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We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians who have walked upon and cared for this land for thousands of years.

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT - YR C

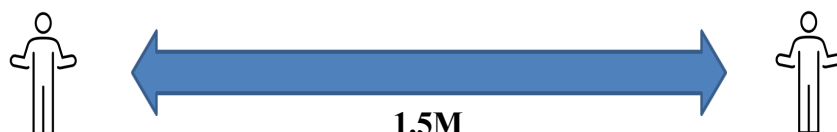
**4TH & 5TH DECEMBER
2021**

THE WEARING OF FACE MASKS
AT ALL CHURCH SERVICES IS MANDATORY.

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.

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

As per government regulations,
please observe the 2 square metre rule.



UPDATES TO WEEKEND MASS TIMES

**PLEASE NOTE THAT WEEKEND MASSES ARE NOW BACK TO
PRE COVID-19 TIMES:**

SATURDAY VIGIL 6PM

SUNDAY 7.30AM & 9.30AM

(5PM & 8.30AM MASSES HAVE BEEN CANCELLED)

- ♦ Those people who were registered for the 5pm Mass are encouraged to attend the 6pm Mass.
- ♦ Those people who were registered for the 8.30am Mass are encouraged to attend either the 7.30am or 9.30am Mass.



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.



Weekday Masses

Tuesday & Wednesday at 6pm

Thursday & Friday at 9.10am

Please visit our website or
Facebook page for any updates.

Website:

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CORPUS CHRISTI PARISH

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Office Hours:
9am - 3.30pm
(Tuesday, Thursday & Friday)

PARISH TEAM:

Fr Christopher Antwi-Boasiako -
Parish Priest

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

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)

Parish News

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.

Christmas Eve Children's Choir

All school aged children are invited to join the Children's Choir, which will be singing at the 6pm Mass on Christmas Eve.

If your child is interested in joining the choir, please write your details on the sheet in foyer.



Children's Nativity Play...

All children are invited to participate in the Nativity Play at the 6pm Mass on Christmas Eve. If you would like your child to take part, please write your details on the sheet in the foyer.

A Message of Thanks...

*Thank you to all the wonderful Catechists & helpers
for your time and dedication to the
Catechist ministry this year.*

May you all have a well earned break.

If anyone is interested in joining our team of Catechists please call the parish office to find out more.

Vinnies Christmas Hamper

This year the Cranebrook conference will be making Christmas hampers for distribution to the Cranebrook community.

Both Corpus Christi Primary and Xavier College have agreed to help the conference with donations of various food items that can be used for the hampers.

We would like to ask the parishioners of Corpus Christi if they could also assist by donating food items over the next few weeks, until the first weekend in December.

The items we are generally in need of are traditional Christmas items such as *tin hams, Christmas puddings, custard and other special Christmas treats.*

The hampers will be distributed on Saturday 11th December and if any parishioners can help with the delivery please contact Greg Hall on 0407484 020.

Thank you for your continuing support of the conference.

Bishop's Christmas Appeal

No mother or child should be homeless and without support at Christmas. CatholicCare's Houses to Homes provides hope for vulnerable women and children facing abuse and hardship. Your kind donation today will help change the lives of homeless young women, who like Mary, seek a safe haven to raise their newborn child.

Please give generously via the Bishop's Christmas Appeal giving envelopes or online at:
yourcatholicfoundation.org.au/appeal

Sacrament of Reconciliation

(First Rite with visiting priests)

TUESDAY 14TH DECEMBER

7PM – 8PM

(There will be no Mass on that evening)

Christmas Masses

*Masses continue to be celebrated under
Covid-19 Restrictions.*

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES ARE:

Christmas Eve at 6pm.

In the school grounds

(Please bring your own chair)

**8.30pm, Midnight Mass &
Christmas Morning at 9.30am**

In the church

*Please note that Registration is **NOT** required
for any of the Christmas Masses*

**Could the person who has
Planned Giving envelope number 077
please contact the Parish Office.**

Planned Giving...

Could you please contact Marie at the Parish Office if you are:

- ◇ contributing to the Planned Giving Program via the envelope system and would like to change to credit card or direct debit;
- ◇ or if you would like to join the Planned Giving Program.

Your gift to Planned Giving does help cover the running of your parish and also contributes towards outreach in our parish community and beyond.

Break Open the Word for Readers

For any readers who would like a copy of Break Open the Word for Year C, they are now available in the Sacristy. The cost \$24 per copy. Envelopes for payment are also available in the Sacristy.

Let us Offer Gifts of Prayer:

Recently Deceased:

Deacon Owen Rogers, Rosemary Hall, Judy Baytch

And for those who are sick:

Peter Sinnett, Eleanor Albertyn,

Esther Rodgers, Kevin & Mary O'Connor, Pauline Rugg



The Living Word

The Second Sunday of Advent - Year C

5th December 2021



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.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 125. R. v.3

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

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.)

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

Deliver us, O Lord, from our bondage as streams in dry land.

Those who are sowing in tears will sing when they reap. *(R.)*

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

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.



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REFLECTION by Fr Michael Tate

We are John the Baptists

Do we have to be like John the Baptist, eccentrically dressed and scavenging for food, to prepare the way of the Lord? No. You and I are called to be a John or Joan the Baptist, preparing people's hearts in our own time and place.

But we have to allow God to prepare *our* hearts for this role. John the Baptist challenges us to 'Repent', i.e. to turn around our own lives seeking God's forgiveness. John then challenges us to see the big picture which is that 'All who live shall see the salvation of God'.

Pope Francis is the exemplary universal pastor inspiring us to become 'les mercifuls sans frontieres'. And young people through social media are already saying 'We are one community of human beings on this fragile planet'.

The challenge for most of us is more immediate and apparently of smaller scope. The challenge this Advent is to identify the one person whose heart you can help prepare to celebrate the coming of the Lord Jesus in three weeks' time. The best method is to let that person see your faith and joy centred on that little Jewish baby lying in a manger.

Do that, and who knows what may happen because that little baby is in fact the Sovereign Lord of history and of the whole cosmos. With God's grace, you don't have to be as eccentric or bizarre as John the Baptist to play your part in changing the course of history!

We could take a moment to pray that, repenting of our own sins where necessary, we may prepare the heart of at least one person so that the Lord Jesus may enter in this Christmas, helping him fulfil his mission that all who live shall see the salvation of God.

REFLECTION by Dianne Bergant CSA

The advent of God's coming with its promise of fulfilment happens within world history. The first reading locates God's act of restoration in the city of Jerusalem. The gospel situates the ministry of John within a particular period of world history. They point us to historical experience as the place and the time of restoration, of incarnation, of redemption. They show us that God works within everyday life, in conventional places, during regular time. In fact, from a human point of view, the extraordinary events of salvation took place within what was quite ordinary.

John proclaims the kind of transformation that results in a change of heart. Reversals characterise such transformation: the robe of mourning is replaced by the splendour of glory; tears are turned into rejoicing; those led away by enemies are brought back by God; valleys are filled, mountains are levelled, winding roads are made straight; even nature offers itself as shelter for the people of God. Those who are shamed and discarded are made glorious; those who suffer are comforted; the oppressed are freed; all of life's obstacles are removed; the way to God is made straight; the natural world enjoys peace and harmony.

The transformation or repentance of heart takes place within human life, within relationships of justice between people and with the earth, in right living, in genuine unselfish love. It produces the fruits of righteousness of which Paul speaks. Advent is the time to prepare ourselves for this.

Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for December

Intention for evangelisation - Catechists



Let us pray for the catechists, summoned to announce the Word of God: may they be its witnesses, with courage and creativity and in the power of the Holy Spirit.



REFLECTION FOR ADULTS AND ADOLESCENTS

Questions for Adolescents

- * Why does the gospel writer go to such extremes to identify the historical timing of this event?
- * In what ways did John the Baptist fulfil the prophecy of Isaiah?
- * What are some of the obstacles to God that you have put up in your life?
- * What would it take for you to 'Prepare a way' – to clear the obstacles and allow God's love through?
- * How can you assist others to 'Prepare a way'?

Questions for Adults

- * In what ways can holding on to our faults and failings get in the way of allowing God into our lives?
- * Why is it so hard to forgive ourselves when we are assured God's forgiveness is there for the asking?
- * What image captures for you the idea of 'preparing a way'?
- * How has reflection on this week's gospel enhanced your understanding of Advent?

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.

- * John the Baptist told people to prepare for the coming of Jesus. What sort of things might he have said?
- * How can you help your family and friends prepare for the coming of Jesus this week?

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Make a straight path for the Lord



2nd Sunday of Advent, Year C

There have been many people who came before Jesus to prepare the way for his arrival.



ABRAHAM was called by God from his home in the east to a new land called Canaan. God promised that this land would belong to the family of Abraham forever. Abraham is often represented with a symbol of a tent. Draw a picture of Abraham's tent.



DAVID was a young shepherd who was chosen by God to be the new King of Israel. The prophet Jeremiah told how one day a great ruler from the family of David would come into the world. As we know, that great ruler is Jesus. Draw a picture of King David's Crown.



MARY: Write down the things you know about the mother of Jesus



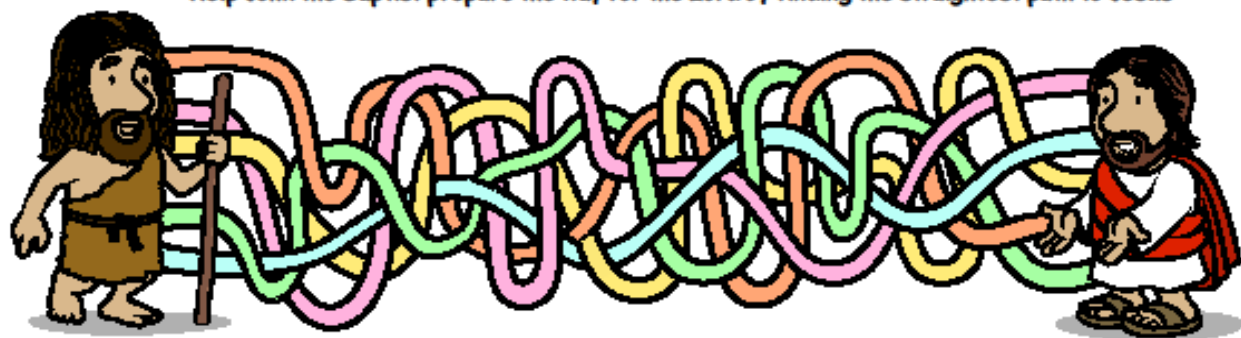
JOHN THE BAPTIST: Write down the things you know about John the Baptist

There are special people in your life who are helping you prepare the way for Jesus. Draw a picture of 2 of these people helping you. Write their names and how they are helping.

_____ is helping me _____

_____ is helping me _____

Help John the Baptist prepare the way for the Lord by finding the straightest path to Jesus



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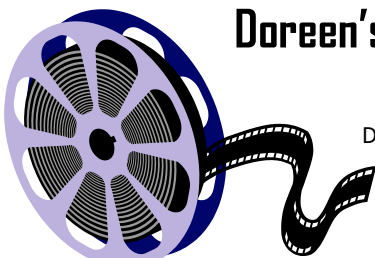
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2nd Sunday of Advent, Year C

Help John the Baptist prepare the way for the Lord by finding the straightest path to Jesus

