



SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT C SUNDAY 05 DECEMBER 2021

We have twenty days left until Christmas! PREPARE!

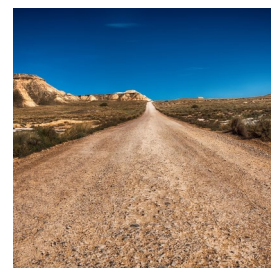
Look at your Advent Calendar, if you have one. Can you spot John the Baptist with his 100% organic outfit and odd, non-vegetarian diet? Although he hardly fits the cute calendar images, he's a key character of the Advent season.

His warning that it's time to change our behavior may sound a bit like "You'd better watch out, you'd better not pout..." but the reward he promises for conversion is not at all like a tinsel tree, surrounded by toys and electronics

In a chaotic world filled with personal, political and often environmental turmoil, it is easy to long for someone coming from the outside to help us, to "fix" things.

But today we are reminded that something is also required of us. Preparing for Christ was and is a serious task, involving our own need for hope and repentance.

We can look to Jesus for solace and assistance, but we are called to "make straight his paths" and to "produce good fruit as evidence of (our) repentance." His coming makes great demands on us.



We Acknowledge the traditional owners of this land the Awabakal Peoples. And pay our respects to the elders past and present, and any that may be with us today.

PARISH LEADERSHIP TEAM:

Foundation	Leader	In Office
1. Identity and Community		
2. Worship and Prayer.	Uta France	Mon
3. Formation and Education		
4. Mission and Outreach.		
5. Leadership and Structure.	John France & Juliet Hutchins	Sat & Sun Tues

If you have any concerns or questions you can also talk to any member of the Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) who are: Mal and Pam Melvey, Kerry Lendon, and Rod Hay.

PRIEST SUPERVISOR: Fr Geoff Mulhearn

SACRAMENTAL PRIEST: Fr John Purnell

Parish Secretary: Mrs Rosanna Suckling Mon— Fri 9am-2pm

OFFICE: 60 Yambo Street, Morisset, PO Box 87, Ph: 02 4973.6859

Office Hours: 9.00 am to 2.00pm—Monday to Friday

(Due to COVID we ask that you make an appointment to come to the office)

Morisset Parish email: morparish@mn.catholic.org.au

Parish Leadership Team Email: morparishplt@mn.catholic.org.au

Morisset Parish Web site: www.vianneymorisset.org

Morisset Parish Facebook : <https://www.facebook.com/stjvparish>

Morisset Parish Instagram : https://www.instagram.com/stjvparish_morisset/

Morisset Parish Bulletin Items: morparish@mn.catholic.org.au

Morisset Parish Presbytery: Ph: 02 4973 1537

(Please submit all Bulletin Notice requests to the parish office by 2pm Wednesdays)

Email the Parish Office to Subscribe for an Electronic Bulletin .

UPCOMING WORSHIP TIMES :

Sunday	5th December	9.30am
	Mass— Morisset	
Tuesday	7th December	9.30am
	Mass— Morisset	
Sunday	12th December	9.30am
	Mass— Morisset	
Tuesday	14th December	9.30am
	Mass— Morisset	

**Register your place via the Book for Services button on the Parish Website, or the Eventbrite App or Website:
<http://vianneymorisset.eventbrite.com>.**

CHECK-IN

Everyone is required to check-in via a QR Code when they come to the Church, Office or Callinan Centre.

MASKS

Everyone over the age of 12 is required to wear a Mask that covers the nose and mouth indoors or while waiting to come inside.

CHRISTMAS 2021 VOLUNTEERS

If you are able to help please complete the sign-up form via the button on the parish website or take one of the forms at the back of the church.

2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT REFLECTION:

"The Word of God came to John... in the desert."

That is what Luke says, introducing the prophet who would prepare the way of the Lord.

According to Luke, John's ministry was the pivotal point in salvation history: the new and final era was coming into being.

Today, on this Second day of Advent, unless we lived in the outback, the desert is about as far from our imaginations as a herd of camels in downtown Sydney.

Luke wants us to think about the desert and why John was there, instead of protesting around the palace or preaching in the Temple. {John eventually did the first, and Jesus did the second later. We know how that ended.}

The desert was the place of origin for Israel. God brought the people out of slavery in Egypt, and then led them through the desert for 40 years to teach them what it meant to be the people of God. They needed that time to get over their slavery, to reimagine their identity. They wandered without the distractions of building homes and businesses. That long journey taught them to rely on God alone. Each time they forgot, they were led back into the desert to find themselves again.

We may not be in sand and spinifex, but we all have our deserts. Covid has been a place of desert for many of us, illness, injury and ageing can seem like a desert. It restricts us, makes us rethink our priorities. Unlike the deserts of the that Israel knew in her exile, our deserts have been created by the selfishness of other humans and those who suffer the most in these deserts are not usually the guilty ones. The promise in today's readings, the promise of Christmas itself, is made for the people in just those deserts.

John was told to prepare the way for the Lord.

Today, to prepare the way of the Lord, we need to muster the courage necessary to speak up for those who are fleeing for their lives as refugees. We are called to straighten out the twisted communications with words of truth and sincere compassion for even our adversaries.

In our relationships we must build bridges across the chasms that have separated us from our families or friends, to forget old wounds and to say "I am sorry".

This is a lot of territory to cover if we wish to prepare a way for the Lord. But it really is possible because God is already working on it.

Scottish writer John Bell said:

"Light looked down and saw the darkness.

"I will go there", said light.

Peace looked down and saw war.

"I will go there", said peace.

"Love looked down and saw hatred.

"I will go there", said love.

So He,

The Lord of Light.

the prince of Peace,

the King of Love,

came down and crept in beside us."

With thanks to Mary McGlone and Fr Richard Leonard.

Uta France

CARITASNEWS

The latest CaritasNews, Spring 2021, is now available at www.caritas.org.au/media/3pxmj2pc/caritasnews_spring-2021_digital_updated-rm.pdf

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Reconciliation Wednesday 15th December—7pm at Morisset Church

Christmas Eve Mass Friday 24th December— 6pm at Morisset Showground

Christmas Day Mass Saturday 25th December— 9.30am at Morisset Church

Book through Eventbrite at:

<http://vianneymorisset.eventbrite.com>

CARITAS AUSTRALIA ADVENT RESOURCES

Caritas Australia's Advent resources are now available at <http://www.caritas.org.au/advent>

Each resource is divided into the four weeks of Advent, with each week including the ritual of lighting a candle on the Advent wreath, the Gospel reading, an inspiring Caritas Australia story, guided reflection questions, ideas for action and prayer.

There are five resources available to meet the needs of different audiences:

- Parish Resource – for use with parish prayer groups or individuals
- Children's Liturgy Resource – suitable for weekly catechist classes or for children's liturgy
- Youth Ministry Resource – for young adults or youth groups
- Primary School Resource – for morning class prayer or religious education lessons
- Secondary School Resource – for religious education lessons or for homeroom classes

10,000 DECADES FOR HEALTHCARE WORKERS

Across the COVID-19 pandemic anyone watching daily news reports, would be aware of the great work being done by our front-line healthcare workers.

GUEST CONTRIBUTION PUBLISHED NOVEMBER 26, 2021

Our nurses, doctors, paramedics, and mental health workers are the human face of the battle against the pandemic. As with any battle, there is a toll that is paid by those on the frontline; in this case it is the toll of long hours, dealing with sickness, sharing the experience of grief with families, and holding up those for whom this period has weighed heavily.

Now here is your opportunity to support and hold in prayer those engaged in front-line healthcare.

The University of Notre Dame Australia's Campus Ministry Team has developed a link on their webpage that allows people to log when they pray a decade for these healthcare workers. The goal has been set for 10,000 Decades by Wednesday 8 December (The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception).

Here is a link to the web page including a running tally: https://www.notredame.edu.au/events-items/10000-prayers-decade/health-workers/_nocache

Please join us as we pray for all Frontline Health-Care Workers, in thanksgiving for all that they do for us!

FAITH MATTERS: WAITING IN JOYFUL HOPE

Having recently visited the DoMN library to assist Mandy Greaves the Diocesan Librarian sort through the thousands of donated books, I came across several books on Advent. ROSEMARY MCALLISTER PUBLISHED NOVEMBER 26, 2021

One of the books was covered in handwritten reflections and notes. I am in awe of the wisdom I gained from the anonymous author and the book *Waiting in Joyful Hope*.

Advent is the beginning or end of the liturgical year. This echoes the words we heard in the second reading on the Feast of Christ the King. 'I am the Alpha and the Omega' says the Lord God, who is, who was, and who is to come, the Almighty. Rev 1:8

Advent keeps the eyes of a Christian on the future; our hearts are set on what is set on come. The future which God will bring about will not be a preserving of the status quo. God is a living God; a loving Father who shares his life with us. God's presence brings about change. There will be changes in us, the people of the earth; changes in me.

Advent brings an atmosphere of anticipation of waiting in joyful prayer. We are waiting for something to happen, some happenings that will relate to the expected changes.

What is expected, or better, what is Coming is Jesus Christ.

For what is coming, for him who is coming, we wait, and we watch. We are a people looking forward; waiting and listening in constant preparedness to accept and receive. There is always yet more to come, so that we are watching in prayer, our hearts filled with wonder and praise.

The atmosphere is one of expectancy an eager anticipation: what is to come is at hand. A good image of it would be the way children, just before Christmas, focus their interest on what it will bring them in presents and holidays and experience the joy of it in advance. Or Mary who was, in every sense of the word 'expecting'. Like people involved in a long and demanding project, we see ourselves in the last stage of our journey and can already experience what is ahead of us. It is imminent; it is so present, now; the 'future is present'.

What does the future hold for me?

Hope in the promise of the Lord who will be with me all of my days.

Courage in the free of the unknown, whatever is to come.

Love of a kind with my Lord, my God.

Strength of purpose to do what must be done.

Struggle for identity, pride, and selfishness.

Loss of integrity, temptation to break loose, no direction.

Increased weakness of mind and body.

Lack of faith in God, self-other.

Advent is a time to look to the future and to reflect, to stay awake, be present and be still to the true meaning of the season.

I said to my soul, be still.

And wait without hope

For hope would be hope for the wrong thing;

Wait without love

For love would be love of the wrong thing;

There is yet faith

But the faith and the love and the hope

Are all in waiting.

(T.S. Eliot, East Coker)

Extracts taken from *Waiting in Joyful Hope* (1985) Gregory Manly and Anneliese Reinhard and notes from anonymous author.

CHRISTMAS 2021 VOLUNTEERS

If you are able to help please complete the sign-up form via the button on the parish website or take one of the forms at the back of the church.

CARITAS AUSTRALIA GLOBAL GIFTS

Give a gift that makes a big impact this Christmas

A Global Gift represents a donation to Caritas Australia. Select from a range of Global Gift cards to send to your friends and family this Christmas.

When you buy a Global Gift, you provide a unique gift to your friend or loved one, by helping vulnerable communities to break the cycle of poverty.

Order online at: www.globalgifts.org.au or Call 1800 024 413

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITY

International Day of People with Disability is a United Nations observed day celebrated internationally. The day aims to increase public awareness, understanding and acceptance of people with disability and celebrate their achievements and contributions. The day is an opportunity for us to make positive changes to the lives of the 4.4 million Australians with disability. As an individual, school, community group, business or organisation, there are many ways you can [get involved](#) and promote inclusion in your community.

The theme for 2021 is **'Leadership and participation of persons with disabilities toward an inclusive, accessible and sustainable post-COVID-19 world'**.

To support people with a disability The Australian Human Rights Commission has developed practical resources to promote diverse and inclusive practices across workplaces, educational, community and family settings at

<https://includeability.gov.au/>

We are all encouraged to continually explore how our parishes, schools and agencies may continue to grow as inclusive communities celebrating the gift of diversity.

CHRISTIAN FORMATION COURSE (CFC) 2022

Are you wanting to know more about Christianity?

Expressions of Interest are now open for the Christian Formation Course 2022

The Christian Formation Course (CFC) is a face-to-face learning experience that allows participants to explore their life's journey and their faith within the Catholic Tradition. This one-year course introduces participants to scripture, theology, church history, sacramental life, and liturgy. The course runs across twelve months and comprises of eight units.

Commencing on Tuesday February 1 2022, no prerequisite formation or qualification is required to enrol. All who complete the Course are awarded a Diocesan Certificate in Christian Formation.

Expression of Interest close December 10. For more information go to:

www.mn.catholic.org.au/church-mission/catholic-life/adult-faith-formation/christian-formation-course/

Live stream Mass every Sunday at 9.30am at [https://www.mn.catholic.org.au/places/live-stream/](http://www.mn.catholic.org.au/places/live-stream/)

HOW COVID RESTRICTIONS AFFECT OUR SEATING

Under the COVID restrictions we are still required to maintain physical distancing of 1.5m between seated persons. Due to the configuration of our Pews and them being less than 1 metre apart we have had to use a checker board seating plan which means we are unable to kneel or reconfigure seating to accommodate households on the fly. It also means that we are unable to have our full capacity under the 2sq metre rule.

SUPPORTING OUR PARISH

We thank everyone who has continued their support for our Parish during these very different times. As cash is deemed a transmission hazard by NSW Health they recommend that donations and payments be made electronically.

There is an online parish payments button on the Parish Website Home page or alternatively you can deposit directly into the Parish Account our details are:
Account Name: CDF 96014 Morisset Parish BSB:062815
Account Number: 00328161 Ref: 5004 2nd Collection or 5004 PG and Giver Number.

SUPPORTING THE DIOCESE CLERGY

If you would like to make contributions to support the Diocese Clergy / 1st Collection the Bank Account Details are:
Account Name: CDF 96020 Morisset Presbytery BSB: 062815
Account Number 00328161 Ref: 5016 1st Collection

Keep up to date with all the Diocese Events and News at:
<https://mnnews.today/>

Keep up to date with what's happening with the Diocesan Synod at: <https://www.domnsynod.com.au/>

WEEKEND ROSTERS

		<u>THIS WEEK</u>	<u>NEXT WEEK</u>
<u>Presiders</u>	9.30	MASS	MASS
<u>PROCLAIMER:</u>	9.30	J Vipan	M Shamley
<u>PSALMIST:</u>	9.30	J Shamley	M Foo
<u>UNIVERSAL PRAYER</u>	9.30	J Shamley	M Foo
<u>SERVERS</u>	9.30	V Paulo	M Melvey
<u>AV:</u>	9.30	M Foo	U France
<u>SOUND/ VIDEO:</u>	9.30	G & L Hutchinson	G & L Hutchinson
<u>SIGN-IN</u>	9.30	J Hutchins H White	K Amon J Vipan
<u>USHERS</u>	9.30	R Hay J France	B Hutcheson K Lendon
<u>CLEANING</u>	9.30	COVID TEAM	COVID TEAM

UPCOMING FEAST DAYS MEMORIALS AND SOLEMINITIES

SAINT AMBROSE— 7TH DECEMBER
THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY— 8TH DECEMBER
SAINT LUCY— 13TH DECEMBER
SAINT JOHN OF THE CROSS— 14TH DECEMBER
THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD VIGIL— 24TH DECEMBER
THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD— 25TH DECEMBER
THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY, AND JOSEPH— 26TH DEC
SAINT JOHN— 27TH DECEMBER
THE HOLY INNOCENTS— 28TH DECEMBER

Please pray for those who are sick, in hospital or recovering at home:

Ian Douglas, Maureen Phillips, Dan Joyce, Bruce Gillett , William Eggins, Robert Jay .

Please pray for those who have been called to eternal life may they always be in our prayers.

Recently Deceased: Jason Wismer, Bishop Bill Wright



PRAYER REQUESTS FOR THE BULLETIN

If you would like the parish to pray for a family member who is sick, recently deceased or you would like remembered please call or email the parish office or complete a prayer card for each person and place in the mail box near the parish office door. Cards are available at the back of the church and at the Parish Office.

All prayer requests require permission from a family member or the person. Due to Australian privacy laws.

AN ACT OF 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.



Live stream Mass every Sunday at 9.30am at <https://www.mn.catholic.org.au/places/live-stream/>





Happy days with Helene

When Confucius said, “choose a job you love, and you'll never have to work a day in your life,” he must have had in mind the role of the Family Ministry Coordinator (FMC) in the Diocese.

HELENE O'NEILL PUBLISHED NOVEMBER 26, 2021

The role is based on forming relationships and accompanying people whether in the schools, parishes, or community, on their family faith journey.

Ten years ago, the role was conceived as a pilot project in the Blackbutt region through the collaborative efforts of the Diocese and the Catholic Schools Office.

Today, the role has expanded into the four deaneries and is delivered by four family ministry coordinators: Helene O'Neill (Newcastle), Rose Mahony (Watagans), Loretta Heffernan (Myall) and Lucy Sneesby-Tooth (Upper Hunter) but remains as a family first, parish-based and school supported role.

They say variety is the spice of life, and it is also the essence of being church. There are many ways to do and be church today especially as staff in Pastoral Ministries are promoting a 'Church without Walls' approach. How do we include those on the margins? What is our approach towards those who are not a part of the worshipping community? What defines a parish? And the most pertinent question; what is a family? Each member of the church is in a family and of themselves—and a part of the larger church family.

Because of this great diversity in family configurations, one of many considerations for FMCs is to ensure that all diverse groups are included and nurtured. To accomplish this, FMCs adopt approaches that are relevant to their deanery and the parishes and schools. Activities range from supporting sacramental teams, being involved in community garden projects, attending prayer groups, being active in community outreach such as Hunter Homeless Connect and Hello Hunter, and working collaboratively with Pastoral Care Workers in our schools.

The evangelisation and catechesis of whole families enable the FMC to recognise a local need and respond as required. Programs such as parish Conversations about Catholics, ecumenical Friendship groups and engaging with parishioners in Anointing masses and Parish family masses.

FMCs work collaboratively with staff of the Pastoral Ministries Formation and Education foundation to foster Special Religious Education (SRE) in Government schools. They invite parishioners to join the team as catechists and offer training and formation in readiness to deliver the Good News in state schools. FMCs further liaise with Government schools through regular contact and visits to the schools.

Parish sacramental programs provide an opportunity for FMCs to walk with families who might be having difficulty with the program or simply need a formation refresher. We work with parish teams and assist in delivering the program and attending the ceremonies as a witness for the families.

One of the FMCs favourite roles is in the hospitality area. Whether attending the Forster community kitchen or food preparation for CatholicCare, attending school and parish functions, or lending a hand in the school canteen, these actions provide occasions to carry on a conversation with workers who are all part of a family, albeit parish or community.

To grow both relationally and spirituality all four FMCs have undertaken further study to keep pace with changing work landscape. Coordinator Helene is studying the Graduate Certificate in Mission and Culture through ACU; Rose has just graduated from the University of Newcastle and is also undertaking the Diocesan Christian Formation Course; Lucy has just completed her second year of the Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) course, and Loretta is furthering her learning as a trainer in the much sought-after course in schools, Season for Growth.

The FMC also work closely with the Office of Safeguarding and are trained to deliver to parishes the four-hour Safeguarding package. Conferences such as Alive in the Spirit and the International Peace Convention also add to our skill sets and keep pace with the latest developments in Parish Pastoral Councils, Sacramental programs and family faith requirements.

To further develop our relationships in school we liaise with the Religious Education and Spirituality Department and the Pastoral Care Workers network. The latter is a mutually beneficial arrangement and complement the activities in the interest of developing spirituality in families.

We are also connected to the Integral Ecology Network which provides occasions for involvement in greening projects based on Laudato Si where schools and families are encouraged to further their spiritual nourishment through connection with the earth. Catholic Missions include the FMC in the training for the Socktober, then in turn we support schools in their fundraising efforts.

As 2022 approaches the FMC will join as a volunteer group to spearhead the Diocesan Caritas appeal through the Lenten Project Compassion fundraiser titled 'For Future Generations'. We will invite both primary and secondary school students to train as Caritas animators and share the message with parishes and schools. The students will be empowered to lead their school in activities not only in Lent but throughout the year spreading the Caritas message of hope and love.

We look forward to further growth in the FMC role and would welcome contact with your parish and school. If you have not experienced the joy that this ministry of presence can bring to those with whom we come into contact please check the Diocesan website for our contact details.

Acts 2:44 'All who believed were together and had all things in common.'



SUNDAY PRAYER SERVICE

Second Sunday of Advent C

Sunday 05 Dec 2021

The Introductory Rites

Gathering

The Lectionary/Roman Missal or a Bible may be placed on a table together with a candle and a cross.

Sign of the Cross

Leader:

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All:

Amen.

Greeting

Leader:

Blessed be Jesus Christ
who will come again in glory.

All:

Blessed be God forever.

Introductory Remarks

Leader (in these or similar words):

Friends in Christ,
although we cannot celebrate the Eucharist this day,
we gather in God's name
for when two or more come together
God is always with us.

In union with the whole Church,
we await the coming of the Lord.

Opening Rite

LITANY OF PRAISE

Leader:

God's kindness brings hope to the world.
To prepare ourselves to hear his Word
let us praise the Lord Jesus Christ.

A brief period of silence follows.

Leader:

Lord Jesus, you call us to repent: Lord, have mercy.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Christ Jesus, you teach us wisdom and love: Christ, have mercy.

All: Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you are the way to the Father: Lord, have mercy.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Leader:

May almighty God have mercy on us,
forgive us our sins,
and bring us to everlasting life.

All:

Amen.

Opening Prayer

Leader:

Let us pray.

All pause for silent prayer.

Almighty God,
a voice cries out
to make the paths straight and the mountains low.
In this Advent let nothing stop us
from preparing the way of the Lord.
We ask this through Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
for ever and ever.

All:

Amen.

The Liturgy of the Word

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.

To indicate the end of the reading, the reader acclaims:

The word of the Lord.

All reply:

Thanks be to 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.)**

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.

To indicate the end of the reading, the reader acclaims:

The word of the Lord.

All reply:

Thanks be to God.

Gospel

Reader:

From the holy Gospel according to Luke.

All:

Glory to you, O Lord.

Lk 3:1-6

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.

Reader:

The Gospel of the Lord.

All:

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

All are seated.

Reflection on the Word

A short period of reflection may be observed.

Q. In what ways can holding on to our faults and failings get in the way of allowing God into our lives?

Q. Why is it so hard to forgive ourselves when we are assured God's forgiveness is there for the asking?

Q. What image captures for you the idea of 'preparing a way'?

Q. How has reflection on this week's gospel enhanced your understanding of Advent?

Profession of Faith

Leader:

In union with the whole Church
let us profess our faith.

All:

**I believe in God,
the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,**

At the words that follow, up to and including the Virgin Mary, all bow.

**who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried;
he descended into hell;
on the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty;
from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and life everlasting. Amen.**

Prayer of the Faithful

Leader: Dear friends, let us bring our prayers before the Lord, who is our hope and our salvation.

Reader: That the Holy Church will be a sign for all the world of Christ's presence in our midst.

(pause)

In your mercy:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That through Christ's coming, priests and bishops will be renewed in their dedication of service to the people of God.

(pause)

In your mercy:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That the poor and marginalised may discover God's great deeds and be filled with the joy of his love.

(pause)

In your mercy:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That like John the Baptist, our parish community may share the Salvation of God with all people in our lives.

(pause)

In your mercy:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That all those who are sick will find relief from their suffering, especially those in our community and families.

(pause)

In your mercy:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That all those who have died will share in the eternal salvation of God, especially those in our community and families.

(pause)

In your mercy:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: Lord God, your promise of salvation is close at hand. Hear our prayers, and help us to be like John the Baptist, by eagerly embracing your will for our world in Jesus Christ. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Leader:

At the Saviour's command
and formed by divine teaching,
we dare to say:

All:

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

The Concluding Rite

Blessing

Leader:

We believe that the Son of God once came to us
and we look for him to come again.
May his coming bring us the light of his holiness
and free us with his blessing.

All make the sign of the cross during the blessing.

All:

Amen.

Dismissal

Leader:

Let us go in peace.

All:

Thanks be to God.

© The scriptural quotations are taken from the Jerusalem Bible, published and copyright 1966, 1967 and 1968 by Darton Longman and Todd Ltd and Doubleday & Co Inc, and used by permission of the publishers.

The English translation of the Psalm Responses, the Alleluia and Gospel Verses, and the Lenten Gospel Acclamations, and the Titles, Summaries, and Conclusion of the Readings, from the Lectionary for Mass © 1997, 1981, 1968, International Committee on English in the Liturgy, Inc. All rights reserved. The prayers are from the English Translation of the Roman Missal © 2010 International Committee on English in the Liturgy Inc. (ICEL). All rights reserved.