

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

There stands among you, unknown to you, the one who is coming after me.

A man came, sent by God.

His name was John.

He came as a witness,

as a witness to speak for the light,
so that everyone might believe through him.

He was not the light,

only a witness to speak for the light.

This is how John appeared as a witness. When the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' he not only declared, but he declared quite openly, 'I am not the Christ.' 'Well then,' they asked 'are you Elijah?' 'I am not' he said. 'Are you the Prophet?' He answered, 'No.' So they said to him, 'Who are you? We must take back an answer to those who sent us. What have you to say about yourself?' So John said, 'I am, as Isaiah prophesied:

a voice that cries in the wilderness:

Make a straight way for the Lord.'

Now these men had been sent by the Pharisees, and they put this further question to him, 'Why are you baptising if you are not the Christ, and not Elijah, and not the prophet?' John replied, 'I baptise with water; but there stands among you – unknown to you – the one who is coming after me; and I am not fit to undo his sandal-strap.' This happened at Bethany, on the far side of the Jordan, where John was baptising.

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

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Breaking Open the Word



THE SAVING WORD

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT / B

13 DECEMBER 2020

JESUS, GOD'S GREATEST GIFT

The build-up to Christmas and the festive season has a way of leaving many people tired and stressed as many tasks call for our attention. It is probably impossible to avoid much of this as the feast of Christmas marks the end of the year and the beginning of the summer break. The readings for today can help each of us to determine more clearly what are our major priorities as Christians in preparing for Christmas.

Within the readings today two dimensions of our preparation are stressed. The first is the call to witness to our faith by sharing in God's life-giving, freeing, and healing love. The second dimension is that of finding time to give thanks and praise to God for the gifts we have received through the presence of Jesus among us.

Isaiah's mission of proclaiming liberty and God's love to those in exile comes out of his own experience of this love. Because of this experience, he is able to be a witness to what God is doing in his own day. John the Baptist provides us with a powerful example of a person of faith who is prepared to stand up and bear witness.

As Paul concludes the letter to the Thessalonians he reminds them that the best way to prepare for the Lord's return is by living at peace with one another and being constant in their prayer. One relationship nourishes the other. Making time for the Lord in prayer enables us to make time for each other.

Christopher Monaghan CP

FIRST READING

Isa 61:1-2, 10-11

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

I exult for joy in the Lord.

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me,
for the Lord has anointed me.

He has sent me to bring good news to the poor,
to bind up hearts that are broken;
to proclaim liberty to captives,
freedom to those in prison;
to proclaim a year of favour from the Lord.
*'I exult for joy in the Lord,
my soul rejoices in my God,
for he has clothed me in the garments of
salvation,*

*he has wrapped me in the cloak of integrity,
like a bridegroom wearing his wreath,
like a bride adorned in her jewels.*

*'For as the earth makes fresh things grow,
as a garden makes seeds spring up,
so will the Lord make both integrity and praise
spring up in the sight of nations.'*

■ The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Lk 1:46-50, 53-54

R. My soul rejoices in my God.

1. My soul glorifies the Lord,/ my spirit rejoices in God, my Saviour./ He looks on his servant in her nothingness;/ henceforth all ages will call me blessed. R.

2. The Almighty works marvels for me./ Holy his name!/ His mercy is from age to age,/ on those who fear him. R.

3. He fills the starving with good things,/ sends the rich away empty./ He protects Israel, his servant,/ remembering his mercy. R.



SECOND READING

1 Thess 5:16-24

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians

*May you all be kept blameless, spirit, soul and body,
for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

Be happy at all times; pray constantly; and for all things give thanks to God, because this is what God expects you to do in Christ Jesus.

Never try to suppress the Spirit or treat the gift of prophecy with contempt; think before you do anything – hold on to what is good and avoid every form of evil.

May the God of peace make you perfect and holy; and may you all be kept safe and blameless, spirit, soul and body, for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. God has called you and he will not fail you.

■ 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!

13 Dec 2020
Year B Advent 3

WELCOME TO ST PATRICK'S CHURCH

Website: <https://stpatrikswesttamworthparish.org/>



Parish Priest: Fr Anthony Koppman
Deacon: Deacon Peter Harrison
Administration: Ms Anne Bowden
Sacristan: Ms Di Bolitho
Mrs Elaine Smyth

Presbytery: 67658211
Office Hours: Tues - Fri 9.30 - 11.30 am
westtamworthparish@armidale.catholic.org.au
St Joseph's School
Principal: Mrs Katie Hanes 67654079

WEEKEND MASSES: Vigil: Sat: 5.30pm Sun: 9am and 5.30 pm

CONFESIONS

Sat: 4.30-5.15pm
*Or by appointment



WEEKDAY MASSES: Mon: **No Mass Tues: **No Mass
Wed: *12 noon Thurs: 9 am
Fri: 9 am Sat: 9 am

Christmas Eve Children's *Mass 5.30 pm
Vigil Masses 7.30 pm & 9.00 pm
Christmas Day Masses 7.30 & 9.00 am
BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL
*Fully booked

Entrance Antiphon *Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say rejoice. Indeed the Lord is near.*

May God have mercy on all those asked to be remembered in prayer:

Recently Deceased: Sr Helen Cooke, Stuart Betts (Sydney), Doanh Tran (Vietnam),

Sr Eleanor Dawson (rsj), Max MacDonald, Joan Ryan (Sydney), Thomas Brown.

Anniversaries: Stan Hobbs, Perce McInnes (2/12); William Coulston (22/12), John-Paul Vella (4/12), Rod Kelly (20/1), Lawrence Vella (23/1).

Deceased: Hugh and Dail O'Brien, John O'Brien, Beth Galvin, June Foley, Andrew Tickner.

Sick: Mimmie Bennett, Norm Moran, Bob Worthington, Kim Myers, Rachel MacPherson, Judy Cumins, Shirley Hobbs, Jenny Crawford, Sr Pat Bartley, Brindley Cavallaro, Deacon Peter Harrison, Maureen Harrison, Elaine White, Linda Bourke, Peggy Bussell, Margaret Doyle, Christopher Struck, Graeme Bussell, Jack & Marge Attard.



CRACKERS TAILS

*Why did the chicken cross the straight path?
He was social distancing!*

*Why did the dog cross the road twice?
Because he was chasing a boomerang.*

COMING EVENTS

20 Dec: Fourth Sunday of Advent
25 Dec: Christmas Day



"Let us show this love in our acts bearing with one another, forgiving and forgetting." (1890)



SOCIAL DISTANCING - **PLEASE ** REGISTER TO ENTER USING EITHER QR CODE OR RECORDING ENTRY ON PAPER
** SANITISE HANDS ENTERING AND LEAVING
** MARK SEATING & KEEP YOUR DISTANCE

CHRISTMAS MASSES AND BOOKINGS: 5.30 PM MASS IS NOW BOOKED OUT BY THOSE WHO HAD REGISTERED BY 9 DECEMBER. **Due to COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS BOOKINGS ARE MANDATORY FOR ALL CHRISTMAS MASSES. *PLEASE ENSURE YOU RECORD YOUR PREFERRED MASS TIME THIS WEEK TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT. *There being no registrations for 10.30 am mass on Christmas Day it has been cancelled. Forms are available on the website and sheets are available at the back of the church for you to register your interest to attend one of the REMAINING masses and any help you could give.*

REMOVAL OF DISPENSATION FROM SUNDAY MASS: Please see the Bishop's letter on the notice board. With the re-opening of our churches and the continued lifting of restrictions, to the capacity of our parish churches, everyone now has opportunity to attend Sunday Mass. Bishop Michael Kennedy is lifting his dispensation effective from the 4th Sunday of Advent being of 18th-19th Dec, 20.

TAMWORTH RECONCILIATION TIMES: Second rite of reconciliation with a number of priests attending will be held at St Nicholas East, Tues. 15 Dec at 6 pm; Mary Help of Christians South, Wed. 16 Dec at 12 noon and St Patrick's West on Tues. 22 Dec. at 5.30 pm.

CHRISTMAS DUES: Envelopes are available on the seats. Your generosity in this challenging financial year would be very much appreciated.

USED STAMPS: Thank you to all who have saved used stamps this year. Approximately \$31,000 was raised. Since 2001 the total is \$409,000. It is through your efforts that the work of Saint Mary MacKillop today continues in Peru. Used stamps with a decent margin around them can be left in the box provided at the back of the church.

MAJELLAN: The latest edition of this publication is available at the back of the Church. We note that these issues usually remain unsold in the Church and we will now consider if we continue this subscription. Any feedback will be welcome.

WEEK 1 ROSTER: 13/12/20

Vigil: R D Gowing G Styman

9am Sun: R S Brown G Clout **5.30pm Sun:** Readers M and J Murray

Sat Cleaning Roster 2/12/20 J Cunningham & K O'Brien 19/12/20 J Hutt & and Moran

Altar Linen: B Flood

WEEK 2 ROSTER: 20/12/20

Vigil: R C Greer P Bamford

9am Sun: R R Paull M Donaldson **5.30pm Sun:** Readers M and J Murray

Sat Cleaning Roster 19/12/20 J Hutt & and Moran 26/12/20 M Vella and R Pace

Altar Linen: E Jackson



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