



St Finbar's Catholic Parish

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Year B

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Second Sunday of Advent Year B



In the wilderness God's salvation comes to a broken people. In the midst of what is seemingly an impossible situation, hope emerges with vigour. In this context, hope is an openness to surprise, the surprise that God is in no way limited to the imaginings of human minds and the consequences of human history. This is the kind of hope that is proclaimed in the wilderness

by John; it is the kind of hope that trusts that from the impossible, God can work a new creation.

There is something of a time warp in Christianity. What is future is made present. The prophetic oracle announces the future as if it is already happening. This sense of the future-present prompts new ways of living. As the future takes root in human lives, the present is transformed into a new creation and the Day of the Lord appears.

God's future comes through the wilderness into the broken city and inspires a broken-hearted people. The contrite heart is a broken heart, an emptied-out heart, a hope-

filled heart. It is a heart that is unencumbered by the past and that lives currently in the passing of time and the fragility of being alive. The contrite, broken heart can be filled only by what is promised in the future. This is the paradox of Advent. In the middle of the wilderness, God works the impossible in those whose hearts are ready for the surprise of hope.

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PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Pray for the Sick



Al Rucinski,

Pauline Bourke, David Fist,

Cindy Setia, Rita Maguire

Anniversaries

Mary Therese Rogers,

Keith Rogers, Franco Liburti,

Christina Hayes, June Flood,

Nellie O'Connor,

Joan Bloink, Heather O'Brien

Historical Context

A Baptism of Forgiveness

The understanding that we generally have of baptism today has not always been the case. At the time of John and Jesus, the Jewish tradition used baptism as a ritual bath to cleanse a person who had become ritually unclean and make them able to participate in religious rituals. What John was preaching was a baptism for the forgiveness of sins – a new interpretation at the time. He emphasised that repentance was essential for forgiveness and that there needed to be a conscious returning to God. John's baptism was a symbolic act to signify the willingness of the person to renounce their sins and make a more conscious return to God.

gospel focus

Preparing the Way

The gospel passage quotes the prophet Isaiah (although text combines Malachi 3:1; Isaiah 40:3; and Exodus 23:20) and casts John the Baptist in the role of fulfilling the prophecy of the voice that cries in the wilderness, 'Prepare a way for the Lord'. The description of John in camel-skin and eating locusts and wild honey is designed to align him with Elijah, the great prophet of Jewish history. In a very short and sharp passage the gospel ties the coming of Jesus to the expectation of a messiah that has run through Jewish history and been foretold by the great prophets.

DECEMBER— MONTH OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

6th St Nicholas, Bishop

7th St Ambrose, Bishop & Doctor

8th The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

9th St Syrus of Pavia, Bishop & Martyr

10th The Blessed Virgin of Loreto

11th St Damasus I, Pope

12th St Walaricus, Abbot



Come and celebrate the Feast of the Immaculate Conception of our Blessed Virgin Mary on Tuesday, 8th December in St Finbar's Church at 6pm. Mass will be celebrated by Fr Junray, visiting priest from Ballarat.



Mr Ken Whelan from Brighton Flower Shop who graciously donated the beautiful Advent wreath on the alter.

NEW MASS TIMES STARTING NEXT WEEKEND 12th December

Monday—Friday 9.30 am

Saturday 5.30 pm

Sunday 9.00 am, 11.00 am

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

VIGIL: 5.30 pm & 8.30 pm

SUNDAY: 9.00 am & 11.00 am



Christmas Cards and Columban Calendars.

St Vincent de Paul have cards and calendars for sale in the church foyer. Please put money in the Poor Box (by the side door of the church)



PLEASE TAKE THE MASS BULLETIN HOME.

DO NOT LEAVE INSIDE THE CHURCH DUE TO COVID REGULATIONS.

SAFETY OF CHILDREN AND ALL VULNERABLE PEOPLE

St Finbar's Parish hold the care, safety and wellbeing of children and all vulnerable people as a central and fundamental responsibility for our community.