpetual light shine upon them, may they rest in peace.*

✠ **We hold in our hearts the memories of those whose anniversaries occur at this time:** Brendan O'Brien, Kevin O'Brien, Collins, Martin and Logan families, Fr Joseph Callaghan.

✠ **For all those who are ill in our community, especially** Rita Berry, Juanita Umipig, Maria Brown, Patricia Whyte (nee Stark), Annie Makim, Margaret Walker, Rita Blacker, Kristina Dawidowicz, Nora Machin, Mary Allen, George Pardon, Leo Ryan, Tina Hobson, Michael Cuskelly, Bev Boundy, Roslyn Pardon [nee Kearney], Joanne Essey [Sydney], Braxton Rayner, Kate Gibbs, Max Shearer, Saturnino Bustamante, Hannah Marie Marasigan, Stephanie Shine, Andrew Supple, Mary-Ann Hine, Kathy Allan, John Morgan, Patricia McCracken, Reggie James, Morgan O'Brien, Teresita Pamulaklakin.

✠ **Congratulations to these newly weds: Sophie Gibson and Daniel Kilmartin.** *May the Holy Spirit bless their lives together.*

✠ **For all those recently baptised: Lucy Mae Dowie** daughter of Samuel and Brooke. *May the gift of the Holy Spirit grow throughout their lives.*

Reconciliation: 1st Rite available every Saturday, 9.00am – 10.00am at St Patrick's Cathedral.

WEEKLY ADVENT Holy Hour at the Cathedral: During Advent there will be adoration at St. Patrick's each Wednesday from 5.00pm to 6.00pm. **Make** time to prepare for the celebration of Christmas! **(Next: 11/12)**

Holy Hour/Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament: The last Holy Hour for 2019 will be on Friday December 13th at 2pm and we will recommence on Friday 14th February 2020.

At church without any change for the plate? You will now find a **Pay Point** located on the table at the Neil Street entrance. Simply tap your card – credit or debit – and you will donate \$10.00 to St. Patrick's Parish Community. Please consider an ongoing donation to assist us in our good works as a community.

Limited copies of the **2020 Columban Calendar** are available in the Parish Office at a cost of \$10 each.

Cathedral Working Bee: A working bee will be held on Thursday 19th December from 9.30am. **Please give this some consideration, due to the wind and dust, it is desperately needed for Christmas.**

Advent Reflections are now available on the table at the Neil St entrance. Please use the Pay Point to make a donation or place a donation on the collection plate. If money is difficult for you at this time, please take one.

Communal Reconciliation will be on 18th December, 9.00am at St. Thomas More's Parish and 6.00pm at St. Patrick's Cathedral (following Adoration). A wonderful way to prepare for Christmas.

St Patrick's conference of SVdP is seeking the generous support of parishioners for our Christmas hamper appeal. We are seeking non-perishable items such as canned hams, Christmas puddings and cakes, canned fruit and sweets. Collection boxes will be left at the front of the church **from 30th November to 15th December.**

Ministers' Christmas Roster: Blank sheets are available in the Sacristy and both doors so please indicate your availability or if you will be absent. If you don't feel able to read etc. please feel free to put your name down to help out between Masses. This year there is also a need for those who would be able to help with the operating of the PowerPoint. A little training will be happily provided!

Church Cleaning: **There is a need to dust the seats in the Cathedral. You will find some dusters and cloths on the pew in the Choir area. If you have 5 minutes before Mass, please dust off a couple of seats and anything else you see that is a little dusty!** Thank you for your help, it is much appreciated!

Singers required for Midnight and 9am Christmas Masses: Practices will be 9th, 16th and 23rd December. from 5.30pm until 7pm. Any queries, contact Vicky on 0428 781 209.

Rosary this Sunday 8th December in the Cathedral to honour the Immaculate Conception from 2pm. All welcome!

Sunday 08 Dec	7am Mass 9am Mass 5.30pm Mass	2pm Rosary in the Cathedral 4.30pm Bingo – Cathedral Centre
Monday 09 Dec	9am Mass STM	5.30-7pm Choir Practice
Tuesday 10 Dec	7am Mass 5.30pm Mass STM	
Wed 11 Dec	7am Mass	5-6pm Holy Hour SPC 7.15pm Bingo – Cathedral Centre
Thursday 12 Dec	7am Mass	9am Mass at Yukana 5.30pm SPC Liturgy Meeting
Friday 13 Dec	7am Mass 9am Mass STM	9am Anointing Mass at STM 7.15pm Bingo – Cathedral Centre
Saturday 14 Dec	7am Mass 6pm Vigil	9am-10.30am First Rite of Reconciliation SPC 11am Baptism of Noah Justin Rix [FM]
Sunday 15 Dec	7am Mass 9am Mass 5.30pm Mass	4.30pm Bingo – Cathedral Centre
Planned Giving \$1673.00; Loose \$2458.00 : Kevin and Judy Lindores and Jim Harris		

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 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.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

A REFLECTION BY POPE FRANCIS

In the Gospel given this second Sunday of Advent, John the Baptist's invitation resounds: "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!". With these very words, Jesus begins his mission in Galilee; and such will also be the message that the disciples must bring on their first missionary experience.

Matthew the evangelist would like to present John as the one who prepares the way of the coming Christ, as well as the disciples as followers, as Jesus preached. It is a matter of the same joyful

message: the kingdom of God is at hand! It is near, and it is in us! These words are very important: "The kingdom of God is in our midst!", Jesus says. And John announces what Jesus will say later: "The kingdom of God is at hand, it has arrived, and is in your midst!". This is the central message of every Christian mission.

When a missionary goes, a Christian goes to proclaim Jesus, not to proselytize, as if he were a fan trying to drum up new supporters for his team. No, he goes simply to proclaim: "The kingdom of God is in our midst!". And in this way, the missionaries prepare the path for Jesus to encounter the people.

But what is this kingdom of God, this kingdom of heaven? They are synonymous. We think immediately of the afterlife: eternal life. Of course this is true, the kingdom of God will extend without limit beyond earthly life, but the good news that Jesus brings us — and that John predicts — is that we do not need to wait for the kingdom of God in the future: it is at hand. In some way it is already present and we may experience spiritual power from now on. "The kingdom of God is in your midst!", Jesus will say. God comes to establish his lordship in our history, today, every day, in our life; and there — where it is welcomed with faith and humility — love, joy and peace blossom.

The condition for entering and being a part of this kingdom is to implement a change in our life, which is to convert, to convert every day, to take a step forward each day. It is a question of leaving behind the comfortable but misleading ways of the idols of this world: success at all costs; power to the detriment of the weak; the desire for wealth; pleasure at any price. And instead, preparing the way of the Lord: this does not take away our freedom, but gives us true happiness. With the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem, it is God himself who abides among us to free us from self interest, sin and corruption, from these manners of the devil: seeking success at all costs; seeking power to the detriment of the weak; having the desire for wealth; seeking pleasure at any price.

Christmas is a day of great joy, even external, but above all, it is a religious event for which a spiritual preparation

is necessary. In this season of Advent, let us be guided by the Baptist's exhortation: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight!", he tells us, We prepare the way of the Lord and make his paths straight when we examine our conscience, when we scrutinize our attitudes, in order to eliminate these sinful manners that I mentioned, which are not from God: success at all costs; power to the detriment of the weak; the desire for wealth; pleasure at any price.

May the Virgin Mary help us to prepare ourselves for the encounter with this ever greater Love, which is what Jesus brings and which, on Christmas night, becomes very very small, like a seed fallen on the soil. And Jesus is this seed: the seed of the kingdom of God.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. John [and later Jesus] proclaim: 'the kingdom of God is close at hand' — where do you see the 'fruits of the kingdom' being expressed? In what ways do you already see it as 'close at hand'?
2. What are some of your struggles in approaching and realising the kingdom of God in your own life — from what might you need to 'repent' in order for Jesus and his kingdom to be a more significant reality?

PRAYER

Spend some time in prayer with one another

1. Conscious of what has just been shared, members briefly name/describe their prayer needs.
2. Intentionally call on the Holy Spirit to be present (e.g. "Come Holy Spirit, please be present as we pray")
3. Move to prayers of thanks and praise to God.
4. Pray for each others' prayer needs. Where appropriate, you may like to encourage the group to place a hand on the shoulder of the individual that you are currently praying for.
5. Conclude your prayer time with another prayer of praise, perhaps reciting the 'Glory Be' or similar prayer.

Make a straight path for the Lord



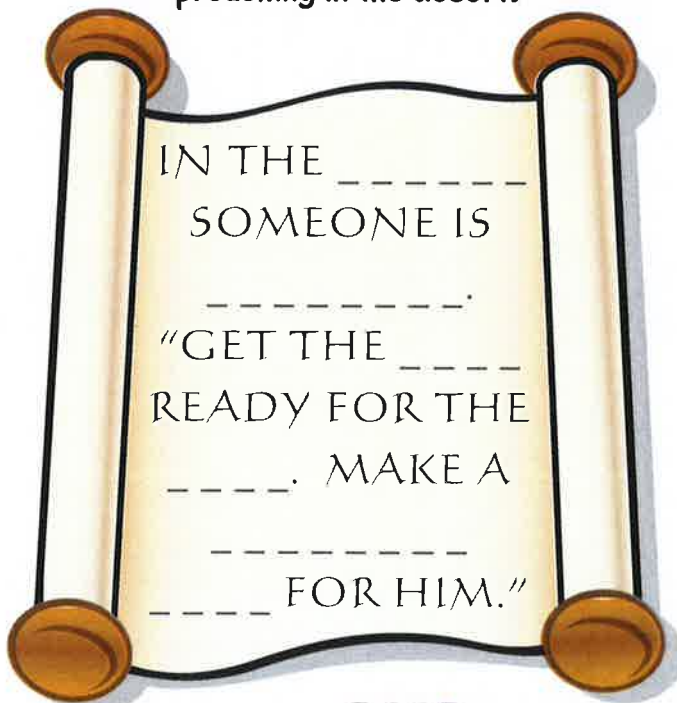
2nd Sunday of Advent, Year A

At each bend in the road write down something that you are sorry for doing.

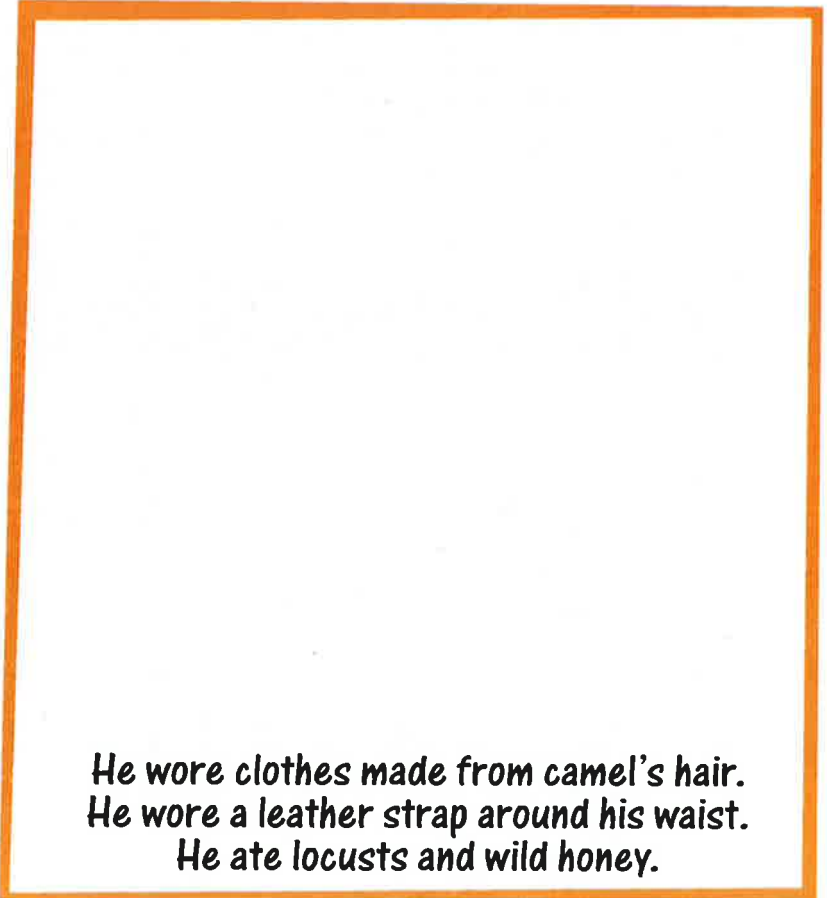


Use the words below to complete Isaiah's prophecy which tells of John the Baptist preaching in the desert.

Draw a picture of John the Baptist from his description in the bible.



STRAIGHT ROAD
LORD PATH
SHOUTING DESERT



He wore clothes made from camel's hair.
He wore a leather strap around his waist.
He ate locusts and wild honey.