



Sacred Heart Parish

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SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR B - 10th December 2023

Isaiah 40:1-5. 9-11; 2 Peter 3:8-14; Mark 1:1-8

Make his paths straight...

In the early days of British history, punishment for crimes were often cruel. During that era, a man was caught stealing sheep. The authorities branded on his forehead the letter S.T., standing for "sheep thief".

The man spent the rest of his life living down that humiliating episode. He succeeded to a remarkable degree. When the man reached old age, the letters S.T were still clearly visible on his forehead. But when children asked their parents what the letters stood for, their parents replied, "They stand for the word saint" (M. Link)

That man may bring home to us the typical message of this 2nd Sunday of Advent which he and many have actively and successfully responded to. The message as foretold in ages past is powerfully echoed by Jesus' forerunner, John the Baptist in today's Readings: "A voice cries in the wilderness; Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight" (Mk 1: 1-8, Is 40: 1-5,9-11). John is urging his people and all of us to make a change of heart – a change of life for the imminent arrival of the saving Lord.

It is remarkable that John's voice though lonely, did not seem to fall to deaf ear. His voice was even met with popularity and active response (cf. Acts 18:25; 19:3). Therefore, his mission were well kept in all four Gospels, even marking a start of the apostolic witness to Christ since the early church (Acts 1:21). There is always a real need for such a voice and real possibility for the conversion it calls for. The word "conversion" in Jewish mindset means literally a return from travelling down a wrong path and setting out on the right path. Walking a straight or right path is difficult as it requires a great deal of strength, wisdom and single-mindedness. God is walking with us though – working from within us through the One who has come and baptised us with the Holy Spirit. No doubt, Advent is giving us a blessed opportunity to re-embark on the process of conversion.

How is such a "voice in the wilderness" whispering to my heart, echoing in my daily life? What would be some crooked attitude, some crooked relationship or some crooked way of behaving I need to straighten out in preparing for Jesus' path into my heart and my world?

"[God] is being patient with you all, wanting nobody to be lost and everybody to be brought to change his ways." (cf. Second Reading, 2 Pet 3: 8-14)

Fr Remy Son Lam Bui

Parish Priest:

Fr Remy Son-Lam Bui

Assistant Priest:

Fr Roberto Keryakos

Parish office hours:

Tuesday-Friday

9.30am to 4.30pm

Parish Secretary:

Quyen Le Phan

Accountant:

Mary Pankiw (Fridays)

Weekday Mass Times:

English:

7.00am

Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri

6.30pm Wed

9.00am Sat

Vietnamese:

6.30pm Tues & Thurs

7.00am Wed

Weekend Masses

English:

Saturday Vigil: 6.00pm

Sunday: 8.30am;

10.00am; 6.00pm

Polish: Sun 11.30am

Vietnamese:

Saturday Vigil:

7.30pm: (Chaplain)

Sunday:

7.00am; 7.30 pm

4.00pm (Chaplain)

Exposition:

Saturdays: 8.00am

Reconciliation:

Wed: 6.00pm

Sat: 8.10am - 8.50am

5.30pm - 5.50pm

Convent/Pastoral Care

Sisters of Our Lady

of the Southern Cross

Phone: 9723-3704

S.V.D.P Phone: 9823-1222

Sacred Heart Catholic

Primary School

Principal: David Parawa

Phone: 9724 1560

Baptism/Wedding

Please contact parish office

The Four Advent Candles



The Second Week of Advent: December 10, 2023.

Second Advent Candle/Sunday: Peace

"May we be in this world a ray of that light which shone forth from Bethlehem, bringing joy and peace to the hearts of all men and women." – Pope Francis

The second candle on the Advent wreath represents Peace. Like the first candle, it is also purple. Often called the "Bethlehem Candle," the second Advent candle reminds us of Mary and Joseph's journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem before Mary gave birth to Jesus. Building on the meaning of the Prophecy Candle, this second candle recalls that after all of the division, destruction, and dispersion of the kingdom in the Old Testament, there might finally be peace on Earth – Jesus is coming, and so is his Kingdom of Peace. As we read in the quote from Pope Francis, this light of peace shone forth from Bethlehem for all the world.

<https://hallow.com/blog/advent-candles-and-advent-wreaths/#advent-wreaths>

2024 Year of Prayer



Pope Francis has announced that the year 2024, in preparation for the Jubilee 2025, will be dedicated to prayer.

"I wanted next year, in preparation for the 2025 Jubilee, to be entirely dedicated to prayer. Next year will be dedicated to prayer," he told them.

The Pope said that "guides" will be published, "which will help rediscover the centrality of prayer."

I recommend them to you: they will be a good read, which stimulate prayer with simplicity and in accordance with Christ's heart.

The Holy Father called for a daily renewal of the "joy and commitment" of "being men and women of prayer." Prayer that comes from the heart, not like parrots. No. From the heart. May the words that are spoken come from the heart.

<https://aleteia.org/2023/11/12/2024-will-be-year-of-prayer-says-pope/>

WHAT'S ON AT OUR PARISH

RCIA 2nd Period: The Catechumenate

Following the Rite of Acceptance into the Order of Catechumens last Sunday, our 18 sisters and brothers (and a baptized candidate) begin now the second stage along their RCIA Journey, called The Catechumenate. This period will be a time of more formal learning and guidance, practice of prayer and worship and involvement in parish life. We, as members of The Catholic Family, together with their Godparents / Sponsors, are called to journey with them in prayerful support; to give witness to their growth and assist them in their formation as we learn ourselves to live out our Christian calling each day.

Formation Of Lectors

Extending our sincere thanks to Fr Roberto and all those who have just attended the training and updating session for their ministry of Lector this weekend. These ministers will be Commissioned / Recommissioned on 16 Dec at Sat 9am Mass. We bless God for their generous service to our parish worship.

Advent Prayer Group 2023

Please join us every Thursday from 10.00am-11.00am in MacKillop room.

Mary Puskas is leading the group. The booklets are provided by the parish.

CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR 2024 SCHEDULE

Please take home for your family and friends. They are available at the church doors.

Baptism – Congratulations

Welcome to God's family through Baptism: **Annie Le, (Maria) Vivian Esta Nguyen**

Mass Intentions:

Recently Deceased: Giuse, 2x Maria, Agata Tran thi Hoang, Phero Khanh, Anna, Anna Do Thi Uyen, Pham Thuy Hang, Teresa Nguyen thi Hoang Oanh,

R.I.P & Anniversaries: Ivan Puskas, Phaolo Tran Van Lang, Maria Nguyen Thi Co, Giuseppina, Joseph, John, Mary, 4x All souls, 7x departed relatives, Anna Tran Thi Xuyen, Catarina Nguyen, Matthew Nguyen Hue, Gioan Tran Nguyen Thanh Huy, 12x All Souls in Purgatory, 4x Giuse, Maria, Phanxico Borgia, Cecilia, 5x Phero, 16x Maria, Baotixita, 2x Anna, 2x Maria Madalena, Phero Nguyen Van Be, Teresa Nguyen thi Thu, Teresa, Giuse Nguyen Duc Hiep, Anna, Maria Catherina, Maria Phuong, Giacobe, Gioan Baotixita, Maria My, Phero An, Giuse Lawrence Nguyen, Phaolo Ho Quang Thay, Daminh Nguyen Huu Khue, Toma Nguyen Van Duoc, Maria Dinh Hoang Mai, Giuse Dinh Xuan Viet, Giuse Dinh Hoang Son, Giuse Nguyen Van Tan, Giuse Nguyen Ngoc An, Maria Tran Thi Loan,

Other Intentions: For the sick, 3x the conversion of hearts, Stipe Buterin, + Luigi Rizutti and Rizutti Family, peace to the world, 7x thanksgiving to God, Mary & St Joseph, 4x personal intention, 7x peace in a family, thanksgiving for our Catechists who teach at State School, healing of sickness for my husband,

The Catholic Weekly is available at the piety store each Sunday for \$2.00

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR B

First Reading: Isaiah 40:1-5. 9-11

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

‘Console my people, console them’ says your God. ‘Speak to the heart of Jerusalem and call to her that her time of service is ended, that her sin is atoned for, that she has received from the hand of the Lord double punishment for all her crimes.’

A voice cries, ‘Prepare in the wilderness a way for the Lord. Make a straight highway for our God across the desert. Let every valley be filled in, every mountain and hill be laid low, let every cliff become a plain, and the ridges a valley; then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed

and all mankind shall see it for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.’

Go up on a high mountain, joyful messenger to Zion. Shout with a loud voice, joyful messenger to Jerusalem. Shout without fear, say to the towns of Judah, ‘Here is your God.’ Here is the Lord coming with power, his arm subduing all things to him. The prize of his victory is with him, his trophies all go before him. He is like a shepherd feeding his flock, gathering lambs in his arms, holding them against his breast and leading to their rest the mother ewes.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 84:9-14. R. v.8

(R.) Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation

Second Reading: 2 Peter 3:8-14

A reading from the second letter of St Peter

There is one thing, my friends, that you must never forget: that with the Lord, ‘a day’ can mean a thousand years, and a thousand years is like a day. The Lord is not being slow to carry out his promises, as anybody else might be called slow; but he is being patient with you all, wanting nobody to be lost and everybody to be brought to change his ways. The Day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then with a roar the sky will vanish, the elements will catch fire and fall apart, the earth and all that it contains will be burnt up.

Since everything is coming to an end like this, you should be living holy and saintly lives while you wait and long for the Day of God to come, when the sky will dissolve in flames and the elements melt in the heat. What we are waiting for is what he promised: the new heavens and new earth, the place where righteousness will be at home. So then, my friends, while you are waiting, do your best to live lives without spot or stain so that he will find you at peace.

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: Mark 1:1-8

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

The beginning of the Good News about Jesus Christ, the Son of God. It is written in the book of the prophet Isaiah: Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way.

A voice cries in the wilderness: Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight, and so it was that John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. All Judaea and all the people of Jerusalem made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they

confessed their sins. John wore a garment of camel-skin, and he lived on locusts and wild honey. In the course of his preaching he said, 'Someone is following me, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to kneel down and undo the strap of his sandals. I have baptised you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.'



Chúa Nhật Tuần II Mùa Vọng Năm B

BÀI ĐỌC I Is 40, 1-5. 9-11

Trích sách Tiên tri Isaia.

Chúa người phán: Hỡi dân Ta, hãy an tâm, hãy an tâm! Hãy nói với Giêrusalem, và kêu gọi rằng: Thờ nê lệ đã chấm dứt, tội lỗi đã được ân xá, Chúa đã ban ơn nhiều gấp hai lần tội lỗi.

Và có tiếng kêu trong hoang địa rằng: "Hãy dọn đường Chúa, hãy sửa đường Chúa chúng ta trong hoang địa cho ngay thẳng. Hãy lấp mọi hố sâu và hãy bạt mọi núi đồi; con đường cong queo hãy làm cho ngay thẳng, con đường gồ ghề hãy san cho bằng. Và vinh hiển Chúa sẽ xuất hiện, mọi người sẽ được thấy vinh quang Thiên Chúa, vì Ngài đã phán.

Hỡi người là kẻ đưa tin mừng cho Sion, hãy trèo lên núi cao. Hỡi người là kẻ đưa tin mừng cho Giêrusalem, hãy mạnh dạn cất tiếng. Hãy cất tiếng cao, đừng sợ! Hãy nói cho các dân thành thuộc chi họ Giuđa rằng: Đây Thiên Chúa các người, đây Chúa là Thiên Chúa các người sẽ đến trong quyền lực; cánh tay Người sẽ thống trị. Người mang theo những phần thưởng chiến thắng và đưa đi trước những chiến lợi phẩm. Người chần dặt đoàn chiên Người như mục tử. Người ẵm chiên con trên cánh tay, ôm ấp chúng vào lòng, và nhẹ tay dẫn dắt những chiên mẹ.

ĐÁP CA: Tv 84, 9ab-10. 11-12. 13-14

Đáp: Lạy Chúa, xin tỏ lòng từ bi Chúa cho chúng con, và ban ơn cứu rỗi cho chúng con

BÀI ĐỌC II: 2 Pr 3, 8-14

Trích thư thứ hai của Thánh Phêrô Tông đồ.

Anh em thân mến, có một điều anh em không thể không biết là một ngày đối với Chúa như ngàn

năm, và ngàn năm như một ngày. Không phải Chúa chậm trễ thi hành lời hứa của Người, như có vài người lầm tưởng, nhưng vì anh em, Người hành động nhẫn nại, Người không muốn ai phải hư mất, nhưng muốn mọi người ăn năn sám hối. Ngày của Chúa sẽ đến như kẻ trộm. Trong ngày đó, các tầng trời qua đi trong những tiếng rung chuyển mạnh, ngũ hành đều cháy tiêu tan, trái đất cùng mọi công trình kiến tạo đều bị thiêu hủy.

Vì mọi vật ấy tiêu tan đi, nên anh em càng phải sống thánh thiện và đạo đức biết bao, khi anh em mong chờ và thôi thúc ngày Chúa đến, ngày mà các tầng trời bốc cháy tiêu tan, và ngũ hành bị thiêu rụi. Nhưng theo lời Người hứa, chúng ta mong đợi trời mới đất mới, trong đó công lý sẽ ngự trị.

ALLELUIA: Lc 3, 4. 6

Alleluia, alleluia! - Hãy dọn đường Chúa, hãy sửa đường Chúa cho ngay thẳng; và mọi người sẽ thấy ơn cứu độ của Thiên Chúa. - Alleluia.

PHÚC ÂM: Mc 1, 1-8

Tin Mừng Chúa Giêsu Kitô theo Thánh Marcô.

Khởi đầu Phúc Âm của Đức Giêsu Kitô Con Thiên Chúa. Như có lời Tiên tri Isaia chép rằng: Đây Ta sai Thiên Thần của Ta đến trước mặt người để dọn đường cho người. Có tiếng kêu trong hoang địa rằng: "Hãy dọn đường Chúa, hãy sửa đường Chúa cho ngay thẳng".

Gioan Tẩy Giả xuất hiện trong hoang địa, rao giảng phép rửa sám hối cầu ơn tha tội. Dân cả miền Giuđêa và Giêrusalem tuôn đến với người, thú tội và chịu phép rửa trong sông Giođan.

Lúc đó Gioan mặc áo lông lạc đà, thắt lưng bằng dây da thú, ăn châu chấu và uống mật ong rừng. Người rao giảng rằng: "Đấng đến sau tôi, quyền năng hơn tôi, tôi không đáng cúi xuống cởi dây giày Người. Phần tôi, tôi lấy nước mà rửa các người, còn Ngài, Ngài sẽ rửa các người trong Chúa Thánh Thần".

A message
from the Archdiocese of Sydney:

Child sexual abuse is a crime. The appropriate people to deal with crimes are the police. If you, or anyone you know, have been abused, please contact the police. Alternatively, you can contact the Safeguarding and Ministerial Integrity Office at (02) 9390 5810 or safeguardingenquiries@sydneycatholic.org.

You may also want to speak to your Parish Priest who will be able to provide support and guidance. The Archdiocese has a legal obligation to report crimes to the police.

