



# MANLY FRESHWATER PARISH

Mary Immaculate, Manly and  
St John the Baptist, Freshwater

## MARY IMMACULATE FEAST DAY 8TH DECEMBER

We thank you, O Mother, you remind us that what comes first is the grace of God, the love of Jesus Christ who gave his life for us, the strength of the Holy Spirit which renews all things. Let us not give in to discouragement, but, trust in your constant help. *Pope Francis 2016*

**Please join us for lunch following the  
10:30am Mass today.**



## SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT - 8th December 2019

**Week 2:  
Love**

**Advent**  
is a journey towards Bethlehem. May we let ourselves be drawn by the LIGHT OF GOD made MAN. ~ Pope Francis ~

**Priest:** In today's readings we shall hear about the mission of John the Baptist, who was sent to prepare the way for the coming of Jesus, the light of the world. We, too, are sent to prepare the way. As we light the second candle on the Advent wreath let us pray that we may be worthy of our mission to spread the light of Christ in the world so that all may acknowledge Jesus as Lord.

*Light the second candle on the wreath*

**Priest:** Your coming was foretold by the prophets.  
Lord have mercy.

You judge us in fairness. Christ have mercy.

You are the one whom John proclaimed. Lord have mercy.

**Parish Priest:** Fr David Taylor  
**Assistant Priest:** Fr Paul Kim  
**Parish Secretaries:** Jenny Beninati  
Paula Martin  
**Pastoral Coordinator:** Michelle Ellis  
**Administration Office:**  
Mon – Thurs: 8:30am - 4:30pm  
Fri: 9am – 4pm  
6 Raglan St, Manly NSW 2095  
Tel: 9977 5822 / 8379 1720  
After Hours Urgent Sick Calls:  
0499 910 010  
Presbytery: 9977 2100  
manlyfreshwaterparish@bbcatholic.org.au  
www.bbcatholic.org.au/manlyfreshwater

**Weekend Masses:**  
**Manly:** Saturday Vigil 6:00pm  
Sunday 8:30am, 10:30am, 6:00pm  
**Freshwater:** Saturday Vigil 5:00pm  
Sunday 9am  
**Weekday Masses:**  
**Manly:** Tuesday – Friday 9:15am  
**Freshwater:** Tuesday – Friday 9:15am  
**Liturgy of the Word and  
Holy Communion**  
**Manly:** Monday 9:15am  
**Freshwater:** Monday 9:15am

**Mary Immaculate Church**  
6 Raglan St, Manly NSW 2095

**St John the Baptist Church**  
cnr Johnson & Oliver St,  
Freshwater NSW 2096

**Baptisms:** *by appointment only*  
**Manly** 4th Sunday of the month  
**Freshwater** 2nd Sunday of month

**Reconciliation:**  
**Manly** Sat 10am – 11am  
**Freshwater** Sat 4:30pm

### WEEKEND MASS COLLECTIONS

**Thank You** for your financial support of our Priests and Parish Community.

**The 1st Collection** is for the financial support of our priests.

**The 2nd Collection** is for the maintenance & running costs of our Parish Community.

### Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for December The Very Young

That every country resolutely commits to taking the necessary measures to make the future of the very young, especially those who suffer, a priority.

**Manly Freshwater Parish** promotes **SAFEGUARDING** which involves the implementation of proactive, common sense and practical ideas that ensure the safety of children and vulnerable adults in our community.

**Parish Pastoral Council:** Vuna Tuifua (Chair); Laurie de Ambrosio; Joanne Druery; Richard Heasman; Michael Larkin; Robert Marshall; Ian Press; Freya Zemek

**St Mary's Primary School** 9977 2225

Principal: Paul McGuire

**St John the Baptist Primary School** 9939 6699

Principal: Judy Slattery

**St Paul's Catholic College** 9977 5111

Principal: Chris Browne

**Stella Maris College** 9977 5144

Principal: Elizabeth Carnegie

## December 2019

## Year A

Mon 9/12 – The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary  
Gen 3:9-15,20; Eph 1:3-6,11-12; Lk 1:26-38

Tue 10/12 – 2nd week of Advent Is 40:1-11; Mt 18:12-14

Wed 11/12 – 2nd week of Advent Is 40:25-31; Mt 11:28-30

Thurs 12/12 – 2nd week of Advent Is 41:13-20; Mt 11:11-15

Fri 13/12 – St Lucy Is 48:17-19; Mt 11:16-19

Sat 14/12 – St John of the Cross Sirach 48:1-4,9-11; Mt 17:10-13

Sun 15/12 – 3rd Sunday of Advent  
Is 35:1-6,10; James 5:7-10; Mt 11:2-11

## LET US PRAY FOR

8th December 2019

**Recently Deceased:** Maureen Hammond

**Anniversary:** Stan Hammond; Rody Sia; Numael Santiago Parra

**Prayers for the sick in our parish:** Gavin Greenwood, Zacchaeus Emmanuel Joseph Ratnam; Wayne Smedley; Mark Taylor; Kay Flenady; Leon Cochrane; Robina Dwyer; Betty Borg; Ann Irvin; Prionsias Kearney; Brian Davies; Majella McLoughlin; Debbie Vernon; Desmond Connors; Lauren Hannahan; Rosalba Galuis; Joan Herringe; Vanessa Squirrell; Judith McKenzie; Jonathan Keil; Fiona Sweeting; Louise Allara


**Mass Intention Publications:** All Mass Intentions may be left at the Parish Office or on the collection plates on the weekend. Names for Mass Intentions for Recently Deceased, Anniversaries and for those who are sick (permission of the person is required) will be included in the weekly bulletin. All other Mass Intentions (including yearly offerings) will be given directly to the Priests who will offer the Masses.

**EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION** is held at Manly Church on Wednesdays from 2pm with Divine Mercy Hour held from 7:00pm – 8:30pm. To assist us on Wednesdays and present before the Blessed Sacrament, a Guard of Honour Roster has been placed on the notice board.

We invite you to place your name in a time slot which suits you.

**Visiting sick at home** - If you, or if you know of anyone who is unable to attend Mass because they are unwell and would like a home visit please contact the parish office 9977 5822 to organise for Communion or Anointing

Please TURN OFF your mobile phones during all Church services; that includes sending/receiving text messages

 St Mary's Church at Manly is fitted with an audio loop for hearing impaired.

**The St Vincent de Paul Clothing** bags available for you in the Piety Store and you can return your clean clothing donations either to the Piety Store or the Church Foyer. There will also be SVDP Clothing Appeals from time to time.

## DATES TO REMEMBER...

- **RCIA** Tues 10th Dec @ 7pm
- **SJB End of Year Mass** Wed 11th Dec @ 9:15am
- **St Paul's College End of Year Mass**  
Thurs 12th Dec @ 9:15am
- **SMM School Christmas Carols**  
Thurs 12th Dec @ 6:30pm

## SUNDAY MORNING TEAS

**FRESHWATER:** following the Sunday 9am Mass.

**MANLY:** following the Sunday 8:30am Mass each weekend, with the Filipino Family Group hosting a morning tea on the 2nd Sunday following the 10:30am Mass and the Tongan Community hosting a morning tea on the 3rd Sunday following the 10:30am Mass.



If you are a new parishioner to Manly Freshwater Parish, we invite you to complete a Parish census form. This will assist us in updating our records to include you and your family in our parish community activities. The census form can be found on the back wall of the Church or at the side door entrance and may be left in the collection plate.



**Craft Group** meets each week on Tuesday mornings from 10am to 12noon in the Parish Center. We invite you to come along for a cuppa and a chat in a friendly relaxed environment. Bring along your knitting or other craft if you wish. Visitors to the area are more than welcome.



**Lectio Divina** Read his story in the Gospels. Spend time with him. Listen to what he says. Lectio Divina group meets in the Parish Centre on Wednesday mornings at 10am AND Tuesday evenings at 7:30pm in the Parish End Room.

**CHRISTIAN MEDITATION** Anyone interested in this form of silent prayer is most welcome to attend. Enq: Hazel Cottee 0402 052 088 "Be still and know that I am God" (Psalm 46: vs 10)



**Children's Liturgy** is held each weekend at Manly during the 8.30am Mass and at Freshwater during the 9am Mass

**FR PAUL'S YOUTUBE** Please take a minute to watch Fr Paul Kim's presentation on today's Gospel reading. You can view it through YouTube – search frpaulkim (one word with no space).



## Prayer in time of Bush Fire and Drought

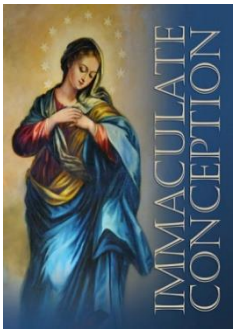
Hear our prayers, O God, for the effort to quench the fires that rage in our land; and, sustaining our spirits, keep us graciously from all harm and give success to the work of our hands.

Look upon our parched land and bestow upon it abundant rain, that pastures, fields and paddocks may by your goodness thrive once more. Through Christ our Lord. Amen



**Pope Francis @Pontifex** Let us pray for all the pastors of the Church, that they might guide the flock entrusted to them with the same firmness and tenderness of the Good Shepherd





# 8 DECEMBER

## *Feast of the Immaculate Conception*

YOU'RE INVITED TO  
OUR

### *Parish Feast Day Celebration*

10.30am Mass at Manly followed by Lunch under the Big Tree in the School yard.



### **Christmas, December & January rosters Servers, snr & jnr, Readers, Eucharist Ministers**

If you are available to assist over the Christmas/December/January period, please contact the Parish Office 9977 5822. If you are away and are normally on the monthly roster please also advise the office.

### **Christmas Blessing Letterbox Drop**

This Christmas we are calling for **volunteers to deliver a Christmas Blessing Card** to every home in the parish, wishing all a Joyful Christmas and letting them know about our Christmas services.



**If you are able to letter box drop in your street or unit block** please contact the Parish office on 9977 5822.

### **Craft Group Stall**

**This Sunday Morning at Manly** the Parish Craft Group will be holding a stall selling goods that they have made during the year.

There will also be some Christmas Cookies on sale. The proceeds will go towards a new laptop for the Church at Manly.



### **Freshwater Beach Carols 8th Dec**

Freshwater Reserve (behind SLSC). Enjoy a sausage sizzle, puppets, Christmas Story and Carols!

BBQ & Drinks: 6:30pm – 7:30pm  
Carols: 7:30pm – 8:45pm



**Volunteers please note:**

**Times slightly adjusted later this year, so we will gather from 6.00pm**



**Vinnies Christmas Appeal** continues this weekend. Our giving tree is available if you would like to make up a hamper for a needy family. There will also be envelopes on the pews if you wish to help that way.

Freshwater will have a giving basket for donations.

We really appreciate all the support that you have given our conferences over the years. Please keep all the needy families in your prayers.

*God bless...Bruce and Mick*

### *Parish Reconciliation*



RECONCILIATION

Communal 2nd Rite Celebration will be held Thursday 19th December at 7pm at St Mary's Church, Manly.

### **CHRISTMAS DAY LUNCH**



Each year the Parish hosts a Luncheon on Christmas Day for those in our community who will be spending Christmas alone.

If you are able to assist with any of the following please contact the Parish Office on 9977 5822 or [manlyfreshwaterparish@bbcatholic.org.au](mailto:manlyfreshwaterparish@bbcatholic.org.au)

- Easy carve Ham
- Plum Puddings
- Fresh Fruit
- Chocolates and sweets

**Christmas Day Lunch Gifts** Each year at our Christmas Luncheon we give each of our guests a Christmas parcel made of an assortment of gifts.

- Socks, caps, pens, deodorants, t-shirts, hair brushes
- If you would like to make a cash donation it would be greatly appreciated.

### **Volunteers needed to assist with:**

- **Setup of the Hall** – Sunday 22 @ 11.30am
- **Co-ordinator Setup of the Hall** – Sunday 22
- **Co-ordinator for the Clean Up** from 1:30pm

If you would like to know about what's involved please call the Parish Office on 9977



Our **December Anointing Mass** at Manly will be held on Friday 13th December at 9.15am



YOU'RE INVITED TO A  
**CHRISTMAS DAY  
 LUNCH**  
**25 DECEMBER**

**ST MARY'S CHURCH HALL, 50 WHISTLER ST, MANLY**  
 11.30am to 2pm

**It's free and non alcoholic**  
**So if you are spending Christmas alone please**  
**come along**

**Hosted by Manly Freshwater Parish**  
**9977 5822**



## Christmas Mass Times

### MANLY

**24th December**

**6:00pm** – Children's Mass

**8:30pm** - Tongan Choir  
(Carols from 8pm)

**11:00pm** - Parish Choir  
(Carols from 10:30pm)

**25th December** - 8:30am, 10:30am and 6:00pm



### FRESHWATER

**24th December**

**5:00pm** - Children's Mass (Carols from 4:30pm)

**7:00pm** – Congregational Singing (Carols from 6:30pm)

**25th December** – 9:00am



We are currently seeking more Catechists & Helpers for our CCD Classes in 2020.

*If you would like to know more about what is involved, please contact*

Laurie: 9949 7750 (Manly) or

Toni: 9905 2894 (Freshwater)

### PIETY SHOP MANLY

**Christmas** has come to the piety shop!!!

Come in and take a look at-

- This year's beautiful St Vincent de Paul Christmas cards and other Christmas ideas are now available.
- For all of you who love to be organised....*Prepare for the next decade the!!!*
- The 2020 Divine Mercy & Colombian calendars
- 2020 Daily Mass Book have arrived.
- **St Teresa Crosses** - limited stock available.
- New **Rosary Beads from Fatima & Rome.**



**Movie of the month "The Star"** A fun, creative and imaginary animation based on how the animals in the Nativity scene played a key role in bringing about the arrival of the King of the Universe. Only \$10 @ the piety store

**CD of the month "Prepare the way of the King"** Dr Scott Hahn & "The true meaning of Christmas" – Fulton Sheen

Wishing to go deeper into the Christmas mystery this Advent? These CD's unpack some interesting yet glossed over details on the importance of this celebration of Universal significance.

### CHRISTIAN MEDITATION



The Manly Christian Meditation group will be in recess over the Christmas holidays. Our last meeting will be on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December and will resume on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2020.

Anyone interested in this form of silent prayer is most welcome to attend. We meet each Monday at 6pm in the Parish Centre.

Enquiries: Hazel Cottee 0402 052 088

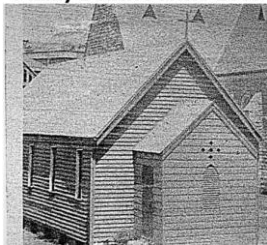
**"Be still and know that I am God"**  
**(Psalm 46: vs 10)**



### FRESHWATER CHRISTMAS EVE SETUP

Assistance is required at the Christmas Eve 5pm Mass at St John the Baptist Church, Freshwater. We need to bring the plastic chairs down from the hall and set them up outside the Church from 10am. Mick O'Farrell will be coordinating and the chairs will need to be returned after the Mass. Any assistance will be greatly appreciated.





## 150th Anniversary of the opening of Mary Immaculate Church Manly, 8th December 1869

On 8th December 2019 our parish begins the celebrations of the 150th Anniversary of the opening of the first weatherboard Church in what was then Manly Beach Parish, dedicated to Mary Immaculate. We will continue our Anniversary celebrations throughout 2020. We welcome your celebration suggestions and your participation.  
 *kindest regards Fr David Taylor PP*

### **Catholic Church at Manly Beach - A Short Historical Review from the Newspapers**

With the daily increasing population of Manly Beach, the want of a Catholic Church has long been felt, and the Rev. Dr. Powell of St. Leonard's, under whose pastoral care the Catholics of Manly are placed is about to commence to collect funds to do away with this inconvenience. Collections for a new church at Manly will commence on Monday next, and on the following Sunday mass will be said in a temporary church. Many Catholics would be glad to go on Saturday afternoon, and spend the day if they could hear mass there, and we trust that Dr. Powell's efforts will be successful. *Freemans Journal 29 April 1865*

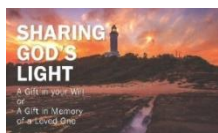
**Catholic Church Manly Beach.** - Tomorrow the Rev. Dr. Powell will celebrate two masses in the temporary chapel, the first at 8 a. m., and the second at ten o'clock. Confessionals will be attended on this evening and to-morrow morning. We believe it is the intention of the Rev. Dr. Powell to urge upon his congregation the absolute necessity at once of commencing to build a church in this favourite spot. The Catholics are getting numerous there and would become more so if they could hear mass every Sunday. On to-morrow the steamer leaves at half -past ten, and mass will not commence till it reaches Manly. *Freemans Journal Saturday May 5 1866 pg 282*

It is contemplated to erect a Roman Catholic Church at Manly Beach. A beautiful site facing the Pacific Ocean has been liberally given by Mr G Smith. *Empire 15 May 1865 pg 8*

**Catholic Church Manly Beach.** — This favourite watering place for the citizens of Sydney, is becoming to be extensively patronised during the hot summer months, and the want of a Catholic Church is very much felt. The place is visited periodically by Father Powell of St. Leonards and on Sunday last he celebrated Mass in the large saloon, of the Steyne Hotel. There was a fair attendance and the services consisted of a Missa Cantata, during which several motettes were, sung; accompanied by a piano. We understand that Dr. Powell intends to try and build a church, and through the generosity of Mr Gilbert Smith, he has obtained a plot of grounds in the very centre of the township. We hope he will succeed for the presence of - a Catholic Church would be a strong inducement- for Catholics to reside in Manly Beach. *Freemans Journal Sat 19 Jan 1867 pg 9*

Fr Callahan McCarthy on 24 Feb 1867 tendered via St Mary's Cathedral to build a Catholic Church for Manly Beach Parish. Construction commenced in 1868. The builders were John Wilson and William Bagnell. The cost of construction was One thousand two hundred and thirty-one pounds. The church was 40 feet long, 18 feet high and 10 feet high walls.

**On 8 Dec 1869, the Feast of Mary Immaculate, the new wooden Church was blessed and opened in a Solemn Mass.**



### **Leaving a Legacy**

Are you wondering how you can make a lasting gift to Manly Freshwater Parish? Once you have provided for your loved ones in your Will, you may like to consider leaving a meaningful and profound gift to our Parish. There are many ways to leave a legacy to the Church and your Parish community by including a specific gift or a percentage of your estate in your Will.

To learn more please contact Fr David in the Parish office on 9977 5822 for information on bequests and legacy giving. Thank you for your consideration.

### **DONATE TO HELP WITH REPAIRS OF OUR BEAUTIFUL CHURCH**

If you would like to make a donation to assist with our ongoing **Church Repairs**, you can do so by a direct deposit into the Parish Account using the following

**Account Name:** Manly Freshwater Parish  
**Bank Name:** Commonwealth Bank  
**Account#** 13958001 **BSB #** 062 784  
(Please include the following reference – BM/your surname)



### **No Cash!**

Tap and Go Units for your convenience near the doors.

Units set at \$10 and \$20

*Thank you for your generous support*

### **LITURGY OF THE WORD REFLECTION**



As we take another step into Advent, the **First Reading** introduces one of the main themes of this period of the year: Peace. Isaiah paints a picture of the whole world, of people and animals living together in harmony, led by a King who has all the qualities to rule justly.

The **Psalm**, too, speaks of this hope for peace and justice for all. St Paul, when he writes to the Romans, also mentions the hope which can be found in Scripture. All the more reason, then, for us to be tolerant of one another, so we can all give glory to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. **(Second Reading)**

In this week's **Gospel**, John the Baptist appears by the River Jordan to entreat people to repent and prepare a way for the one who is to come. He tells them that being a son or daughter of Abraham will not be enough to be sure of being saved. There is no room for complacency. They are called to repent; to change their way of life.

Mindful of this week's readings, I can perhaps look around me and, whether by word or deed, encourage others to join me as I set out in haste to meet Jesus this Christmas.  
*Pathways to God 2019*

**Manly and Freshwater Roster  
14th – 15th December 2019**

Ministry	Manly 6pm Vigil	Manly 8.30am	Manly 10.30am
Acolytes	Louise Wareham	Ken Thompson	Ron Gravinlin
Servers			Iona & Teresa Hearn
Readers	Rita Bruzzese Jean Halcrow	Patty Thomas	Katalina Taefotu Vuna Tuifua
Ministers of Communion	John & Merle Zemek John Bigeni	Judith O'Malley Peter Nacard	Jan Dorsen
Music	Bianca Zatz	Parish Choir	Tongan Choir
AV Screens	Peter Simpson	Parish Choir	Tongan Choir
Warden	John Zemek	Dom Ferragina	David Hala
Piety Shop	John & Merle Zemek	Jan Dorsen	Anne Gaughan
Flowers/ Altar Society	Merle Zemek		
Morning Tea		Lynn Parkes	
Children's Lit		Assistance Req	
Ministry	Manly 6pm	Freshwater 5pm Vigil	Freshwater 9am
Acolytes	Ivica Covic	Mick O'Farrell	Joanne Druery
Servers	Ivana Covic		
Readers	Paul Novak Dean Gale	Family Mass	Pam Brown
Ministers of Communion	Pam Rawson Richard Heasman	Family Mass	Toni Walsh
Music	TBA	TBA	Pat Brown
AV Screens	Bill Tango	Bill Kelly	Margie Gruca
Warden	Mark Bateman		
Piety Shop	Lynette & Sophie Duffy		
Flowers/ Altar Society			Lyn Hillard
Morning Tea			Raymond Family

**St Mary's Manly School News...**

**Feast Day Celebrations** Our students had a fabulous time celebrating The Feast of the Immaculate Conception on Friday. As a school it is a special day for us because here at St Mary's we remember that Mary is special because she is the mother of Jesus.

Our Feast Day celebrations also acted as a fundraising day to support the Year 6 Mission Project, which is to support the Parish with their annual Christmas Day lunch.

Our day included a Whole School Mass, mufti day, mini-fair which was organised by Year 6 and our Years 3-6 Values Awards and Evergreen Music Assembly.

It was such a happy day and reminded us that when we say 'Yes' to God just as Mary did, that He brings us love, hope, joy and peace. These are all the things we need for life.

*Monique Johnston, REC*

**OUTSIDE THE PARISH**

**Walk the Camino! Two Catholic Mission Pilgrimages 2020.** Small group led by an experienced guide. Sr Veronica Rosier OP (0451 387 906)

[www.catholicmission.org.au/camino2020](http://www.catholicmission.org.au/camino2020)

**CHRISTMAS NOVENA MASSES**

Nine-Day Christmas Novena Masses to be held at St Kevin's, Dee Why - 15-23 December at 7.30pm.

**Relics of St Therese of Lisieux tour**

For the first time in 18 years, the relics of St Thérèse of Lisieux, visit Australia in 2020 on a four-month pilgrimage with her parents, saints Louis and Zélie Martin. The relics will visit the following parishes in the Diocese of Broken Bay:

5 March: St Ives Parish

6 March: The Lakes Parish

7 March: Hornsby Cathedral

8 March: Gosford Parish

9 March: The Entrance Parish

Find out more about this significant event as Australia prepares for the Plenary Council by visiting:

[catholicmission.org.au/relics-of-saint-thérèse-of-lisieux](http://catholicmission.org.au/relics-of-saint-thérèse-of-lisieux)

**PARISH WEEKLY EVENTS**

- Christian Meditation: Mon 6pm – 6:45pm in the Parish Centre
- Craft Group: Tues 10:00am in the Parish Centre
- Divine Will Prayer Group: Mon 11:00am in the Parish Centre
- Eucharistic Adoration: Manly Wed 2pm with Divine Mercy Hour from 7:00pm – 8:30pm
- Holy Hour: Freshwater Tues after morning Mass
- Lectio Divina: Wed 10am in the Parish Centre
- Parish Playgroup: Manly on Mon 9am – 10:30am
- Piety Store: Open 15mins before & after Mass
- Reconciliation: Manly: Sat 10am – 11am  
Freshwater: Sat 4:30pm
- RCIA: Contact the Parish Office 9977 5822
- Rosary: Manly: Mon – Fri at 9.45am  
Freshwater: Tues – Fri before 9.15am Mass

**PARISH MONTHLY EVENTS**

- Anointing Mass at Manly and Freshwater 1st Friday of each month at 9:15am Mass
- Baptisms: By appointment enquires to Parish Office
- Crazy Whist Morning: last Tues of each month at 10:00am
- Eco-operate: 3rd Thursday of each month at 7.30pm
- Parish Pastoral Council: contact Parish Office
- St Vincent de Paul: Manly & Freshwater Conferences 2nd Mon each month at 5:30pm

# Second Sunday of Advent – Year A

## First Reading *Isaiah 11:1-10 (JB)*

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

*He judges the poor with justice.*

A shoot springs from the stock of Jesse, a scion thrusts from his roots: on him the spirit of the Lord rests, a spirit of wisdom and insight, a spirit of counsel and power, a spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord. (The fear of the Lord is his breath.) He does not judge by appearances, he gives no verdict on hearsay, but judges the wretched with integrity, and with equity gives a verdict for the poor of the land. His word is a rod that strikes the ruthless; his sentences bring death to the wicked. Integrity is the loincloth round his waist, faithfulness the belt about his hips. The wolf lives with the lamb, the panther lies down with the kid, calf and lion cub feed together with a little boy to lead them. The cow and the bear make friends, their young lie down together. The lion eats straw like the ox. The infant plays over the cobra's hole; into the viper's lair the young child puts his hand. They do no hurt, no harm, on all my holy mountain, for the country is filled with the knowledge of the Lord as the waters swell the sea. That day, the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples. It will be sought out by the nations and its home will be glorious.

The word of the Lord **All: Thanks be to God**

## Responsorial Psalm *Ps 71:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17 (JB)*

R. Justice shall flourish in his time,  
and fullness of peace for ever.

O God, give your judgement to the king, to a king's son your justice, that he may judge your people in justice and your poor in right judgement. R.

In his days justice shall flourish and peace till the moon fails: He shall rule from sea to sea, from the Great River to earth's bounds. R.

For he shall save the poor when they cry and the needy who are helpless. He will have pity on the weak and save the lives of the poor. R.

May his name be blessed for ever and endure like the sun. Every tribe shall be blessed in him, all nations bless his name. R.

## Second Reading *Romans 15:4-9 (JB)*

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

*Christ, the hope of all people.*

Everything that was written long ago in the scriptures was meant to teach us something about hope from the examples scripture gives of how people who did not give up were helped by God. And may he who helps us when we refuse to give up, help you all to be tolerant with each other, following the example of Christ Jesus, so that united in mind and voice you may give glory to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

It can only be to God's glory, then, for you to treat each other in the same friendly way as Christ treated you. The reason Christ became the servant of circumcised Jews was not only so that God could faithfully carry out the promises made to the patriarchs, it was also to get the pagans to give glory to God for his mercy, as scripture says in one place: For this I shall praise you among the pagans and sing your name.

The word of the Lord **All: Thanks be to God**

## Gospel Acclamation *Luke 3:4, 6 (JB)*

Alleluia, alleluia!

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

## Gospel *Matthew 3:1-12 (JB)*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

*Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.*

In due course John the Baptist appeared; he preached in the wilderness of Judaea and this was his message: 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.' This was the man the prophet spoke of when he said:

A voice cries in the wilderness: Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight.

This man John wore a garment made of camel-hair with a leather belt round his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judaea and the whole Jordan district made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. But when he saw a number of Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism he said to them, 'Brood of vipers, who warned you to fly from the retribution that is coming? But if you are repentant, produce the appropriate fruit, and do not presume to tell yourselves, "We have Abraham for our father," because, I tell you, God can raise children for Abraham from these stones. Even now the axe is laid to the roots of the trees, so that any tree which fails to produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown on the fire. I baptise you in water for repentance, but the one who follows me is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to carry his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fan is in his hand; he will clear his threshing-floor and gather his wheat into the barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go out.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

**All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**





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