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SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT - YR B

**5TH & 6TH DECEMBER,
2020**

WEARING OF MASKS FOR MASS

On consideration of the most recent NSW Health advice, the Diocese of Parramatta highly recommends all worshippers at Masses in the Diocese to wear a mask to, during and from Mass and other services.

We understand the inconvenience that masks may pose, but the health of our parishioners and the wider community is our highest concern.

We sincerely thank you for understanding, and for playing your part in keeping our community safe.

WEEKEND MASSES

You are now invited to attend Mass every week at the time you were allocated by Fr Chris.

THERE IS A CAP OF 100 PEOPLE AT ALL RELIGIOUS SERVICES HELD AT PLACES OF WORSHIP.

Online Masses are still available so if you are feeling unwell you are advised not to attend Mass.

WEEKDAY MASSES

TUESDAYS & WEDNESDAYS AT 6PM (NO ADORATION)

THURSDAYS & FRIDAYS AT 9.10AM

You are welcome to attend any of these Masses without a phone call or email invitation.

Fr Chris will record attendance at these Masses as per government guidelines.

RECONCILIATION BY APPOINTMENT

Please contact Fr Chris on his mobile 0415 505 594 to make an appointment.

**DUE TO COVID-19, THE MAXIMUM NUMBER OF PARISHIONERS
PER MASS IN OUR PARISH CHURCH IS**

100



1.5M

**PLEASE PRACTISE SOCIAL DISTANCING BEFORE, DURING AND AFTER
LITURGICAL CELEBRATIONS.**

As per government regulations, please observe the 4 square metre rule.

Please note that hand sanitiser is available at the Church entrances for use upon entering and exiting the Church.



CORPUS CHRISTI PARISH

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Cranebrook, NSW, 2749

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Cranebrook, NSW, 2749

Phone: 4730 1249

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Email: parissteam@corpuschristi.org.au

Presbytery: 4730 6258

Office Hours: 9am - 3.30pm (Tues-Fri)

PARISH TEAM:

Fr Christopher Antwi-Boasiako -
Parish Priest

Christopher.Antwi-Boasiako@parracatholic.org
Mobile: 0415 505 594

Deacon Owen Rogers
- owen.rogers7@bigpond.com

Mrs Marie Cottee - Parish Secretary
- mc@corpuschristi.org.au

Mrs Sue Weekes - Office Support
- sw@corpuschristi.org.au

Mrs Joanne Hocking - Sacrament
Support

SCHOOLS OF THE PARISH:

Corpus Christi Primary - ph 4726 2200
(Principal - Mrs Sarah O'Rourke)

Xavier College - ph 4777 0900
(Principal - Mr Michael Pate)

COMMUNAL SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

(Second Rite with visiting priests)

TUESDAY 22ND DECEMBER AT 7PM

****As there will not be a barrier when speaking to the priest everyone must wear a mask.**

(There will be no Adoration or Mass on that evening)

PLEASE NOTE THAT NO PARISH MASSES WILL TAKE PLACE ON TUESDAY EVENINGS OF 15TH & 22ND DECEMBER.

(Fr Chris will be assisting with reconciliation at another parish on 15th December)

Christmas Hampers



Vinnies Christmas food hampers will be delivered on the 12th December and we need help with certain items to include in the hampers. We are in need tin hams, custard, and puddings to add to the other foods provided by our local catholic schools. Baskets will be placed in the front foyer area up until the weekend of the 5th–6th December. Lists are also in the front foyer for any person who could assist with deliveries this year on 12th December.

Thank you for your continued support & encouragement.

Ministry Roster for Christmas

The lists for the ministry rosters for Christmas are now in the foyer. If you are able to assist in volunteering in the ministries of Acolyte, Reader, Commentator, Altar Server and Data Operator for the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Masses, please put your name on the relevant list. Thank you!

We still need volunteers for the following:

8.30pm Mass: Acolyte, Data Operator & Musicians
Midnight Mass: Data Operator & Musicians
9.30am Mass: Reader, Data Operator

Confirmation Dates



All those children who received First Eucharist last year will be preparing for Confirmation this year.

The Sacrament of Confirmation will take place on the evenings of Tuesday 8th December, Wednesday 9th December & Thursday 10th December.

PLEASE NOTE THAT PARISH MASSES WILL NOT TAKE PLACE ON TUESDAY 8TH & WEDNESDAY 9TH DECEMBER.

Please keep in your prayers the children in our Parish Community preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation.

May their families be great models of faith for them during this important time.

Parish Office Hours

If you need to visit the office please call first to ensure that someone is there. Please leave a message if we don't answer and we'll get back to you. You are also welcome to email. In the case of an emergency please contact Fr Chris on his mobile, 0415 505 594.

At this stage the office is open on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9am – 3.30pm.

Let us Offer Gifts of Prayer:

Anniversaries:

Richard Savill (22/09/97), Carmen Attard (26/09/14), Kevin Hennessey, Margaret & James Vella,

Recently Deceased:

Jeanette Rogers (04/10), Renato Rosales Snr, Paul Xiberras

And for those who are sick:

Leonard Ash, Pauline Rugg, Mary Pilley, Joan Schneider

If any parishioner would like Fr Chris to offer Mass for someone who is recently deceased, a loved one's anniversary or if someone is sick, please email the Parish Office. We can also include the person in The Net so everyone can pray for them.

PARISHES OF THE DIOCESE WHO ARE STREAMING MASS

PARISH	LOCATION	LINK TO LIVESTREAM
PADRE PIO PARISH	Glenmore Park Parish	Streaming through Facebook – https://www.facebook.com/gsk2223
ST JOSEPHS CHURCH	Kingswood Parish	Recording/streaming through YouTube - https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCIjip15JI6H8TrHkEB6lSdw/featured
ST ANDREW THE APOSTLE	Marayong Parish	Streaming through Facebook - https://www.facebook.com/standrewsmarayong/
ST NICHOLAS OF MYRA	Penrith Parish	Streaming through Facebook Live - https://www.facebook.com/SNOMPenrith/
THE GOOD SHEPHERD	Plumpton Parish	Streaming through Facebook Live - https://www.facebook.com/goodshepherdparishplumpton/ https://www.facebook.com/goodshepherdparishplumpton/videos/163690304720839/
OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY	St Marys Parish	Streamed to Facebook https://www.facebook.com/OLRparishstmarys/

The Living Word

Second Sunday of Advent

5th December, 2020

First Reading

Is 40:1-5. 9-11

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Prepare the way for the Lord.

'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.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 84:9-14. R. v.8

(R.) 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 Pt 3:8-14

A reading from the second letter of St Peter

We wait for new heavens and a new earth.

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.

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

Mk 1:1-8

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

Make straight the paths of the Lord.

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.'



Gospel Focus – Preparing the Way

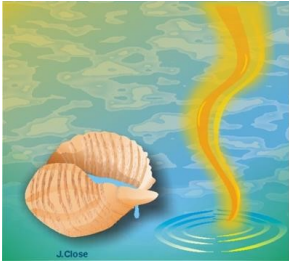
The gospel passage quotes the prophet Isaiah (although text combines Malachi 3:1; Isaiah 40:3; and Exodus 23:20) and casts John the Baptist in the role of fulfilling the prophecy of the voice that cries in the wilderness, 'Prepare a way for the Lord'. The description of John in camel-skin and eating locusts and wild honey is designed to align him with Elijah, the great prophet of Jewish history. In a very short and sharp passage the gospel ties the coming of Jesus to the expectation of a messiah that has run through Jewish history and been foretold by the great prophets.

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REFLECTION by Fr Michael Tate

Two Gospels

John immersed, baptised, his followers in water, symbolising the washing away of the sins of the *past*. But he could not empower people by drenching them in the dynamic life of God. John anticipates 'Someone' (not named!) who *does* have the power to inundate, baptise, people with the Holy Spirit.



From the heading of St Mark's Gospel, we know that that 'Someone' is 'Jesus Christ, Son of God' who came to flood our lives with that Divine Power which can effect a completely new *future* for humanity.

That is why St Mark took the term 'gospel' (good news) which was used on inscriptions announcing an Emperor's birth or victory, and used it to describe his inspired rendering of the mission of Jesus Christ, which was to inaugurate the 'Kingdom of God', overcoming the pretensions of all Emperors of any kind throughout history.

We could pause for a moment to thank God for the Good News of our being baptised with *water* in the 'Name of the Father and of the Son and of the *Holy Spirit*.'

REFLECTION by Dianne Bergant CSA

In the wilderness God's salvation comes to a broken people. In the midst of what is seemingly an impossible situation, hope emerges with vigour. In this context, hope is an openness to surprise, the surprise that God is in no way limited to the imaginings of human minds and the consequences of human history. This is the kind of hope that is proclaimed in the wilderness by John; it is the kind of hope that trusts that from the impossible, God can work a new creation.

There is something of a time warp in Christianity. What is future is made present. The prophetic oracle announces the future as if it is already happening. This sense of the future-present prompts new ways of living. As the future takes root in human lives, the present is transformed into a new creation and the Day of the Lord appears.

God's future comes through the wilderness into the broken city and inspires a broken-hearted people. The contrite heart is a broken heart, an emptied-out heart, a hope-filled heart. It is a heart that is unencumbered by the past and that lives currently in the passing of time and the fragility of being alive. The contrite, broken heart can be filled only by what is promised in the future. This is the paradox of Advent. In the middle of the wilderness, God works the impossible in those whose hearts are ready for the surprise of hope.



Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for December



For a Life of Prayer

We pray that our personal relationship with Jesus Christ be nourished by the Word of God and a life of prayer.



REFLECTION FOR ADULTS AND ADOLESCENTS

Questions for Adolescents

- * Why would John have gone out into the wilderness to conduct his ministry?
- * What do you think people found attractive about John's baptism of forgiveness?
- * Why is the first sentence of the passage significant, given it is the very first sentence of the gospel of Mark?
- * What would followers of John have thought about his prediction of someone coming after him?
- * How can we continue to prepare the way for the Lord?

Questions for Adults

- * Can you recall a time when you have had to consciously prepare yourself for what you were about to do?
- * Why is the wilderness an appropriate image for preparation?
- * Why does the gospel writer go to such lengths to associate John with the prophecies of history?
- * How does this gospel passage relate to the Advent season?
- * How can we continue to prepare the way for the Lord?

This is an opportunity for parents to discuss today's Gospel with your children. The following questions and worksheet are a beginning point to assist with the discussion.

- * Who is the prophet in today's Gospel who spent time in the desert?
- * What did he do?
- * John the Baptist told people they must be sorry for the things they had done wrong so they could be ready to meet Jesus.
- * What things do we need to be sorry for?
- * How can we change our ways so that we can be ready to meet Jesus?



Watch out and be ready!

1st Sunday of Advent, Year B

Let's Get Ready

Complete these sentences

I get ready for church by

I get ready for school by

I get ready for bed by

I get ready for Christmas during Advent by

During Advent one way we can prepare for the arrival of Jesus is by helping others. Draw yourself helping another person.



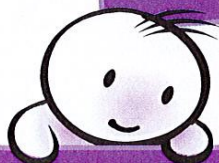
Christmas

Rearrange the following words to complete the sentence below

Jesus

prepare

season



arrival

Advent

is the when
we for the
of at



Parramatta Diocesan News

You are invited to attend the Reignite the Flame of Plenary Council Reflection & Action Session on Wednesday 9 December from 7pm to 8.30pm via ZOOM. Some of the Diocese's Plenary Council delegates will share on the 'Open to Conversion, Renewal and Reform' theme and will share some good news stories happening around this theme in our diocese. To register, visit https://dioceseofparramatta.zoom.us/j/Esce2uqj8sHtIE71B1MKXI_PqfNolbUS_e


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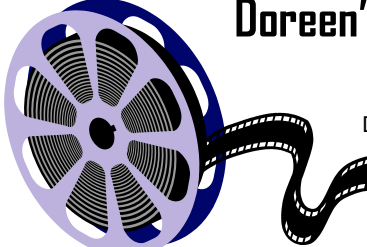
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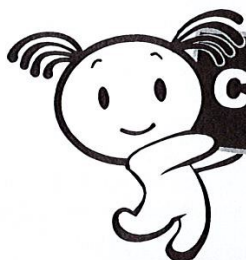
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Solutions

1st Sunday of Advent, Year B



Christmas

Rearrange the following words
to complete the sentence below

Jesus

prepare



season

Christmas is the **season** when



arrival

we **prepare** for the **arrival**

Advent

of **Jesus** at **Christmas**.