

you will reach the perfect goodness which Jesus Christ produces in us for the glory and praise of God.

■ The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Lk 3:4, 6

Alleluia, alleluia!

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

GOSPEL

Lk 3:1-6

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

All people shall see the salvation of God.

In the fifteenth year of Tiberius Caesar's reign, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judaea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of the lands of Ituraea and Trachonitis, Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, during the pontificate of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah, in the wilderness. He went through the whole Jordan district proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the sayings of the prophet Isaiah:

A voice cries in the wilderness:

Prepare a way for the Lord,
make his paths straight.

Every valley will be filled in,
every mountain and hill be laid low,
winding ways will be straightened
and rough roads made smooth.

And all mankind shall see the salvation
of God.

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL



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Breaking Open the Word



THE SAVING WORD

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT / C

8 DECEMBER 2024

PREPARE A WAY FOR THE LORD

Today's Gospel places us squarely within history and competing political leadership. Luke introduces us to the ascetic and enigmatic figure of John the Baptist. There are four elements to Luke's presentation of John. He comes into Luke's Gospel within the context of imperial power, local politics and religious leadership; he proclaims a baptism 'of repentance'; his ministry reflects the liberating words of the ancient prophet, Isaiah, to prepare for the coming of the Messiah. Significantly, God's word comes to John in the wilderness. This is the symbolic place of nothingness and struggle. It's a marginal and liminal space and links to Israel's encounter with God in their forty years' wanderings.

These four aspects about John speak to us: We seek to live our contemporary discipleship with authenticity and fidelity within a world of power politics and church struggles; we, too, find ourselves at times in life's 'wilderness'—that symbol of struggle and nothingness; at the same time, we seek to honour our baptismal commitment as we desire to orient our lives towards God; we prepare ourselves, in the spirit of Isaiah, for the coming of our Messiah, Jesus.

This Sunday might become a time to invite John the Baptist to be our companion in preparing our hearts for the birth of Jesus. In the words of Isaiah, we are invited this Sunday to 'Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight'. We ready our hearts for God's coming to us in the anticipated birth of Jesus.

Fr Michael Trainor

FIRST READING

Bar 5:1-9

A reading from the prophet Baruch.

Jerusalem – God will show you splendour.

Jerusalem, take off your dress of sorrow and distress,
put on the beauty of the glory of God for ever,
wrap the cloak of the integrity of God around you,
put the diadem of the glory of the Eternal on your head:
since God means to show your splendour to every nation under heaven,
since the name God gives you for ever will be,
'Peace through integrity, and honour through devotedness.'

Arise, Jerusalem, stand on the heights
and turn your eyes to the east:
see your sons reassembled from west and east
at the command of the Holy One, jubilant
that God has remembered them.

Though they left you on foot,
with enemies for an escort,
now God brings them back to you
like royal princes carried back in glory.
For God has decreed the flattening
of each high mountain, of the everlasting hills,
the filling of the valleys to make the ground level
so that Israel can walk in safety under the
glory of God.
And the forests and every fragrant tree will
provide shade
for Israel at the command of God;
for God will guide Israel in joy by the light of
his glory
with his mercy and integrity for escort.

■ The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 125. R. v. 3

R. The Lord has done great things for us;
we are filled with joy.

1. When the Lord delivered Zion from
bondage, / it seemed like a dream. / Then was
our mouth filled with laughter, / on our lips
there were songs. **R.**



2. The heathens themselves said: 'What
 marvels / the Lord worked for them!' / What
 marvels the Lord worked for us! / Indeed we
 were glad. **R.**

3. Deliver us, O Lord, from our bondage / as
 streams in dry land. / Those who are sowing in
 tears / will sing when they reap. **R.**

4. They go out, they go out, full of tears /
 carrying seed for the sowing; / they come back,
 they come back, full of song, / carrying their
 sheaves. **R.**

SECOND READING

Phil 1:3-6, 8-11

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the
Philippians.

*Show yourselves sinless and without blame in the
day of Christ.*

Every time I pray for all of you, I pray with joy,
remembering how you have helped to spread the
Good News from the day you first heard it right
up to the present. I am quite certain that the
One who began this good work in you will see
that it is finished when the Day of Christ Jesus
comes. God knows how much I miss you all,
loving you as Christ Jesus loves you. My prayer
is that your love for each other may increase
more and more and never stop improving your
knowledge and deepening your perception so
that you can always recognise what is best. This
will help you to become pure and blameless,
and prepare you for the Day of Christ, when

In the Pastoral Care of the AUGUSTINIANS

- ▶ Fr Luca Park OSA Parish Priest
- ▶ Fr Marydas Arackal OSA Assistant Priest
- ▶ Fr Matteo Cho OSA (Korean Chaplain)
- ▶ Fr Brian Buckley OSA Prior

ADMINISTRATION

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OUR PARISH AND THE AUGUSTINIANS

Commit to creating an environment where the safety of children and vulnerable persons is paramount. All volunteers are required to have a Working With Children Check.

Pastoral and Administrative Support

- ▶ Stephy Coosnapa (Parish Pastoral Assistant) ▶ Juliet Oei (Business & Facilities Manager: Wed - Fri)
- ▶ Safeguarding: Stephy Coosnapa ▶ Joss Honour (St Joseph's Outreach Services)
- ▶ Toni Stuart (Parish Secretary, Weddings & SJOS Volunteer Co-ordinator: Tues/Thurs/Fri)

Liturgical Calendar for the week commencing 8th December 2024

| DAY | ST JOSEPH'S | ST THOMAS AQUINAS' |
|---|-------------------|--------------------|
| | TIME | TIME |
| Saturday 7 th December | 6.00pm Vigil Mass | |
| Sunday 8 th December 2 nd Sunday of Advent | 10.30am Mass | 9.00am Mass |
| Monday 9 th December Immaculate Conception | | |
| Tuesday 10 th December 2 nd Week in Advent | 10.00am Mass | 12.45pm Mass |
| Wednesday 11 th December 2 nd Week in Advent | 10.00am Mass | 12.45pm Mass |
| Thursday 12 th December 2 nd Week in Advent | 10.00am Mass | 12.45pm Mass |
| Friday 13 th December St Lucy | 10.00am Mass | 12.45pm Mass |
| Saturday 14 th December St John of the Cross | 9.00am Mass | |

2024 CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE IN CONJUNCTION WITH SJOS

Our parish Giving Tree will be in our churches from this weekend. This year we are again collecting food gifts and money or vouchers for the food store visitors. When you place your gift or shopping voucher in the basket under the tree, please take a gift card and hang it on the tree. The gifts will be collected after each mass for distribution through the SJOS food store.



CHILDREN'S LITURGY

St. Joseph's • 10.30am Mass
Fourth Sunday of the month
(except school holidays and long weekends)

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

St. Joseph's • Sat: 5.15pm – 5.45pm, or by appointment.

ANOINTING / HEALING MASS

(Sacrament of the Sick) First Tuesday of the month 10am at St Joseph's Church

HOLY COMMUNION AT HOME

Anyone ill or housebound may contact us to request a visit for communion at home.

EVENTS AND MEETINGS

- ▶ RCIA: Thursday 7pm Parish Centre
- ▶ Advent Reflection: 7pm Tues 10th Dec.
- ▶ Finance Committee: Tues 10th Dec 4pm
- ▶ Parish Council: Wed. 11th Dec 7pm

ST AUGUSTINE - GOD'S PROMISES



"God decreed a time for making promises and a time for the promises to be fulfilled. The time for making promises was the time of the prophets,

ending with John the Baptist, the last prophet. From then until the end is the time for the fulfilment of promises. God is faithful. He promised us eternal salvation and an unending life of blessedness with the angels, and an imperishable inheritance (from *Sermon*)

ADVENT REFLECTIONS



Again this Advent we offer an opportunity to share evenings in preparation for the Feast of Christmas with Advent reflection nights on Tuesdays in December

7pm in the parish centre. All are welcome.

CHOIR MEMBERS WELCOME



We invite anyone who would like to join the choir to sing at our Christmas masses to contact Stephy at the parish office

PARISH BAPTISMS

This weekend we welcome the family and friends of Xavier Glavas who is to be baptised in our parish.



PRAYERS FOR THE SICK:

Robert Huggins, Margaret Wallin, Mark Ho, June Cochrane, Ronald Seaman, Mitos Gloudeans, Anne Rigg, Ced John Netto, Julie Mahony, Paul Chong, Isabella Chong, Thomas Bedier, Luke Dennis, Sonia Guzman, Damien Ryan, Stephen Soh, Cecil D'Cruz, Joanna Howe, Christine Rodrigues, Janine Forster,

IN LOVING MEMORY



Recently Deceased

- ✦ Maurice Knight

Anniversaries

- ✦ Luis Jara
- ✦ Valentino Alcantara
- ✦ Violet Phillips
- ✦ Leontina Aravena
- ✦ Pacifico Alcantara Jnr
- ✦ Mary Menadue
- ✦ Maria Vanek
- ✦ Lidia Morales
- ✦ Olga Lang
- ✦ Noel Hackett

ORDINATION BR TU NGUYEN OSA



We congratulate Brother Tu Nguyen who is to be ordained to the priesthood and celebrate his First Mass in Sydney this weekend. Br. Tu spent time in the parish attending a Clinical Pastoral program in 2023.

MASS COLLECTIONS 1/12/2024

Clergy (Augustinian Community)

1st Collection, CDF & bank deposits. \$ 986.55

Church (Parish Ministries)

2nd Collection \$ 377.40

Envelopes..... \$ 210.00

Direct Debit/EFT/ CDF Pay/ Cr Cards \$ 400.00

Tap Point Terminals..... \$ 430.00

Thank you for your generosity

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMETABLE

CHRISTMAS EVE Tues 24TH

St Joseph's:

6.00pm Family Mass

8.30pm Carols

9.00pm Night Mass

St Thomas Aquinas

7.00pm Family Mass

CHRISTMAS DAY Wednesday 25TH

9.00am Mass **St Thomas Aquinas'**

10.30am Mass **St Joseph's**

NEW YEAR'S DAY

9.00am Mass St Thomas Aquinas

10.30am St Joseph's

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturdays from 5.15 to 5.45pm at St Joseph's