

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

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.

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Breaking Open the Word



THE SAVING WORD

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT / A

11 DECEMBER 2022

ARE YOU THE ONE?

One can only begin to imagine the excitement, questioning and discussion that must have accompanied the beginning of Jesus' ministry. Reports were flying thick and fast about the carpenter-turned-preacher from Nazareth, whose preaching was accompanied by miraculous healings, and disconcerting sayings. Was it true that Isaiah's prophecy about the eyes of the blind being opened, and the deaf once again being able to hear was being fulfilled?

John the Baptist had spoken with courage about the messiah that was coming and this led to his imprisonment. He had preached that the coming messiah would be a figure of purification and judgement upon Israel. Could it be that Jesus was the promised one? John could not reconcile Jesus' message and ministry with the message for which he had risked his life. Jesus' response to John's question is simple – you must make your judgement based on what you see. If Isaiah's prophecy is being fulfilled, then there is no need to look any further.

A challenge for James' community was that they recognised Jesus was indeed the saviour, but how were they to manage until his return at the end of time? Their impatience for the Lord's return was leading them into the trap of being fractious with each other. James provides both them and us with the timely reminder that patience with the Lord and each other is a better way to prepare to greet the Lord on his return.

FIRST READING

Isa 35:1-6, 10

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

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 in their faces;
joy and gladness will go with them
and sorrow and lament be ended.

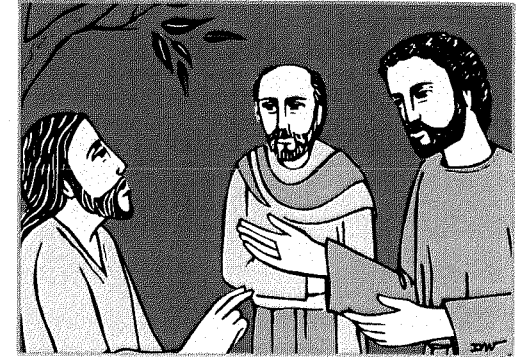
■ The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 145:6-10. R. cf. Isa 35:4

R. Lord, come and save us. (or Alleluia!)

1. It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever, /
who is just to those who are oppressed. / It is
he who gives bread to the hungry, / the Lord,
who sets prisoners free. R.

2. It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind, /
who raises up those who are bowed down, /
the Lord, who protects the stranger / and
upholds the widow and orphan. R.



3. It is the Lord who loves the just / but
thwarts the path of the wicked. / The Lord
will reign for ever, / Zion's God, from age to
age. R.

SECOND READING

James 5:7-10

A reading from the letter of St James

*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.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Isa 61:1; Lk 4:18

Alleluia, alleluia!

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



ST. PAUL PARISH

Under the Care of the Claretian Missionaries

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THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS. Collection Total = \$2072.60

Advent Week 3: Pink Advent Candle, Joy

The next and third candle to be lit is the pink candle, which represents Joy. This candle reminds us that Jesus coming is near as we reach the middle point of Advent. The third Sunday of Advent is also called Gaudete Sunday, which symbolizes the nearness of Christ's coming.

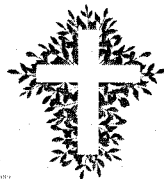
This weekend at all masses there will be a special collection for the Overseas Mission—please give generously.

It is with joy and gratitude to announce the 100th birthday of Frances (Cikka) Altair who lived in our parish since 1961. For many years Frances helped clean the church and looked after the Altar linen. She looked after the Marist Priests for many years, washing, ironing and cooking in her later years. We wish you a very HAPPY 100th BIRTHDAY dear Frances with many more to come.



You've got a lot to give beyond Christmas gifts. - In January you can prepare for mission at home or abroad. - Palms Australia has trained Australians to live and work within cultures and communities overseas since 1961. Now four days of that training will be available for parishioners interested to assist harness the diverse gifts of our community and make it stronger. Enquire about Palms Orientation for mission via www.palms.org.au or call 02 9560 533 or 0422 472 567.

WE PRAY FOR: For Healing: Millie Montario, Danica Marie, Ann Martin, Betty & Thomas, Pat Reynolds, Rose Hurt, Charlie Bonello, **Recently Deceased:** Katrina Gatt, Sebastina Corso, Amelia De Guzman, Charlie Azzopardi, Thomas Pirotta, Thi Yong Vu, Margeret Calleja, **Our Dear Departed:** Iginio Zanni, Natu Portelli, Liberata, Carmelo, Mikelina, Cikku, Carmena, Guzeppi, Mathew & Gloria Montebello, Tereza, Guzeppi & Carmenu Mifsud, Nina, Carmenu & Salvu Portelli, Sam & Vicky Cassar, Grace Avellino, Joe Caruana, Emy Saffarese, Joan & Carmelo Micallef, Patricia Snaize, Snaize, Cleur & Dougherty families, and all Souls.



Church Diary (Week beginning 11th Dec 2022)

Saturday 10th/11th Dec

Baptism: Xavier & Ezekiel Nooroa, Nina Tran, Phung Pham, Giuse Tran Gioan Do

Third Sunday of Advent

Saturday Mass 8.00am English Mass
9.00am Vietnamese Mass followed by Rosary till 10.15am

6.00pm Vigil Mass + Tarcisio Cutajar

Sunday Masses (Confession half an hour before all Masses on Sunday)

8.00 am English Mass +

9.30am English Mass + Joan & Carmelo Micallef, & Felix Camilleri, + Carol, Dominico Onoferi, Donato Teresa, & Locig Onoferi,

11.30am Vietnamese Mass

1.00pm Spanish Mass

6.00pm Youth Mass

6.00pm Youth Mass

Monday 12th Dec

Our Lady of Guadalupe

8.00am

9.00am

11.00am

7.00pm

7.00pm

Tuesday 13th Dec

8.00am

9.00am

10.00am

1.00pm

6.00pm

6.45pm

Wednesday 14th Dec

St John of

The Cross

8.00am

9.00am

9.15am

5- 6 pm

7.30pm

Thursday 15th Dec

8.00am

9.00am

9.30am

2.00pm

7.00pm

7.30pm

Friday 16th Dec

8.00am

9.00am

3.00pm

7.00pm

Saturday 17th/18th Dec Baptism: Ava Prasertchaikul

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Saturday Mass 8.00am English Mass

9.00am Vietnamese Mass followed by Rosary till 10.15am

6.00pm Vigil Mass

Sunday Masses (Confession half an hour before all Masses on Sunday)

8.00 am English Mass +

9.30am English Mass + Joan & Carmelo Micallef, & Felix Camilleri

11.30am Vietnamese Mass

1.00pm Spanish Mass

6.00pm Youth Mass



Third Sunday of Advent

