

# The Nativity of Saint John the Baptist

## Sunday, 24 Jun 2018

### FIRST READING

*Is 49:1-6*

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

*Behold I will make you a light to the nations.*

Islands, listen to me,  
pay attention, remotest peoples.  
The Lord called me before I was born,  
from my mother's womb he pronounced my name.

He made my mouth a sharp sword,  
and hid me in the shadow of his hand.  
He made me into a sharpened arrow,  
and concealed me in his quiver.

He said to me, 'You are my servant Israel,  
in whom I shall be glorified';  
while I was thinking, 'I have toiled in vain,  
I have exhausted myself for nothing';

and all the while my cause was with the Lord,  
my reward with my God.

I was honoured in the eyes of the Lord,  
my God was my strength.

And now the Lord has spoken,  
he who formed me in the womb to be his servant,  
to bring Jacob back to him,  
to gather Israel to him:

'It is not enough for you to be my servant,  
to restore the tribes of Jacob and bring back the survivors of Israel;  
I will make you the light of the nations  
so that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth.'

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

*Ps 138:1-3. 13-15. R. v.14*

(R.) I praise you for I am wonderfully made.

1. O Lord, you search me and you know me,  
you know my resting and my rising,  
you discern my purpose from afar.  
You mark when I walk or lie down,  
all my ways lie open to you. (R.)
2. For it was you who created my being,  
knit me together in my mother's womb.  
I thank you for the wonder of my being,  
for the wonders of all your creation. (R.)
3. Already you knew my soul,  
my body held no secret from you  
when I was being fashioned in secret  
and moulded in the depths of the earth. (R.)

## SECOND READING

*Acts 13:22-26*

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

*Christ's coming was announced beforehand by the preaching of John.*

Paul said: 'God made David the king of our ancestors, of whom he approved in these words, "I have elected David son of Jesse, a man after my own heart, who will carry out my whole purpose." To keep his promise, God has raised up for Israel one of David's descendants, Jesus, as Saviour, whose coming was heralded by John when he proclaimed a baptism of repentance for the whole people of Israel. Before John ended his career he said, "I am not the one you imagine me to be; that one is coming after me and I am not fit to undo his sandal."

'My brothers, sons of Abraham's race, and all you who fear God, this message of salvation is meant for you.'

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*See Lk 1:76*

Alleluia, alleluia!

You, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High;  
you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways.

Alleluia!