

Infant Jesus Parish

Under the care of the Discalced Carmelite Friars

Fr. Sunny P Abraham (Parish Priest), Fr. Tadgh Tierney (Assistant Priest),
Fr. Joseph Kelly, Br. James Groth, Fr. John Follent, Fr. Antony Madathiparambil.



2nd Sunday of Advent, Year B

4 December 2011

First Reading Is 40:1-5, 9-11

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Prepare the way for the Lord.

'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.

This is the word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

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

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

1. I will hear what the Lord God has
to say,
a voice that speaks of peace,
peace for his people.
His help is near for those who fear him
and his glory will dwell in our
land. (R.)
2. Mercy and faithfulness have met;
justice and peace have embraced.
Faithfulness shall spring from the earth
and justice look down from
heaven. (R.)
3. The Lord will make us prosper
and our earth shall yield its fruit.
Justice shall march before him
and peace shall follow his steps. (R.)

Second Reading 2 Pt 3:8-14

*A reading from the second letter of St
Peter*

We wait for new heavens and a new earth.

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.

This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation Lk 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 Mk 1:1-8

*A reading from the holy Gospel according
to Mark*

Make straight the paths of the Lord.

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.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.



Reflection

by Greg Sunter

This week's gospel captures beautifully
the spirit of preparation and waiting that
characterises the liturgical season of
Advent. John the Baptist is portrayed as
fulfilling the prophecies of Isaiah and
others as the one who comes before the
Lord preparing the way. He is a messenger,
sent by God to 'do the groundwork'
preparing the people for the coming
of the Christ. Although this passage is
used during Advent as preparation for
the celebration of the birth of Jesus, we
know that John was a contemporary
(indeed cousin) of Jesus and the time
of preparation was immediately prior to
Jesus' public ministry.

John appeared in the wilderness,
proclaiming a baptism for forgiveness of
sins. It may seem odd to think of going
to the wilderness to try to influence
people. Today we might think that the
city centre or street corner might be the
better venue to preach something. What
is it about the wilderness? Reference is
made to the wilderness several times
in scripture. It is used as a place of
preparation and encounter with God. The
wilderness referred to was a vast expanse
of emptiness on the eastern side of the
Jordan River. It was not uncommon for
wandering preachers like John and Jesus
to go out into the wilderness as a way
of making a break from their previous life
and getting themselves ready in body
and spirit to begin their ministry. The
wilderness to the east of the Jordan was
also the place in which many of the rebels
based themselves. There was a sense
that challenge and unrest came out of
the wilderness. In many ways that is what
Jesus – heralded by John – brought out of
the wilderness as well.

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ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

People of Zion, the Lord will come to save all nations, and your hearts will exult to hear his
majestic voice.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Rise up, Jerusalem, stand on the heights, and see the joy that is coming to you from God.

Dear Parishioners,

At the 9.30am Mass this weekend, we welcome members of the Catenian Association, along with their partners. This Association of Catholic men has made a great contribution to the Catholic Church over many years and I would like to warmly acknowledge the work that they do for our community of faith.

I was heartened by your positive response to the introduction of the new translation of the Mass in our parish last weekend. I am sure that within a week or two we will all be feeling more comfortable with the new words. I encourage you to use the pew cards or the small "Order of the Mass", if you have one, to enable you to remember to say the new responses.

In the foyer of the church, you will find invitations for you to letterbox-drop to the homes in your street. I encourage you to take some home and invite your neighbours to come and meet Christ in our church. - Fr. Sunny

Christmas Mass Times

It is always a little confusing when Christmas falls on a weekend, so please cut this out and put it on your fridge, or take home one of the letterbox-drop fliers.

Wednesday 21st December

2nd Rite of Reconciliation for Christmas in our church

Christmas Eve: Saturday 24th December

Children's nativity and carols at 6.00pm

Family Mass at 6.30pm. Lots of people at this Mass and a small treat for the children afterwards.

Carols at 9.00pm

Vigil Mass at 9.30pm (not a youth Mass)

Carols at 11.30pm

Midnight Mass at 12.00am with Christmas cake after Mass

Christmas Day: Sunday 25th December

Mass at 7.30am

Carols at 9.00am

Mass at 9.30am. Lots of people at this Mass.

Italian Mass at 11.30am

EVENING MASS ON CHRISTMAS DAY^{NO}

Feast of the Holy Family: Monday 26th December

Mass at 7am & 9am

New Year's Eve: Sunday 31st December

Holy Hour from 11am till Midnight

Mary, Mother of God: Monday 1st January

Mass at 7am & 9am

ADVENT

PROGRAMME

"Carrying the Christ"

Friday mornings at 10.00am or Tuesday evening at 7.00pm in the Infant Jesus parish centre.

You will soon be spending a lot of time and money preparing for Christmas. Why not spend a little time preparing your heart to receive the Christ child by attending the Advent reflection programme being offered in your parish? The programme is based upon the Sundays of Advent.

Cost of resource: \$8.00

Friday morning facilitator: Ken Durnin. Tuesday evening facilitator: Fr. Antony. Please RSVP to the parish office or put your name down on the lists in the foyer.

Grace emerges in surprising ways

'We are facing a moment in the Church which is difficult, and which requires creativity and imagination. What we mustn't do is go on autopilot, into maintenance mode. This is not the time to circle the wagons, however tempting it may be to do that. While we might be seeing diminishing numbers of clergy, a decline in apostolic religious women's congregations, and less people attending Mass, one thing we don't have less of is grace.

'God's grace is alive and well and emerges unexpectedly in surprising ways. What we need now are structures and strategies which respond not only to the facts of this time but also to the grace of this time. The grace may not be what people of my generation expected; it may not even be the grace we wanted. But it is the grace that is on offer from the Lord who is not less attentive and generous now than in the past.'

- Archbishop Mark Coleridge,
Archbishop of Canberra Goulburn



FEAST OF ST. JOHN OF THE CROSS

Talks at Infant Jesus Parish

By Fr. Tadgh Tierney, OCD.

Sat 10 DECEMBER

9.30am - 11.30am

"Can we have an experience of God in prayer?"

Let St. John of the Cross give us the answer!

He is a Doctor of Prayer for the Church.

9.00am: Register, tea and coffee

9.30am - 10.15am: 1st session

10.15am: Coffee break

10.45am—11.30pm 2nd Session.

To register please phone 92768500 or 0407910785

LIONS CLUB CHRISTMAS

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TAKE HOME A
TWO-SIDED ADVENT
CALENDAR FROM THE
FOYER STANDS
TODAY—ADULTS ON
ONE SIDE, CHILDREN'S
ON THE OTHER

Who? Why? How?

do innocent people find themselves

REFUGEES

and what happens to them?
What are our responsibilities?

An INFORMATION EVENING conducted by Centrecare Catholic Migration Service will be held at **7.30pm on Wed 7th December** at Infant Jesus Parish hall. There will be a question and answer session and time for discussion.

Important
DATE!

To Do:

Our Parish Events

Don't
FORGET!

Prayer Concerns

Recently Deceased: Denis Tierney, Virginia Cilli, Bernard D'Costa;

Anniversaries: Paula Monteiro, Dominic Hanh Van Vu, Lawrence Fernandez;

The Sick of the Parish: Ben (kidney relapse), Willie, and all who are in need of our prayers.

*"He shall save the poor when they cry
and the needy who are helpless."*

URGENTLY NEEDED.....

People to help with raking of the Parish lawns.

Unfortunately 3 of our helpers have had to retire and the work is too much for the one person remaining..

Work can be done at your convenience all you need is a rake and a broom.

Please contact the office if you can help..

PILGRIM STATUE:

This week in the home of Mrs. C. Harris, 26 Lyndhurst St, Dianella. WA Ph: 9276 9124

Calendar of Saints

30 November: **ST ANDREW,**

Apostle - Feast

3 December: St. Francis Xavier,
Missionary (1552AD)

CHRISTMAS GIFTS, CARDS & 2012 CALENDARS

Nativity sets, religious statues, rosaries, gifts, diaries, bookmarks and prayer cards, children's books and bibles and more are available in the piety stall in the foyer or at the parish office. You are also welcome to browse the Gatto's catalogue and order other items. Majellan Christmas Cards also available.

Only a few Columban Calendars left.

Solar Panel Appeal Update

**Our current balance is \$20,057.09.
This is a great result as we keep striving to
reach our total of \$40,000.**

**We kindly acknowledge all those who have
generously donated. But we still need your
support. Please give generously.**

Christmas letterbox drop — take some fliers home today!

Invite your neighbours to our Advent and Christmas celebrations, by collecting a pack of fliers and delivering to the homes near you. Please do not deliver to homes outside our parish boundaries - see the map on the foyer board. Last Easter you helped deliver nearly 4000 invitations - about 50% of the homes in our parish.

**Feast of the Immaculate
Conception
HOUR OF GRACE
Thurs Dec 8 at 12 noon**

Join us in the church for an hour of prayer in honour of the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. **ALL WELCOME**

BLESSING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

After the Greeting, the Presider moves to the Advent Wreath and introduces the rite of blessing as follows:

FIRST CANDLE on the wreath is already lit before the Mass begins.

Following the Greeting, the Presider moves to the Advent Wreath.

Presider

As we gather round our Advent wreath to prepare for the lighting of the **SECOND CANDLE**, let us pray that nothing may hinder us from receiving Christ with **JOY**.

Pause

In the words of the acclamations (which you will find in the bulletin), we pray...

Pause

Presider: A voice cries in the wilderness:

All: **Prepare the way for the Lord!**

Presider: Across the desert, through the valleys, over every mountain:

All: **Make his paths straight!**

Presider: Repent and believe the Good News:

All: **For the Kingdom of heaven is close at hand!**

SECOND CANDLE is lit as the people sing or say:

Christ be our light

Shine in our hearts

Shine through the darkness.

Christ be our light

Shine in your church - gathered today.

Opening Prayer

Let us pray...

Our Liturgical Life

Morning Prayer of the Church: Mon-Fri, 6.40am; Sat, 7.45am

Morning Mass: Mon-Fri: 7am & 9am, Sat: 8.30am

Saturday Vigil Mass: 6.30pm

Sunday Masses: 7.30am, 9.30am (Children's Liturgy during school terms), 11.30am (Italian), 6pm (Youth Mass 2nd & 4th Sundays)

Reconciliation: Saturday 10-11am and 5-6pm.

Baptisms, Weddings & Sacraments: Please contact the Parish Office.

OUR DEVOTIONAL LIFE

Perpetual Novena in honor of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel:

Wednesday 7.15pm

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament:

Friday 9.30am - 10.30am and 7.30pm - 8.30pm

Contact Us

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AROUND THE ARCHDIOCESE

Embrace the Grace

Youth conference "Of Life & Of Beauty" 2011 New Norcia 7th-11th December 2011. 16-25 years olds. Through interesting speakers, prayers, fun, music and drama ETG gets into the big questions of life. How does God fit into a world that questions everything? Is it possible to live a fulfilling life? Who do I want to be and where does Jesus fit into the picture? For more information and registration contact the Respect Life Office Perth www.rlo.org.au/etg on (08) 9444 5320 or respectlife@CatholicYouthMinistryEmploymentOpportunities.

Pilgrimage -Central Europe - 17th June-9th July 2012.

The tour will include Prague (Infant Jesus), Marizell (miraculous wooden image of the Virgin Mary), Heiligenkreuz (Living monastery established in 1133, the largest Cistercian monastery in Europe), Vienna, Bratislava, Budapest and Krakow (following the steps of beatified John Paul II.). Those interested are requested to contact Fr. Pavol Herda on 9279 8119 or 0401 511 302

RENEWING THE LIGHT OF HOPE

The **BEGINNING EXPERIENCE** is running a **WEEKEND PROGRAMME**, designed to assist and support people in learning to close the door gently on a relationship that has ended, in order to get on with living.

People who have had similar loss experiences themselves facilitate the programme. Peer's who have travelled this road, like you. If you feel that this programme could benefit you or someone you know, you are invited to contact us.

The next weekend programme dates are:

FRIDAY 9th to SUNDAY 11th MAR 2012 For further information please contact:

CATHOLIC YOUTH MINISTRY

There are currently 2 positions available to join the Perth CYM team. One fulltime Administration Assistant & one part-time (0.5) Web/Graphic Designer Position. Please send through a CV, cover letter and 3 referees to Anita Parker, Director of Catholic Youth Ministry. For more information check the CYM newsletter on www.cym.com.au or phone: (08) 9422 7912 or Email: anita.parker@highgate-perthcatholic.org.au. Applications close Monday, 12 December 2011. perthcatholic.org.au.

St Denis' Joondanna 60th Anniversary Mass Parishioners of St Denis' Parish, Joondanna, warmly invite you to celebrate with them the 60th Anniversary of Catholic presence in the Joondanna/Yokine area, with the celebration of Mass on Fri 16th of Dec 2011 at 7:00pm. The principal celebrant for the Mass will be Bishop Sproston. Cnr Osborne Street and Roberts Street Joondanna.

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