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SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT (C) - 5TH DECEMBER 2021

FIRST READING

Baruch 5:1-9

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 had 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.



SECOND READING

Philippians 1:3-6. 8-11

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.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 125. R. v.3

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

1. 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.)**
2. The heathens themselves said: 'What marvels the Lord worked for them!'
What marvels the Lord worked for us!
Indeed we were glad. **(R.)**
3. Deliver us, O Lord, from our bondage
as streams in dry land.
Those who are sowing in tears
will sing when they reap. **(R.)**
4. 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.)**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Luke 3:4. 6

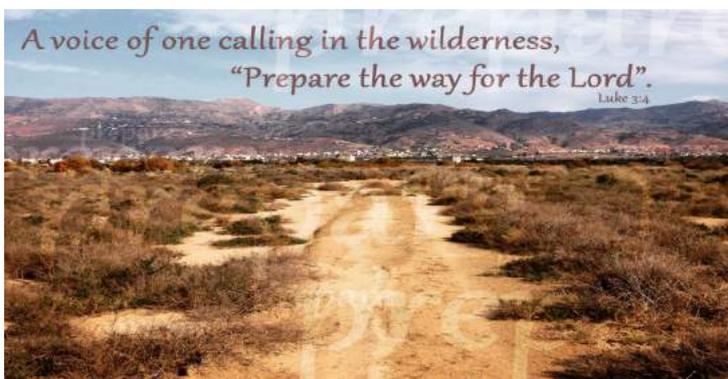
Alleluia, alleluia!

Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths: all people shall see the salvation of God. Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Luke 3:1-6

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.



ADVENT WREATH RESPONSORY

Priest: May the Lord's peace be with us all.

All: *The Lord is our faith and our life.*

Priest: May His love shine in our hearts.

All: *Our hope is in the coming of the Lord.*

Food for thought.....

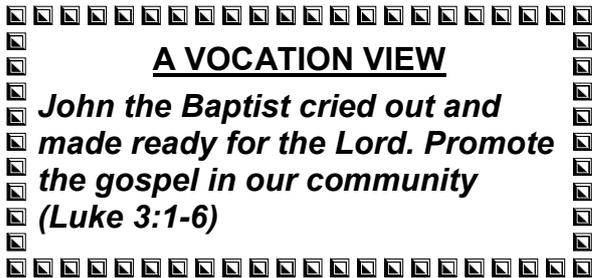
Reflection from Sr Dianne Bergant CSA

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.




A VOCATION VIEW
John the Baptist cried out and made ready for the Lord. Promote the gospel in our community (Luke 3:1-6)

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

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY CHRISTMAS APPEAL

Please support the annual Christmas appeal and give the gift of Hope this Christmas

Please take a Christmas Appeal Envelope and return to the Parish Office with your donation or directly to St Vincent de Paul Society. Donations can also be made via bank transfer to: St Vincent de Paul Society, Bank: CBA; BSB:067 601; Account No: 10178303.



NEWS FROM THE PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

The Parish Pastoral Council met on the 1st December 2021. Areas of discussion included:

- ▶ The Parish Pastoral Council continued its consultation process towards the development of a Parish Pastoral Plan. It is proposed to have a draft Plan available for comment by the Parish Community by early 2022.
- ▶ Encouragement to members of the Parish community to participate in the Advent reflections facilitated by Father Mark in response to Pope Francis' invitation to prayerfully reflect on the theme: "For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation and Mission". The final reflection is this Sunday afternoon, 4.00pm - 6.00pm upstairs in the Pastoral Centre.
- ▶ A reminder to Parishioners to maintain our COVID-safe practices and remain COVID-safe during Parish activities leading up to and following the reopening of Tasmanian borders in mid December.



YOU ARE ASKED TO PRAY

FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK: Sr Teresa OCD, Noelene Clayton, Wayne Brooks, Shirley Ambrose, Annette Poropat, Rodney Youd, Helen Wright, Qian Zhang-Allchin, Carole Cleary, Philip Carroll, Kim Izard, Scott Bailey, Ralf Roston, Bev Callahan, Tony Long, Kristel Latham, Nanette Gunton, Joan Keefe, Lyn Butt, Sarah Pangrazio, Maureen Symons, Alfred Weeding, Jennifer Dowell, Maureen Saunders, Andrew Campbell, Pat and Bill Lewis, Vincent Burke, Eduardo Bilanes, Brian Hudson, Mary Morgan, Brian Beardwood, Denise Austin, Jane Gillard, Joel Wilkinson, Jesse Moore, Elaine Blake, John Walsh, Clare Maddox, William Siegrist, Anne Harris, Jane Savaro, Mary Carter, Amelia Eckert, Allison Thambugala, Ava Woolley, David Lewis, Christian Barrett, Marion Winterson-Jowett, Xavier Banks, George Donovan, Max Jamieson, Jan McClean, John Bennett, and Peter Marshall.

FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED: Antonio Iezzi, John Baonon, Judith House, Ann McCaffrey and Kevin Quarry who have died recently, Janet Moore, Paul Smart, Libby Gregory, Judy Newton, Maryanne Atley, Perry Pereira, Robert Parkes, John Tibor, Alice Wallace, Cynthia Duncan, Sr Augustine Healy PVBM, Marcello Gugliotti, Eileen Laverack, Henryk Stepien, Leonard Rae, all victims of COVID-19 virus and all whose anniversaries occur at this time.

FOR OUR PARISH FAMILY AND THE WIDER COMMUNITY: During the COVID-19 crisis with its restrictions on our lives we remember each other in prayer. We pray in a special way for all those involved in frontline services. May we all keep safe and stay well during this time. We pray for the gift of peace, especially for those who are ill and for their families.

PARISH ACTIVITIES, INFORMATION AND NEWS

ONE HOUR WITH JESUS: *This Sunday, 5th December at the Carmelite Monastery.* You are welcome to join the Carmelite nuns in spending some time in prayer before the Blessed Sacrament: 2.00pm Office of None (afternoon prayer of the Church); 2.15 - 3.00pm Silent prayer before the Blessed Sacrament; 3.00pm Benediction.

RCIA: Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults will meet for discussion and formation every fortnight at 7.30pm on a Thursday evening upstairs in the Pastoral Centre. Anyone interested in learning more about the Catholic faith with a view to becoming a Catholic is welcome and encouraged to join this group. Contact Fr Mark, Fr Chathura or the Parish Office for more information.

COLUMBAN CALENDARS Available now from the Church or Parish Office. \$9 each.

ROSARY: is recited each and every Monday at 7:30pm in the comfort of your own home. We pray our Blessed Mother will watch over us all at this time of uncertainty and sadness. Enquiries: Jan (0409 175 940) or Adrian & Liz (0407 074 693)

THE CARMEL SHOP: 7 Cambridge Street, West Launceston is open on Wednesdays between 11.00am - 4.00pm. Enquiries: Helen 6344 6382 or email: carmelshop@yahoo.com

St Vincent de Paul Leaving Collection at all Masses this weekend

FORMATION FOR THE PERMANENT DIACONATE



Next year, a three year program of formation for the Permanent Diaconate will be offered in the Archdiocese. Any man who is interested in this vocation is invited to approach their Parish Priest to discuss this possibility. The Archbishop will then meet with a prospective candidate in order to be approved for the formation program.



Nativity Play and Choir Invitation 6.30pm Christmas Eve Mass Church of the Apostles

Primary aged Children are warmly invited to be part of this year's Nativity Play, we are also looking for singers for the choir (any age).

Nativity Rehearsal: Monday 13th December @ 3.30pm

Nativity Rehearsal: Monday 20th December @ 3.30pm

Choir practise: Monday 20th December @ 5.00pm

Please contact Kellie Cox on 0400 128 200 in regards to Nativity play enquiries and Rosie Caelli on 0438 274 067 for Choir enquiries.

WEEKEND MASS TIMES

Saturday	6.00pm Vigil	Sacred Heart, Newstead
Sunday	7.30am	Carmel
	9.00am	St Finn Barr's, Invermay
	10.00am	St Patrick's Chapel
	10.30am	Apostles
	6.30pm (October - March)	Apostles

WEEKDAY MASSES 6th -11th December

Mon 6th:	7.30am	Carmel
Tues 7th:	7.30am	Carmel
	12noon	Newstead
Wed 8th:	7.30am	Carmel
	5.30pm	Apostles
Thurs 9th:	7.30am	Carmel
	12noon	Invermay
Fri 10th:	7.30am	Carmel
	12noon	Apostles
Sat 11th:	9.00am	Carmel

Carmelite Monastery, 7 Cambridge St, West Launceston

RECONCILIATION

Sat 11th:	10.00am - 11.00am	Apostles
	5.15pm - 5.45pm	Newstead



DINING WITH FRIENDS

An initiative of the St Vincent de Paul Society together with the Launceston Parish.



If you are feeling lonely, would like to make new friends, or would just enjoy a FREE home cooked meal prepared by and shared with people who care, please come along to Dining with Friends.

Next gathering: Tuesday, 7th December 6.00pm in the Pastoral Centre. Bookings are essential.

**Enquiries and RSVP phone 6326 5551
Dining with Friends gather on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month.**

MASS LIVE-STREAMED

Each and every Sunday at 10.00am
On Facebook @catholicparishlaunceston

if you don't have a Facebook account go to:

<https://www.facebook.com/pg/CatholicParishLaunceston/videos/>

Sunday Mass is also televised every Sunday Morning on WIN and WIN HD, 6.00am - 6.30am.

PRAYER FOR SPIRITUAL COMMUNION



*My Jesus,
I believe that You
are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.
I love You above all things,
and I desire to receive You into my soul.
Since I cannot at this moment 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..*

PRAYER IN A TIME OF PANDEMIC

Almighty and eternal God, our refuge in every danger, to whom we turn in our distress; in faith we pray look with compassion on the afflicted, grant eternal rest to the dead, comfort to mourners, healing to the sick, peace to the dying, strength to healthcare workers, wisdom to our leaders and the courage to reach out to all in love, so that together we may give glory to your holy name. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Opening Prayer from the special new Mass In Time of Pandemic which has been promulgated especially for the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Children's Corner

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

GOSPELS FOR THE COMING WEEK:

<i>Monday 6th:</i>	<i>Luke 5:17-26</i>
<i>Tuesday 7th:</i>	<i>Mathew 18:12-14</i>
<i>Wednesday 8th:</i>	<i>Luke 1:26-38</i>
<i>Thursday 9th:</i>	<i>Mathew 11:11-15</i>
<i>Friday 10th:</i>	<i>Mathew 11:16-19</i>
<i>Saturday 11th:</i>	<i>Mathew 17:10-13</i>

NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS:

Third Sunday of Advent C

Zephaniah 3:14-18

Isiah 12-2-6

Philippians 4:4-7

Luke 3:10-18



Ponder and pray the living Word of God



WAY TO ST JAMES PILGRIMAGE

15TH -16TH JANUARY 2022

Make your way through natural surroundings in a meditative way during the Annual Pilgrimage to St James Church in Cygnet in the Huon Valley. Following on from our successful Virtual Pilgrimage early this year, those who can't join us in person can again join our *Way to St James Cygnet Global Camino 2022*. For more information:

Physical Pilgrimage registration link:

<https://www.waytostjames.com.au/>

Facebook link:

<https://www.facebook.com/waytostjamescygnet/>

Global Camino Event link:

<https://www.facebook.com/events/1163554290805134>

LAUNCESTON PARISH YOUTH GROUP

For young people from grades 5 to 12
Music, Sport, Adventures, Social Work, Faith

Regular Meeting 1st & 3rd Thursdays
6.00pm - 7.30pm

St Ailbe's Hall, Margaret Street

Last gathering for 2021 this coming
Thursday, 9th December

For further information about the next gathering contact
Fr Chatty on: 0469 661 578

