

Third Sunday of Advent - Year B

Sunday 13 December 2020



Readings for
this week: **Isaiah 61:1-2, 10-11**
1 Thessalonians 5:16-24
John 1:6-8, 19-28



Readings for
next Sunday: 2 Samuel 7:1-5,8-12,14,16
Romans 16:25-17
Luke 1:26-38



Liturgical Jottings

Historical Time

Dictionaries define “Prehistoric” as the time before extant historical records. We have a few examples in sacred scripture. But more significantly we have historical events to signify, record, hand on and remember experiences and events in our relationship with God and one another. Historical time includes the call of Abraham, father of faith, Moses and the Exodus, the Prophets to Christ’s Resurrection and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon the church. Historical time connects us and the world with Salvation History.



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Looking at the Readings

This week we hear more beginnings: The beginning of the ministry of John the Baptist according to John the Evangelist and the words from the Prophet Isaiah that Jesus read at the beginning of his ministry (Is 61:1-2. and Luke 4:18-19).

The dual comings of the Lord are apparent in the Prophet Isaiah. John the Baptist gives a testimony that clearly points away from himself to the one who follows him: the Messiah and Lord. The Lord is very near to us then and here and now. May we greet people this Advent and Christmas with expressions that convey the message of the coming of the Lord.

In a secular or pluralistic time we hear the greeting: “Happy Holidays” or see on cards “Season’s Greetings”. Happy or Merry Christmas maintains its Christian origin and present belief. Perhaps we may venture deeper into our Christian tradition with words from the fruits of the Spirit contained in the Second reading today and found more fully in Galatians 5:22: love, joy, peace, patience kindness goodness, trustfulness, gentleness and self control. We may “Joyful Christmas!” or “Peace and Goodness be with you this Christmas!”

Responsorial Cantic

The Response between the readings is Mary’s Cantic of Praise. It captures the joy of the day. Having a gospel passage as the responsory is unique in the Sunday cycles of readings.

Pope Francis’ Encyclical Fratelli Tutti

Only a gaze transformed by charity can enable the dignity of others to be recognised and, as a consequence, the poor to be acknowledged and valued in their dignity, respected in their identity and culture, and thus truly integrated into society. That gaze is at the heart of the authentic spirit of politics. (187)

Advent Prayer

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near. *Entrance Antiphon 3rd Sunday of Advent*

Quote for Advent

I will honour Christmas in my heart, and try to keep it all the year.
Charles Dickens

On the Lighter Side

Q: Why is it getting harder to buy Advent calendars?

A: Their days are numbered!

Q: What do you get if you cross a Christmas tree with an iPad

A: A pineapple!



	Those who are recently deceased and those who are grieving	Domenico Gugliotti (1 month)
	For those whose anniversary occurs at this time	Evelyn Woodman, Gordon Warner
	Our sick and their carers	Teresa Muto



Baptism

Oscar John Coombs

We congratulate Oscar John Coombs, son of Daniel and Gabrielle, on his Baptism this weekend and welcome him into our parish community.

Joyful, Hope-Filled, Servant Communities

"The servant nature of the Church cannot...be an 'added extra' or something that only some in the Church do. Those parts of the Church that are a Christ-inspired, humble, servant community are centres of joy and hope and bring joy and hope to those they serve."
(Plenary Council Thematic paper, Joyful, Hope-filled, Servant Community)

"How do we strengthen parish communities so that they become centres of joy, hope and service to their own members and the wider community?" (Plenary Council Thematic paper: Joyful, Hope-filled, Servant Community)

Mass Timetable Week commencing 14th December

We are now able to accommodate 120 people at Mass using the Choir Loft and the Nuns Chapel, so there is no need to book. However, we still need to collect your name and contact number and we have to observe social distancing and wear a face mask.

Weekday Mass

Monday 14 th December	No Mass
Tuesday 15 th December	No Mass
Wednesday 16 th December	9:15 am Mass 7:30 pm Recollection
Thursday 17 th December	No Mass
Friday 18 th December	9:15 am Mass

Weekend Mass

Saturday 19 th December	5:30 pm
Sunday 20 th December	9:30 am

At this stage Reconciliation is by appointment only, please call Mary on 0484 332 397 to book.

Along the Track - Which Stories?

So what stories will we tell about 2020?! What stories will we choose to share, to take to heart, what stories do we want others to hear? 2020 began so well, with the usual high hopes mixed with all sorts of jokes about 20/20 vision. But for so, so many people 2020 turned into a dreadful year. Loss and devastation, anxiety and tension, so much worry and uncertainty and for too many, not being able to be with loved ones.

2020 has left a lasting legacy. Throughout the year we were all waiting for things to return to 'normal' but, underneath it all, we realised that everything will not be as it used to be. Things have changed, some for the better, others not so.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/12GghNBDAAuuvqxEkB7SEfyhtoQznSVDQ/view>

Christmas Mass Timetable

Reconciliation

Wednesday 16th December 7:30pm

Christmas Eve

Thursday 24th December Carols 5:30 pm

Thursday 24th December Mass 6:00 pm

Christmas Day

Friday 25th December Mass 9:30 am

Saturday 26th December No Mass

Sunday 27th December No Mass

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We acknowledge the Yorta Yorta nation, the traditional custodians of this land on which we meet today.