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**3rd Sunday of Advent (B)** December 17th 2023

**SUNDAY MASS TIMES**

 Saturday 6.00pm St. Patrick’s church

 Sunday 9.30am Christ the King church

 Sunday 11.00am St. Patrick’s church

**WEEKDAY LITURGY TIMES**

 Tuesday 10.00am Christ the King

 Wednesday 10.00am St. Patrick’s

 Thursday 10.00am Christ the King

 Friday 10.00am St. Patrick’s

**MASS INTENTIONS RECEIVED**: Special Intention, Ernest, Mary and Kathleen Gibson, Betty and Benny McMahon,

Amanda Hudson, Frank Hudson, Family and friends of Manuel family, Family and friends of Curly family,

**ANNIVERSARIES: December 17th – 23rd:**

Maud McCallan, Cyril (Jimmy) Huggins, Harold Ernest Good, William John Hartley, Ann Harbord, Betty Cuthbert, James Hart (Snr.), John Dunn, Frank Pritchard, Ellen Connor, Peter Willey, Vincent Thwaites, Alice McReddie, Donna Gourlay, Philip Francis Henry, Maud Riley.

**PLEASE REMEMBER** in your prayers all our sick and housebound brothers and sisters.

**The word this week**

Isaiah 61:1–2a, 10–11 Justice will spring up before all the nations.

Luke 1:46-55 ***‘My soul rejoices in my God.’***

1 Thessalonians 5:16–24 Rejoice always.

John 1:6-8, 19-28 There is one among you whom you do not recognize.

S

o who is coming? This Sunday’s readings help to answer that question. John the Baptist is asked about the coming of the Messiah - is it him? He affirms his role as “a witness to speak for the light”, by pointing to the one who stands among the crowd unknown to them who is coming after him. This idea is present in the First Reading, where Isaiah proclaims what the “anointed one” (‘Messiah’ in Hebrew) will do, and the joy that this will bring. It is interesting that the Psalm appointed for this Sunday is the Magnificat - Mary’s song of praise at the announcement that the Messiah would be born of her - in which she sings of the works of the coming Messiah. Paul then reminds us that we are still waiting patiently: “God has called you, and he will not fail you.” This is why, on this ‘Gaudete’ Sunday, we as God’s people rejoice in his care, made visible in his promises, fulfilled in Jesus.

**AT MASS TODAY WE PRAY** Eucharistic Prayer 3 and Preface 2 for Advent

When the reign of God comes to its fulfilment, justice and peace will spring up before all the nations. This eucharistic meal gives us a foretaste of that life to come. Let us raise our voices in joyful expectation, giving thanks for all God has accomplished in Christ.

**ST PATRICK’S PARISH AND PRIMARY SCHOOL** Christmas Concert in the church this Wednesday, 20th December, at 6pm. Everybody is most welcome. There will be a children’s tombola in the church porch beforehand and refreshments in the hall afterwards.

**PARISH RECONCILIATION SERVICE FOR ADVENT: This Tuesday, December 19th, at Christ the King 6.30pm**

**At St. Patrick’s this Wednesday after 10.00am Mass.**

**CHURCH CLEANING at Christ the King Church for Christmas this Wednesday, December 20th, at 10.00am**

**All help delightfully received.**

MASS TIMES FOR CHRISTMAS

 Christmas Eve, Sunday, December 24th 5.00pm at St. Patrick’s Church

 Christmas Eve, Sunday, December 24th 7.00pm at Christ the King Church {Carols from 6.30pm}

 Christmas Day, Monday, December 25th 10.30am at St. Patrick’s Church

Mass Times for Sunday next, December 24th, are the usual Saturday evening and Sunday morning Mass times.

**ST PATRICK’S PRIMARY SCHOOL ADVENT RETREAT**

All parishioners are warmly welcome to join classes in church for Advent prayer and song.

Both services will begin at 2.00pm - 2:45pm. All are welcome as we prepare together for Jesus' birth.

Tuesday 19th December- Peace and Hope. Wednesday 20th December- Love and Joy



**Third Sunday of Advent (B)**

**December 17th, 2023**

 **First reading** Isaiah 61:1-2,10-11

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 the nations.’

 **Second reading**  1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

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.

 **Gospel Acclamation**

Alleluia, alleluia!

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me.

He has sent me to bring the good news to the poor.

Alleluia!

**Gospel Reading** John 1:6-8,19-28

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.