



# The Word WEEKLY BULLETIN

Parishes of Holy Spirit, St Anne & St Gerard.



**Jesus, Light of the World**

**You come to bring us hope and courage.**

**You are a radiant reflection of the Source of All Being.**

**May we be inspired to stay alert and see with new eyes the signs of hope  
around us, and to see traces of your presence in our everyday lives.**

**Jesus Light of the World,**

**hear our prayers**

# We watch

*Be on your guard, stay awake, because you never know when the time will come. MARK 13:33*

**Advent is a four week season of preparation for the coming of Christ at Christmas and it always has a theme of looking towards the future coming of Christ at the end times. One of the prayers of the early Church which is linked with the season of waiting and longing, was the Aramaic word 'MARANATHA', which means 'Come Lord'. Use this prayer often this week as one way to begin preparation for Christmas.**



Another way to bring Christ's coming into the family home is the custom of the Advent Wreath. The Advent Wreath is constructed of a circle of evergreen branches into which are inserted four candles. According to tradition, three of the candles are violet, and the fourth is rose. However, four violet or white candles may also be used. The candles represent the four weeks of Advent. The rose candle is lit on the third Sunday of Advent. When the blessing of the Advent Wreath is celebrated in the home, it is appropriate that it is blessed by a parent. The word 'Maranatha' could be used as part of the blessing. The lighting of the candles may fittingly be included as a part of the evening meal. *(Light two candles on the Advent wreath.)*

This week we light the second of the Advent candles. We are reminded of the way John the Baptist called people to prepare the way for Jesus and we light these candles as a sign that we, too, are praying and preparing our hearts to welcome Jesus anew this Christmas.

## **2nd Sunday of Advent - Mark 1:1-8**

*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 repent-ance 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.'*

## **Ponder**

Pope Francis in *Evangelii Gaudium* (2013) noted that in the presence of God, during a recollected read-ing of the text it is good to practice *Lectio Divina* – the reading of God's word in prayer asking that it to 'enlighten and renew' us.

What word or phrase stands out for me as I read this text?

What invitation is this text offering me?

What troubles me about this text?

Re read the Gospel. From the above, which is the one word of phrase that stays with you?



# The Word WEEKLY BULLETIN



Parishes of Holy Spirit, St Anne & St Gerard.

**2nd Sunday of Advent, 5-6 December 2020**

**Parish Priest: Fr. Arsenio Tuazon**

## **HOLY SPIRIT PARISH**

120 Oban Road, Ringwood North 3134

Phone: 0434 224 483

Fax: 9879 0642

Email: [Ringwoodnorth@cam.org.au](mailto:Ringwoodnorth@cam.org.au)

Website: [www.holyspiritparish.org.au](http://www.holyspiritparish.org.au)

## **PASTORAL ASSOCIATE**

Jacinta Bibby

[Jacinta.bibby@cam.org.au](mailto:Jacinta.bibby@cam.org.au)

## **PARISH SECRETARIES**

Ruth Frangeskakis

[ruth.frangeskakis@cam.org.au](mailto:ruth.frangeskakis@cam.org.au)

Jenny Philp

[jenny.philp@cam.org.au](mailto:jenny.philp@cam.org.au)

## **HIGH SPIRITS COORDINATORS**

Etta D'Souza

Sundays 4-5:00pm (School terms)

Elma Gama

Sundays 4-5:00pm (School terms)

## **PARISH HOSTESSES**

Mary Yeo and Kerry O'Leary

## **SCHOOL PRINCIPAL—Holy Spirit**

Duncan Arendse —9876 1103

**PARISH LEADERSHIP TEAM** [plt@holyspiritparish.org.au](mailto:plt@holyspiritparish.org.au)

## **PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL**

Secretary

[ppc-sec@holyspiritparish.org.au](mailto:ppc-sec@holyspiritparish.org.au)

## **FETE COMMITTEE**

John Cilia (Chairperson) -

[fete@holyspiritparish.org.au](mailto:fete@holyspiritparish.org.au)

## **PARISH OF ST GERARD AND ST ANNE**

St Gerard's: McCulloch Street, Warrandyte 3113

St Anne's: 54 Knees Road, Park Orchards 3114

Phone: 9876 1509

Fax: 9876 6179

Email: [ParkOrchards@cam.org.au](mailto:ParkOrchards@cam.org.au)

Website: [www.cam.org.au/parkorchardswarrandyte](http://www.cam.org.au/parkorchardswarrandyte)

**Office Hours: Tuesday-Friday 9am-3pm, closed Mondays.**

## **PARISH SECRETARIES**

Ana Saro

Tuesday & Wednesday

Kerry McGowan

Thursday & Friday

## **SCHOOL PRINCIPAL—St. Anne's**

Michael Edmonds—9876 1533

## **HOLY SPIRIT PARISH EMAIL**

Jacinta will continue to make contact with parishioners via email on a weekly basis. If you have not received an email but would like to be included in this distribution list, please email to let us know at [Ringwoodnorth@cam.org.au](mailto:Ringwoodnorth@cam.org.au). Alternatively, please ring the parish mobile 0434 224 483 to advise us of your email address.

This is a great opportunity to update our data base!

## **PLEASE NOTE:**

IN ACCORDANCE WITH INSTRUCTIONS FROM THE PREMIER AND THE BISHOPS OF VICTORIA, WE CAN NOW CELEBRATE MASS UNDER VERY STRICT GUIDELINES. PLEASE SEE THE NOTICE ON PAGE 2 FOR MORE DETAILS.

Readings, Prayers of Intercession and a Gospel reflection are included in the word, which is available from the parish web site:

[www.holyspiritparish.org.au/The-Word-Newsletter](http://www.holyspiritparish.org.au/The-Word-Newsletter)

Recorded Masses available at: [www.holyspiritparish.org.au/Online-Resources](http://www.holyspiritparish.org.au/Online-Resources)

Important information, Spirit Extra, the Spirit Magazine and other Parish matters are available on the website:

[www.holyspiritparish.org.au](http://www.holyspiritparish.org.au)

THE Parish Office remains closed, however, the staff will be monitoring the phone, mail and emails. Please ring the Parish Mobile number: 0434 224 483 and leave your name and contact number and we will return your call as soon as possible.

Email: [ringwoodnorth@cam.org.au](mailto:ringwoodnorth@cam.org.au)

## **IN THE PEACE OF CHRIST— RECENTLY DECEASED:**

**ANNIVERSARIES OF DEATH:** Doro Barro, Denise Love, Peter Skuskavneiks, John Patrick, Desmond Gill, Bernie O'Callaghan, Josie O'Sullivan and Peter Konynenburg

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING SICK:** Ben Lobo, John, Angela Damora, Warren Darbyshire, Claire Snaidero, Stella & family, Deb Neilsen, Pauline Curlis, Sean Hill, Valerie Mason, Deanne Frangeskakis

**Readings this week:** Isaiah 40:1-5,9-11; 2Peter 3:8-14; Mark 1:1-8

The Word, Spirit Magazine and "Spirit Extra" are available online at [www.holyspiritparish.org.au](http://www.holyspiritparish.org.au)

Dear Holy Spirit Parishioners

With the much welcomed news that we are now able to offer larger numbers to book in for our weekend parish masses., you can now book for weekend Masses online via TryBooking.

For bookings please follow the information below:

ALL WEEKEND MASSES UNTIL 31 JANUARY WILL BE OPEN FOR BOOKING FROM TUESDAY 8 DECEMBER.

The bookings close for each weekend on the Friday preceding the weekend at 12 noon.

The link for Saturday evening Mass is: <https://www.trybooking.com/BNKHB>

The link for Sunday morning Mass is: <https://www.trybooking.com/BNKHK>

Alternatively, go to the parish website:

<https://www.holyspiritparish.org.au/Mass-Times/Weekly-Services>

Should you have any questions please email the parish at [ringwoodnorth@cam.org.au](mailto:ringwoodnorth@cam.org.au) and we will respond to you.

#### WEEKDAY MASS BOOKINGS:

Our week day masses will remain in the Chapel. Please note on Wednesday 9th December, Mass will be celebrated in the Chapel at **10:15**, Friday Mass will be at 9:30am. To book please call the parish M: 0434 224 483 on Tuesdays between 9am -2pm to book for both Wednesday & Friday Masses.

These Masses will continue to be celebrated under very strict guidelines, which have been approved by Archbishop Comensoli.

**Under no circumstances should anyone awaiting test verification, including Clergy (even without presenting symptoms) attend a church or parish setting until a diagnosis is confirmed. Additionally, under no circumstances should anyone attend who is closely connected to people who are awaiting test results or who have tested positive.**

The restrictions are as follows:

- You must wear a face mask at all times.
- Sanitize your hands on arrival.

The chairs are not to be moved from the pre marked space.

Fr Arsenio will give instructions on receiving Holy Communion during the Fraction Rite.

Communion during covid-19 at this time may only be taken by hand.

Jacinta Bibby Pastoral Associate Mobile : 0434 224 483

#### Christmas 2020

Bookings are not yet open as we are still waiting on advice regarding the numbers who can attend each Mass. **Bookings are essential** as numbers will be limited and we are required to keep contact tracing records. Details for booking will be in the word and on the parish website:

[www.holyspiritparish.org.au](http://www.holyspiritparish.org.au) as soon as they are confirmed.

If you are unable to secure a seat at one of the Christmas Eve/Christmas Day Masses, please consider the other feast days in the season- The Holy Family (26/27 December), Mary, the Holy Mother of God (1 January), the Epiphany of the Lord (2/3 January).

Christmas Eve Masses at Holy Spirit will be celebrated at 5:00pm (to be live-streamed), 7:30pm and 10:30pm. Christmas Day Mass will be celebrated at 9:00am.

We look forward to celebrating the peace and joy of Christmas with as many of our parish family as possible.





#### ADVENT DISCUSSION GROUP

**The** Diocese of Wollongong resource “Adore” is available to anyone who may like to get a booklet for private reflection during Advent.

Copies of the booklet can be collected from Mass or dropped into your letterbox. To request a booklet, please call Jacinta on 0434 224 483.



## St Vincent de Paul Society

*good works*

#### ST VINCENT DE PAUL CHRISTMAS HAMPERS

Thank you to all who have taken a family number to provide Christmas Hampers to the families we visit. All hampers have now been allocated. We would still appreciate your support by donating cash, as we are unable to distribute the usual Buy a Meal Appeal envelopes. If you are able to donate, please contact Joan Ward on 0400 621 022 or email [joanward@optusnet.com.au](mailto:joanward@optusnet.com.au).

Many thanks

### Parish Zoom Chat with Fr Arsenio now complete.

Thank you to those who came along throughout lock down to meet Fr Arsenio and connect with others.

Special mention to John Hogan and Andrew Mitchell for their loyal attendance and extended hospitality over many months.

Blessings,  
Mary

#### 2020 CONFIRMATION

Due to the onset of the pandemic, our planned Confirmation Mass at St Patrick's Cathedral in April was cancelled. Archbishop Comensoli has now given Fr Arsenio permission to confer the Sacrament of Confirmation upon our Grade 6 students. This will take place on the weekends of 5/6 December and 12/13 December, with a small number of candidates and their parents attending each of the weekend Masses. This will be a very joyous and special celebration for the candidates and their families after such a long and uncertain year. Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers and on behalf of the Parish Community, congratulations!



#### CONGRATULATIONS TO SEVERAL OF OUR BELOVED PARISHIONERS!

This weeks marks “significant” birthdays for both Barry Ward and Vin Dwyer, and a “not 0” birthday for Brian Price. It was also John & Barb McGowan’s 50th wedding anniversary.

Our love and best wishes to you all as you celebrate these milestones.

St Vinnies Christmas Card are available from the piety stall. \$4 per pack.

The Parish will rely on continuing contributions through the Thanksgiving program to meet our expenses for day to day operations. If you would like to drop your envelope into the office, please ring to arrange a drop off or pick up time.

This may be an opportune time to change over to Direct Debit or Credit Card contributions. Should you wish to make this change, please call the parish office on **0434 224 483**

### **Holy Spirit Parish Vision**

At Holy Spirit Parish, we are an inviting community inspired by the Holy Spirit; welcoming everyone to worship, grow, belong and serve together as Disciples of Christ.



Holy Spirit is a child safe parish. At Holy Spirit we hold the care, safety and well being of children and young people as a central and fundamental responsibility of our parish.

### **PARISH LETTER & DATA BASE UPDATE**

Please remember to advise the parish staff of your current phone and email details so we can update our database. You can either return the data sheet sent to you or email: [Ringwoodnorth@cam.org.au](mailto:Ringwoodnorth@cam.org.au)  
Thank you.

### **Holy Spirit Web Site - [www.holyspiritparish.org.au](http://www.holyspiritparish.org.au):**

Stay in touch with our parish website.

- “News, Events”: ref menu
- “Covid 19 News and Updates” (much of which is drawn from Jacinta’s weekly email): ref home page & menu
- “How we stay connected”, online resources such as Masses, Prayers, Newsletters, Next Zoom: ref home page

### **Holy Rosary**

The Holy Rosary via Zoom on Tuesday Nights is discontinued for now with the resumption of the Holy Hour of Adoration in the chapel on Wednesday Nights.



### **Holy Hour of Adoration - Wednesday Nights**

The Holy Hour of Adoration in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament resumes on  
Wednesday 18th November at 7pm.

The Hour is spent with the Holy Rosary, individual reflection,  
and the Chaplet of Divine Mercy, and some music in between.

Because of Covid-19, attendance is limited to 10 people. If you wish to attend, you need to book with Dominic beforehand on 0434 841 907. Please note that bookings are a requirement of the Department of Health and Human Services and the Archdiocese for the purposes of contact tracing should someone unfortunately be infected with the Covid virus. Ah yes! Do not forget your face mask.



**SPIRIT EXTRA #12 NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE!**

[https://www.holyspiritparish.org.au/Portals/3/Documents/Spirit Extra/spirit\\_extra\\_012.pdf](https://www.holyspiritparish.org.au/Portals/3/Documents/Spirit%20Extra/spirit_extra_012.pdf)

### **Collection Notice**

For information on the Parish’s policies regarding information collection and privacy please refer to:  
<https://www.holyspiritparish.org.au/Collection-Notice>



# The Spirit

Fostering Community Awareness & Communication

## DECEMBER EDITION NOW AVAILABLE!

The December edition of the Spirit Magazine is now available on the parish website:

[www.holyspiritparish.org.au/spiritmagazine](http://www.holyspiritparish.org.au/spiritmagazine)

This is Helen Konynenburg's "swan song" as editor of the magazine. The parish community is greatly indebted to Helen for her many hours of dedication to this wonderful publication.

### Children's Week Activity: "Just as I have loved you"

As people of faith strive to live by Jesus' message to his disciples: 'Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another.' (John 13:34) Jesus' commandment reminds us that we are each loved by God, who created us in his own image and likeness. We are then invited to show that same love to our neighbours - within our families, our local parish, school communities and the wider community.

#### How to participate

To celebrate Children's Week this year, we are inviting all children and young people (from the ages of 4 years to 17) to participate in an activity. We want you to share with us what the words "Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another" (Jn 13:34) mean to you through a drawing or artwork (mixed media).

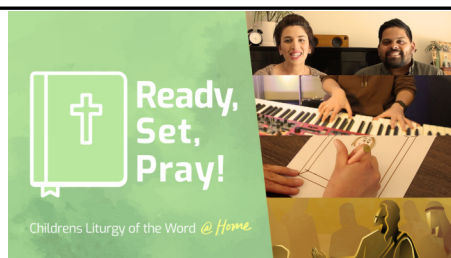
[Download the activity flyer & submission form](#)

[Download activity colouring sheet \(for the little ones!\)](#)

Along with your artwork, please include an answer (150 words or less) to the following question: *In what ways do you feel part of the parish community and how do you try to make others feel welcome?*

Entries should include the completed submission form and can be sent to [psu@cam.org.au](mailto:psu@cam.org.au) before 5pm on 18 December 2020. (Parents are welcome to answer the question on behalf of their child/ren if they are too young to do so.)

For more information please visit <https://melbournecatholic.org/news/celebrating-childrens-week-2020>



The Ready, Set, Pray! Children's Liturgy of the Word @ Home video series has been created to provide an engaging space for families to encounter Jesus through the Sunday gospel.

Each week includes an invitation for families to create and gather in their own prayer space, to sing, hear the Gospel, pray and respond creatively through an activity.

This weekly resource follows the familiar Children's Liturgy of the Word format provided in many parishes – but moved to an online setting. It can be used by families in their homes, and also by teachers and catechists.

The series consists of 10 weekly sessions of 15-20 minutes duration, commencing from Sunday 18th October and continuing each Sunday until Christmas. We hope this experience of gathering for prayer will encourage families in this time when they cannot gather for parish celebrations of Eucharist. It is produced by Proclaim: The Office for Mission Renewal at the Archdiocese of Melbourne. <https://bit.ly/ReadySetPray>

**Holy Spirits Parish**  
**Pastoral Council**

**Do you want a say  
in the Holy Spirit's  
Parish Vision and be  
an Integral Part of  
the Parishes  
spiritual effects on  
its parishioner's and  
the wider  
community.**

**Then fill in the form  
attached to either  
nominate someone  
or even better  
"YOU" and join this  
diverse, passionate  
and God loving  
group to enjoy the  
fruits being offered  
by the Holy Spirit**

*Mark 1:10*

*Just as Jesus was coming up out of the water,  
he saw heaven being torn open and the  
Spirit descending on him like a dove.*





## **HOLY SPIRIT - PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL (PPC)**

### **LOOKING FOR NEW MEMBERS**

#### **Have you heard of the Holy Spirit PPC?**

**Parish Pastoral Councils:** Its role is to advocate this Parishes mission to live and communicate the love and values of Christ throughout our community.

The PPC is a group of ordinary people across this Holy Spirit Community that arise together as a passionate and purposeful team that support this Parish's future direction.

#### **Who can be a member?**

Anyone in our Holy Spirit Community can become a member. The PPC must be a diverse team representing many different activities in our Parish, coming together to share ideas.

#### **Why would you consider being a PPC member?**

Do you have ideas to improve, change or develop this Parish, *OR*?

Is there something new or different you would like to see happening across our Parish in its different spectrums such as faith, liturgy community, social, service and outreach, *then again*,

Would you just like to learn more about our Parish?

This is your opportunity to share your new and exciting ideas.

#### **Do you have someone in Mind?**

Who would you like to nominate to be a member of the PPC? Their only special requirement is faith!

### **HOW TO NOMINATE A PPC MEMBER?**

1. **Recommendation:** could be either someone else or yourself.
2. **E-mail:** Send this form or details to [PPCNomination@holyspiritparish.org.au](mailto:PPCNomination@holyspiritparish.org.au), or leave this completed form at the Parish House by Monday 14 December 2020.

**The Parish will contact all nominated members:** A Discernment/Planning Day will be organised in February 2021 (preferably on a Saturday) then following meetings will be held approx. 6 per annum on an agreed weekday evening.

#### **RECOMMENDED PPC MEMBER**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mobile: \_\_\_\_\_

#### **RECOMMENDED PPC MEMBER**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mobile: \_\_\_\_\_

#### **RECOMMENDED BY:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mobile: \_\_\_\_\_

## FIRST READING

Isaiah 40.1-5, 9-11

*Make straight in the desert a highway for our God.*

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

**1** Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God.

**2** Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins.

**3** A voice cries out:

"In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

**4** Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain.

**5** Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken."

**9** Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!"

**10** See, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him.

**11** He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

The word of the Lord.

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 85.8ab+9, 10-11, 12-13 (R.7)

**R.** Lord, show us your mercy and love, and grant us your salvation.

**8** Let me hear what God the Lord will speak, for he will speak peace to his people.

**9** Surely his salvation is at hand for those who fear him, that his glory may dwell in our land. **R.**

**10** Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet; righteousness and peace will kiss each other.

**11** Faithfulness will spring up from the ground, and righteousness will look down from the sky. **R.**

**12** The Lord will give what is good, and our land will yield its increase.

**13** Righteousness will go before him, and will make a path for his steps. **R.**

## SECOND READING

2 Peter 3.8-15

*We wait for new heavens and a new earth.*

A reading from the second letter of Peter.

**8** Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day.

**9** The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance.

**10** But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed.

**11** Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness,

**12** waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire?

**13** But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.

**14** Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish;

**15** and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

The word of the Lord.

## GOSPEL ACCLAMAT I O N

Luke 3:4,6

Alleluia, alleluia  
Lord, show us your mercy and love,  
and grant us your salvation.  
Alleluia

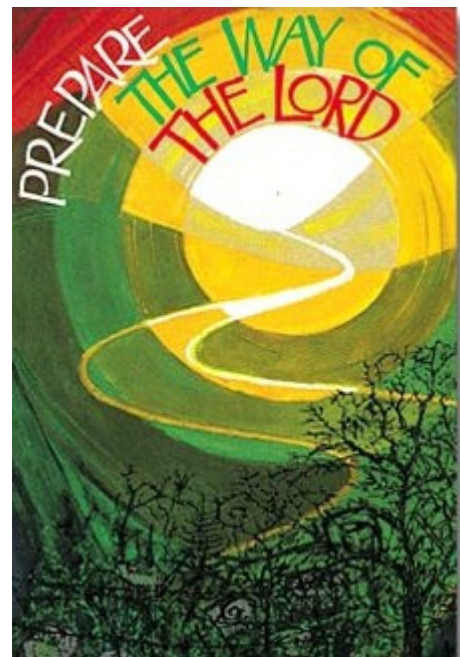
## GOSPEL

Mark 1.1-8  
*Prepare the way of the Lord.*

A reading from the holy gospel according to Mark.

- 1 The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.
- 2 As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,  
“See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,  
who will prepare your way;  
3 the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:  
‘Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make his paths straight,’”
- 4 John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness,  
proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.
- 5 And people from the whole Judean countryside  
and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him,  
and were baptized by him in the river Jordan,  
confessing their sins.
- 6 Now John was clothed with camel’s hair,  
with a leather belt around his waist,  
and he ate locusts and wild honey.
- 7 He proclaimed,  
“The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me;  
I am not worthy to stoop down  
and untie the thong of his sandals.
- 8 I have baptized you with water;  
but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

The gospel of the Lord.



## Reflection.

Advent is an invitation to conversion and John the Baptist gives us some down to earth advice on how to change our lives for the better. He talks about filling in valleys of prejudice, levelling down mountains of pride and straightening out the crooked paths of injustice. We ask ourselves what in our lives needs a complete turning around to allow God to come close to us. There are areas and dark corners of ourselves which we do not want disturbed. This advent time of prayer and penance brings home to us the need to make a fresh start. Welcoming God involves removing all blockages and obstacles which prevent him from coming close. Preparing a way for the Lord may mean walking a new path. Christ cannot save us without our cooperation. He does not force an entry into our lives but waits to be invited. The voice of John the Baptist reminds us that we have the important task of announcing Christ to others. Our everyday life is a message telling everyone through acts of kindness, honesty and faithfulness that Christ is right here with us. His gospel of love is the answer to the problems of our troubled world. John the Baptist invites us to turn this advent season into a real spiritual homecoming by making the necessary preparations for the arrival of the Saviour into our lives. ~Fr. Arsenio

Mark  
1:1-8

Will We  
Prepare  
the Way  
for Jesus?

## Prayers of Intercession

*In anticipation of the promised coming of God's Kingdom of justice, peace and love, we open our hearts and minds to the grace of God, bringing to the altar our prayers for our needs and those of the whole world.*

For our priests and bishops; that through their life and ministry, your Church might fulfil its vocation to bring peace and honour to all through integrity and devotedness. **LORD HEAR US.**

For our parish and community; may we open our hearts to Jesus and allow him into every aspect of our daily lives. **LORD HEAR US.**

For those experiencing loneliness leading up to Christmas; help them discover companionship and a sense of belonging amongst the community at this time. **LORD HEAR US.**

We pray that we may have the faith to prepare the Lord's way, even when the world seems filled with darkness and violence. **LORD HEAR US.**

For children and adolescents dealing with illness and adversity in their lives. Give them courage and faith that the Lord will guide them through those difficult times. **LORD HEAR US.**

We pray for those who have died recently and those whose anniversaries of death occur at this time: Doro Barro, Denise Love, Peter Skuskavneiks, John Patrick, Desmond Gill, Bernie O'Callaghan, Josie O'Sullivan and Peter Konynenburg.

May they rest in the loving arms and peace of Christ.

**LORD HEAR US.**

## **SPIRITUAL COMMUNION,**

**My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the most Blessed Sacrament. I love You above all things and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there, and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.**

**St. Alphonsus Liguori**

