



# Our Lady of the Rosary Parish

Second Sunday of Advent | Year A Cycle II | 7 December 2025



## Who Was John the Baptist?

It's really impossible to grasp the significance of Jesus without passing through the cleansing bath of John the Baptist. He provides a lens through which Jesus is properly interpreted.

John, Matthew tells us, made his appearance as a preacher in the desert of Judea. Deserts are places of simplicity and poverty, places where distractions and attachments are eliminated - and hence where the voice of God can be heard. Wealth, pleasure, power, honour - and all of their avatars and priests - are shouting at us, luring us, tempting us. But what is God saying? We have to go to these silent and deserted places in order to hear.

What's the first word out of the prophet's mouth? "Repent." This might be a dirty word to many people today, but it cuts to the heart of every one of us, precisely because we all know that our lives are not where they are supposed to be. We have all fallen short of the glory of God; we have all fallen into patterns of self-absorption and addiction. So let us hear John's word today: "Repent." It's a command to turn around, to start moving in a new direction.

*The Word on Fire Bible* Bishop Robert Barron

## St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal

The St Vincent de Paul Society will once again be holding a Christmas Appeal next weekend 13/14 December. Please help them to support the increasing numbers of families who are struggling with the continuing cost-of-living crisis. Through your donations Vinnies will provide food, clothing, living expenses and crisis support for vulnerable people in Australia, and our local area. Envelopes will be available on the pews and can be added to the regular collections.



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# Our Lady of the Rosary Parish

## Fruits of Repentance

On this second Sunday of Advent we find John the Baptist preparing the people of Israel to receive Jesus, the promised Messiah. The key word in his preaching is 'repentance', which appears three times in today's passage. True repentance involves a radical turning away of the person from sin and turning towards God. It demands a new perspective about life and consequently a new way of life. John insists that this sort of repentance is necessary for anyone who wishes to share in the blessings and salvation that the Messiah would bring.

In these days when we are preparing to celebrate once again the Birthday of Jesus, a lifestyle that manifests true repentance is essential. In this context, the exhortation of John the Baptist is timely: bear fruit that befits repentance. John insists that anyone who is serious about repentance must demonstrate it externally through one's deeds. It is indeed one of the forceful teachings of Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount. Do I believe that I need repentance? What fruits of repentance does God demand from me?

*God's Word* Fr Sebastian Ampattu SSP

## Decisive Moments

The important events in the life of St John the Baptist began before he was even born, as he leapt in his mother's womb at the arrival of Mary, the mother of his Saviour. This was the decisive moment in his life, as he would spend the whole of it preparing the way of the One who was greater than he was. To do this effectively he chose to live in the wilderness, dressing and behaving like one of the ancient prophets. His message was a simple one of total repentance; his targets being the Pharisees and the Sadducees, the accepted teachers of his time. His complaint, taken up by Jesus, was the hypocrisy of their lives. They said one thing and did another, all the time imposing harsh rules on their listeners. Here, John gives us an insight into one of the difficulties of dealing with life's challenges. From our earliest years we pick up messages about what is right and wrong. These messages are like the bedrock we return to, especially when we are stressed. They have great power over us. Part of the adventure of life is modifying these messages as our perception and understanding broaden. What does not help in either the initial stages or later is the contradiction of hypocrisy: saying one thing and doing another. John's advice, again seconded by Jesus, is, "Look at what they do, rather than listening to what they say."

*Sunday Living Word* Majellan Family Media

## Communion Under Both Kinds

Those wishing to receive the Chalice need to line up on the left-hand aisle for the Host then go to the left to receive the Chalice. As is the Church custom the minister will give you the Chalice to consume a small amount of the Precious Blood and then you will hand it back to the minister. N.B. After the minister says 'The Body of Christ', or 'The Blood of Christ' we reply with: 'Amen'.

A reminder that the Church allows us to receive the Host either on the hand or on the tongue. If receiving on the hand, please place your hand well out in front of you for the minister to place the host upon. If receiving on the tongue, please open your mouth wide enough and place your tongue out so that the minister does not contaminate their hand with saliva.

**Masses:** Saturday Vigil 5pm | Sunday 8am & 9:30am | Reynolds Court 11am | Maronite Mass 5pm

**Weekday Masses:** Monday Communion Service 9am | Tuesday - Thursday 9am | Friday 11:45am  
Saturday 9am | Reynolds Court Wednesday 10am

**Reconciliations:** Saturdays 9:30am - 10am | 4pm - 4:30pm **Liturgy of the Hours:** Saturday 8:40am

**Rosary:** Monday-Thursday 8:35am | Friday 11:20am | Saturday 9:30am

**Holy Souls Crusade Prayer Group:** Tuesday 9:30am **Cenacle Prayer Group:** Wednesday 9:30am

**Christian Meditation Group:** Friday 10:30am - 11:30am Reynolds Room



# A Beacon of Faith, Hope & Love

## Advent Reflection Mornings

Join Deacon Paul to reflect on the History, Mystery and Majesty of this sacred season. Come along to the Reynolds Room on Thursday mornings after 9:30am Mass for a cuppa and a chance to contemplate with joyful anticipation the Coming of Christ this Christmas.

## Kids Club Christmas Party

Let's celebrate Jesus' Birthday! KidsClub is having a very special Christmas celebration. Join us for games, activities, craft, food and lots of fun! Saturday 13 December in the Reynolds Room from 3:00-4:45pm. Then come along afterwards to the Vigil Mass at 5pm. Enquiries to the parish office on 4332 2216.

## Seaside Youth Group Christmas

Come along for our last gathering of the year and our first Christmas Party together! We will celebrate our new beginnings and Jesus' beginning, with fun, games and pizza! Saturday 13 December after the 5pm Vigil Mass and finishing at 7:30pm, in the Upper Room. All youth aged 10-17 invited – and friends! Enquiries to 4332 2216 or [theentranceparish@bbcatholic.org.au](mailto:theentranceparish@bbcatholic.org.au)

## Advent 2<sup>nd</sup> Rite of Reconciliation

The Second Rite of Reconciliation is a communal celebration in which we prepare for Confession together through Scripture and prayer, before each person individually confesses their sins to a Priest and receives absolution. This Advent our Second Rite will be celebrated on Wednesday 17 December at 6pm. All welcome!

## Children's Christmas Mass Rehearsal

All children are invited to dress up as angels and shepherds for the 5pm Children's Mass on Christmas Eve. If your child would like to participate in the reenactment of the Nativity they may come to the rehearsal on Tuesday 23 December at 10am in the Church. Costumes are provided for all those participating.

## The Pope's Prayer Intentions for December

For Christians in areas of conflict. Let us pray that Christians living in areas of war or conflict, especially in the Middle East, might be seeds of peace, reconciliation and hope.



### 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent

Is 11:1-10 | Rom 15:4-9 | Mt 3:1-12

**Entrance Antiphon:** O people of Sion, behold, the Lord will come to save the nations, and the Lord will make the glory of his voice heard in the joy of your heart.

**Responsorial Psalm:** Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace for ever.

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

**Communion Antiphon:** Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the heights, and behold the joy which comes to you from God.





# Our Lady of the Rosary Parish

## Please Note

### Welcome!

This weekend we have the Reception of the Deaves and Cummings families whose children are being Baptised this weekend.

### Feast Days this Week

The Immaculate Conception 8 December. Fr Brian will celebrate Mass instead of the usual Communion Service on this Monday.

Our Lady of Guadalupe 12 December.

St Lucy 13 December.

### 57 Years of Priesthood

Blessings to Fr Bill Stevens on the occasion of his 57<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Ordination on 7 December.

### Whole School Mass

Our Lady of the Rosary Primary School teachers and students will attend Mass here on Tuesday at 10am, for their final whole school Mass of the year.

### Year 6 Graduation Mass

Congratulations to our OLR Year 6 Students whose Graduation Mass will be held here on Thursday 11 December at 5pm. Well done to you all!

### Nursing Home Communion Service

A Communion Service for residents will be held at Opal Killarney Vale on Tuesday at 11am.

### Parish Morning Tea

The Ambrosian Family Group will be hosting our last Parish Morning Tea for the year this Sunday 7 December, in the Parish Centre after 9:30am Mass. All welcome!

We would like to thank all the Family Groups and the Combined Choir who have hosted our morning teas each month. A big effort and much appreciated and enjoyed by many parishioners.

### Bus to Mass on Sundays

If you know someone in our parish who would like a lift to 9:30am Mass on Sunday mornings, please let them know we have a parish bus available. Ring 4332 2216 during office hours to book.

## Keep Us in Your Prayers

**Recently Deceased:** Dongsoo Shin (father of Fr Eliseus of The Lakes Parish), Graham Henneberry, Corinne Biady, Laura Tribbia.

**Anniversaries:** Deborah Anne Czyrkowski (1<sup>st</sup>), Leo Lowe, Jill O'Sullivan, Ralph Jayesuria, Patricia Byrne.

**Remembrances:** Arthur Vella, Margaret Pizzuto, Sam & Carmen Ghirxi, Martin Ghirxi, Mario Cauchi, Delma Clarke, Richard Falzon, Joe Bond, Frank & George Grech, Carolyn Finch.

**Families:** Grech, Zahra, Grima, Cassar, Sciberras, Camilleri, Falzon & Patterson.

**Sick:** Lynne White, Fr Geoff Bugden, Fr Brogan, Marlene Pennings, Eamon McRory, Donny Daniels, Julie Fletcher, Lynette Falken, Walter Knoke, Carl Sanchez Jnr, Teddy Williams, John Cox, Abigail Holt, Linda Read, Pat McCudden, Rod Slater, Pam Elliott, Janine Harpley, Rosanna Natali, Patrick Yeo, Stjepan Tuka, Pauline Fowler, Anne Knoke, John McClement, Emma Horton, Kelly Will.



Our Lady of the Rosary

**Sacred  
Gifts**

4332 2216

## Christmas Gifts are In!

Buy something really Christmassy this year! We have Nativities, gifts, cards, Columban Calendars and *God's Word 2026*! We are open on Saturdays before and after the 5pm Vigil Mass and Sundays before and after the 9:30am Mass. Also weekdays by appointment. You'll find us in the foyer of the Church.