

FIRST READING: Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11

A reading from the Prophet Isaiah

'Console my people, console them' says your God. 'Speak to the heart of Jerusalem and call to her that her time of service is ended, that her sin is atoned for, that she has received from the hand of the Lord double punishment for all her crimes.'

A voice cries, 'Prepare in the wilderness a way for the Lord. Make a straight highway for our God across the desert. Let every valley be filled in, every mountain and hill be laid low, let every cliff become a plain, and the ridges a valley; then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all mankind shall see it; for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.'

Go up on a high mountain, joyful messenger to Zion. Shout with a loud voice, joyful messenger to Jerusalem. Shout without fear, say to the towns of Judah, 'Here is your God.'

Here is the Lord coming with power, his arm subduing all things to him. The prize of his victory is with him, his trophies all go before him. He is like a shepherd feeding his flock, gathering lambs in his arms, holding them against his breast and leading to their rest the mother ewes.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Ps 84:9-14

Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

I will hear what the Lord God has to say, a voice that speaks of peace, peace for his people.

His help is near for those who fear him and his glory will dwell in our land. R.

Mercy and faithfulness have met; justice and peace have embraced. Faithfulness shall spring from the earth and justice look down from heaven. R.

The Lord will make us prosper and our earth shall yield its fruit. Justice shall march before him and peace shall follow his steps. R.

SECOND READING: 2 Peter 3:8-14

A reading from the second letter of St Peter

There is one thing, my friends, that you must never forget: that with the Lord, 'a day' can mean a thousand years, and a thousand years is like a day. The Lord is not being slow to carry out his promises, as anybody else might be called slow; but he is being patient with you all, wanting nobody to be lost and everybody to be brought to change his ways. The Day of the Lord will come

like a thief, and then with a roar the sky will vanish, the elements will catch fire and fall apart, the earth and all that it contains will be burnt up.

Since everything is coming to an end like this, you should be living holy and saintly lives while you wait and long for the Day of God to come, when the sky will dissolve in flames and the elements melt in the heat. What we are waiting for is what he promised: the new heavens and new earth, the place where righteousness will be at home. So then, my friends, while you are waiting, do your best to live lives without spot or stain so that he will find you at peace.

The word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Ps 84:8

Alleluia, alleluia!

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

GOSPEL: Mark: 1:1-8

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

The beginning of the Good News about Jesus Christ, the Son of God. It is written in the book of the prophet Isaiah: Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way. A voice cries in the wilderness: Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight, and so it was that John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. All Judaea and all the people of Jerusalem made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. John wore a garment of camel-skin, and he lived on locusts and wild honey. In the course of his preaching he said, 'Someone is following me, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to kneel down and undo the strap of his sandals. I have baptised you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

First Reading: Isaiah 61:1-2, 10-11
Responsorial Psalm: Luke 1:46-50, 53-54
Second Reading: 2 Peter 3:8-14
Gospel: John 1:6-8, 19-28

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FUNERALS AND WEDDINGS
All enquires regarding Funerals and
Weddings, please contact **the parish office**
manly@bne.catholic.net.au
SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION
Saturday 4.30pm or by appointment

PARISH MISSION STATEMENT
We follow the words of our patron, St John Vianney, who said "He is here". We recognise Christ is in the Word, the Eucharist, and in us His people, with a special reverence for Him in the poor and marginalised. We are called to make Christ present through our prayer and charity. We seek to grow in our spiritual lives and create a community where everyone is welcome; the young and the old, together to experience the loving presence of God. We believe He is here amongst us and we joyfully go out to make Him present to all.

9/10 December 2023
SECOND WEEK OF ADVENT

Let Us Pray:
Forgive me, Jesus, for my distractions and for all the time I've wasted on things that separate me from You. Grant me the grace to be ever attentive to Your commands and Your love. Amen.

You have a fruitful future
Today's readings tell us to prepare for the Lord - for whatever he wants to give us, do for us, and ask of us. He has a plan for our lives; he has a divine purpose that will bring us to our full potential as children of our loving Father and as partners with Christ the Savior of the world. We can only fulfill our wonderful potential if we unite ourselves to Christ by joining him on the straight path, the holy path. How do we know when we are on the right path? By the fruits of the journey. The way of holiness always produces good fruits. Isaiah says: A voice cries out in the desert! What is barren in your life, and dry, hot, or empty? Sins dry up what would otherwise be fruitful. Advent is a good preparation for Christmas, and meeting the Lord anew, if we use it to face our sins, reconcile with God, and follow Jesus back onto the holy path. If we neglect this opportunity, Christmas will be only a secular holiday. Our lives will be too barren to give Jesus to others, and we will feel just as empty next year as we do right now. Prepare the way of the Lord! He has more love to give you, more healing, more joy! Make straight in the wasteland of your sins a highway for our God. Receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation and create a wider road into your heart that's easy for Jesus to travel, a through-way upon which he can arrive in great speed and glory. All humankind is as frail as grass, and all our glory is like the flower of the field that withers and wilts. Only the glory of God stands forever. God has given you talents and a vocation - a calling, a special purpose - that requires those talents. Yes, you! We are all called to have fruitful lives that make an eternal difference. We are all called to be like Mary giving birth to Jesus so that the world becomes a better place. Jesus wants to come straight to us to produce the fruits of his eternal kingdom in our lives and in others. Are you wasting time? If so, take this to the Sacrament of Reconciliation and prepare yourself for the way of the Lord. He wants to make an eternal difference through you!
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We acknowledge and pay respect to Traditional Custodians - the Quandamooka and Jagera Peoples on whose land we walk, live and worship.

**FOR YOUR DIARY
DECEMBER**

11 Mon No Mass
 12 Tues No Mass
 13 Wed 9:00am Rosary
 No Mass
 7.30pm Rosary on-line via ZOOM
 14 Thurs No Mass
 5.15pm Rehearsal - Youth Choir
 15 Fri 9.30am Mass
 16 Sat 10.30am Baptism - MARTIN
 2.00pm Rehearsal - Nativity Play
 4:30pm Reconciliation

THIRD WEEK OF ADVENT

5.00pm Mass
 17 Sun 7:00am Mass (St Jude's)
 9:30am Mass (SJV) Youth Choir sings

OF YOUR CHARITY, PLEASE PRAY FOR:

RECENTLY DECEASED: Phillip Hunt, Tyler Whitton, Rose-Marie Dickson

ANNIVERSARIES: Trevor Alexander, Edmond Baker, Katherine Barton, Fay Bishop, Dean Bramley, Kevin Byrne, Joan Copley, Catherine Dillon, Sylvia Fens, Alan Francis, Kathleen Galea, Meg Griffiths, Rory Greene, Stephanie Hankins, Jean Kuter, Jennifer Lynas, Olivia Lewis, Eric Morrison, Gerard Ring, Jean Rosenstengel, Madeline Shenton, Henry Sizeland, Wilma Will, Blanca Wiswell, David Vidler, Greg Selwood, Sr Teresita Ahearn

WE PRAY FOR THE SICK: Jack and Mary Beard, Jocelyn Barron, Stephen Burrows, Dell Chapman, Emily de Looze, Anne Dixon, Irene Gavrilla, Richard Pook, Maureen Handcock, David Schilling, Leesa Scott, Violet Maureen Phillips, Joanne Small, Barry Smith, Emma Walters, Natasha Skitmore, Stacie Stonier, Patrick Nofokifolau & Brian Prove.

To include a name in our 'Of Your Charity' list, the Privacy Act requires the personal permission of the nominee or a close relative. Names on the recently deceased, anniversaries and our sick parishioners. Lists are reviewed at the end of each month.

**CHRISTMAS NATIVITY PLAY
REHEARSAL**

**Saturday 16 December
at 2.00pm in the church**



Children are reminded to bring a snack and a drink to the rehearsal. For more information contact: Gerry O'Neill Gerryo.oneill@gmail.com

THE CATHOLIC LEADER

December Edition now available - Only \$4

Interesting articles include:

- * Newley ordained Deacons
- * Tips on how to prepare for Christmas
- * Bill Hayden remembered as a faithful 'son of God'
- * Every Day Miracles of Lourdes - Book Review

VOLUNTEERS GATHERING



The Volunteers Gathering was a huge success with many volunteers in attendance to receive their service award.

We also presented Fr George with a dedication plaque to be positioned in the rose garden. The words on the plaque are as follows:

**THIS GARDEN IS DEDICATED TO
FATHER GEORGE K JOSEPH**

PARISH PRIEST FOR MANLY AND GUMDALE 2022-2023
 Fr George established this beautiful rose garden by his constant and tender caring, unwavering efforts, and profound nurturing of these plants. He also established strong, engaging and grateful parishioners using those same selfless qualities. A gentle, compassionate and caring pastoral leader who talked the talk and very much walked the walk. He will leave this Parish with a much higher pastoral involvement, a stronger group of dedicated parishioners, stronger leadership teams and the highest level of volunteer seen for many decades.

He will be greatly missed.

GARDENER (PAID POSITION)

Parishioner looking for a gardener to assist on a regular basis. Please contact Zoe in the Parish Office (3131 2610) for more details.

Don't forget your \$25 Gift Card or CASH Donations for Refugees and Asylum Seekers who have no other form of income to use to celebrate Christmas.



**CHILDREN'S LITURGY
TODAY**



**NEXT
YOUTH CHOIR
REHEARSAL**

5.15PM THURSDAY 14 DECEMBER

**- St Vincent de Paul -
CHRISTMAS HAMPER APPEAL 2023**

The Annual Christmas Hamper Appeal for **Non Perishable Food Items**
FINAL WEEKEND for donations
 Hampers will be delivered on Saturday 16 December
 so early donations would be greatly appreciated.
 Donation suggestions include:

CHRISTMAS FARE

Christmas Cake, Christmas Pudding (*individual*)
 Christmas sweets/chocolate, long life custard, fruit mince pies, jellies, tinned leg ham

CHRISTMAS TABLE ITEMS

Serviettes, bon-bons, decorations

GENERAL FOOD ITEMS

Tinned/bottles fruit & vegetables, savoury biscuits, tins of biscuits, shortbread

DRINKS

Bottles of cordial/fruit juice, packs of poppers, soft drinks

GIFT VOUCHERS

Woolworths, Coles, Kmart, Target

St Vincent de Paul appreciates the continuing support of the St John Vianney's Parish to assist those in need in our community and to add a little cheer at Christmas time.



CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Sat 23 Dec: 5pm Vigil Mass Advent Wk4 (SJV)
 Sun 24 Dec: 7am NO MASS (St Jude)
 Sun 24 Dec: 9.30am NO MASS (SJV)
Sun 24 Dec: 5pm Family Christmas Mass (SJV)
7pm Christmas Mass (St Jude)
Mon 25 Dec: 9.30am Christmas Mass (SJV)

	Welcomer	1st Reader	2nd Reader	EMHC	Screen	Servers	Counter
Sat 09 Dec	Jane O	Colleen S	Denise D	Denis H, Alison G	Irene	AG	C
Sun 10 Dec	Steve P	Anne S	Carolina CV	Jasser, Margaret H	Donna	PN, SCV, CO	
Sat 16 Dec	Jen B	Maureen B	Gerardina R	Denise D, Colleen S	Pam	DH	D
Sun 17 Dec	Roberto A	Katherine	Sonia M	Mark E, Trish E	Nola	SN, CO	

This parish is Child Safety Aware and complies with Australian Privacy Laws. A copy of the Safeguarding policy is situated in the foyer of the church. STOPLINE CONTACT: Phone 1 300 304 400 Email AOB@stopline.com.au

For the Children

FAITH

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR B

The Bethlehem Candle

There was lots that Mary and Joseph had to do to prepare for the journey to Bethlehem before Jesus was born. Today, there are things that we can do so we are prepared for Jesus too. The second Advent candle is a candle of *faith*, faith in Jesus can be the greatest gift we may ever receive.

LET US PRAY

Dear Jesus, You are always there for us, loving us and calling us to be better people. Help us have *faith* to trust you, to know you are here with us and you will always love us. Let our *faith* be a light unto the world of others. Amen

