

# focus on sunday

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (GAUDETE) 15th December 2024

The coming of Jesus is joyful news for all his people.  
Our hope at Christmas is to be bearers of his joy.



They came to John to be baptised. They asked him, "What should we do?" John didn't tell them to say their prayers or attend the synagogue, important as that might be. He told them to live justly. Those that had more than they needed were told to share with those who had less than they needed. Those with power and authority were told not to abuse that power for their own self-interest. They were to avoid the temptation to greed. The Messiah that John proclaimed was someone who was coming to inaugurate the Kingdom of God on earth, a Kingdom that would be, by definition, a Kingdom of justice, where people would live together in love, caring and sharing with each other. Compassion is showing kindness to another person. Justice is the word we use to describe compassion within the community or society as it strives to make things fairer for everyone. Justice is essentially political, it is "political love." It involves addressing systemic issues and ensuring that no one is left behind. So we Christians must be political. We must be on the side of those who are unwanted, discriminated against or denied their fair share of society's resources. John's exhortations - to share what we have, to avoid greed and use power or influence for the sake of others and not ourselves - are just as valid today as then. Together, compassion and justice form the foundation for a peaceful society.

Fr. Peter McVerry



2. Give thanks to the Lord, give praise to his name!  
Make his mighty deeds known to the peoples!  
Declare the greatness of his name. **[R]**
3. Sing a psalm to the Lord  
for he has done glorious deeds,  
make them known to all the earth!  
People of Zion, sing and shout for joy  
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel. **[R]**

## SECOND READING *Philippians 4:4-7*

*A reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Philippians*

I want you to be happy, always happy in the Lord; I repeat, what I want is your happiness. Let your tolerance be evident to everyone: the Lord is very near. There is no need to worry; but if there is anything you need, pray for it, asking God for it with prayer and thanksgiving, and that peace of God, which is so much greater than we can understand, will guard your hearts and your thoughts, in Christ Jesus.

**The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**Alleluia, alleluia! The spirit of the Lord has been given to me. He has sent me to bring good news to the poor. Alleluia!**

## GOSPEL *Luke 3:10-18*

*A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.*

When all the people asked John, "What must we do?" he answered, "If anyone has two tunics he must share with the man who has none, and the one with something to eat must do the same." There were tax collectors too who came for baptism, and these said to him, "Master, what must we do?" He said to them, "Exact no more than your rate." Some soldiers asked him in their turn, "What about us? What must we do?" He said to them, "No intimidation! No extortion! Be content with your pay!"

A feeling of expectancy had grown among the people, who were beginning to think that John might be the Christ, so John declared before them all, "I baptise you with water, but someone is coming, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to undo the strap of his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fan is in his hand to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go out." As well as this, there were many other things he said to exhort the people and to announce the Good News to them.

**The Gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

## NICENE CREED

**I believe in one God, the Father almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.  
I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the Only Begotten Son of God,  
born of the Father before all ages.  
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,  
begotten, not made, consubstantial with  
the Father; through him all things were made.  
For us men and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,  
and he will save us.**

**All bow for following three lines:**

## ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

**Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice.  
Indeed, the Lord is near.**

## PENITENTIAL ACT

I confess to almighty God  
and to you, my brothers and sisters,  
that I have greatly sinned,  
in my thoughts and in my words,  
in what I have done  
and in what I have failed to do,  
through my fault, through my fault,  
through my most grievous fault;  
therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin,  
all the Angels and Saints,  
and you, my brothers and sisters,  
to pray for me to the Lord our God.



May almighty God have mercy on us..... **Amen.**

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**  
Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**  
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

**(The Gloria is omitted awaiting its Christmas Proclamation.)**

## OPENING PRAYER

O God, who see how your people faithfully await the feast of the Lord's Nativity, enable us, we pray, to attain the joys of so great a salvation and to celebrate them always with solemn worship and glad rejoicing. Through our Lord Jesus Christ.....

## LITURGY OF THE WORD

## FIRST READING *Zephaniah 3:14-18*

*A reading from the prophet Zephaniah.*

Shout for joy, daughter of Zion,  
Israel, shout aloud!  
Rejoice, exult with all your heart,  
daughter of Jerusalem!

The Lord has repealed your sentence;  
he has driven your enemies away.  
The Lord, the king of Israel, is in your midst;  
you have no more evil to fear.  
When that day comes,  
word will come to Jerusalem;  
Zion, have no fear,  
do not let your hands fall limp.  
The Lord your God is in your midst,  
a victorious warrior.  
He will exult with joy over you,  
he will renew you by his love;  
he will dance with shouts of joy for you  
as on a day of festival.

**The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.**

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM *Isaiah 12:2-6*

**R. Sing and shout for joy for great  
in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.**

1. Truly God is my salvation,  
I trust, I shall not fear.  
For the Lord is my strength, my song,  
he became my saviour.  
With joy you will draw water  
from the wells of salvation.

**[R]**

## LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Pray brothers and sisters, .....  
**May the Lord accept the sacrifice at  
your hands for the praise and glory  
of his name, for our good and the  
good of all his holy Church.**

## PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

May the sacrifice of our worship,  
Lord, we pray, be offered to you  
unceasingly, to complete what  
was begun in sacred mystery and  
powerfully accomplish for us your  
saving work. Through Christ our Lord.

## AFTER THE CONSECRATION

**When we eat this Bread and drink  
this Cup, we proclaim your Death,  
O Lord, until you come again.**

## COMMUNION ANTIPHON

**Say to the faint of heart:  
Be strong and do not fear.  
Behold, our God will come,  
and he will save us.**

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We implore your mercy,  
Lord, that this divine sustenance  
may cleanse us of our faults and  
prepare us for the coming feasts.  
Through Christ our Lord.