



This year we are collecting gift cards and school stationery for Goodna on our Giving tree now.

The gift cards for fuel or groceries are for Rev Bronwyn Pagram to hand out while the Welfare Mission is closed (until the middle of January), to ease post-Christmas financial need.

Please take a tag and bring back your chosen gift card to put under the tree this Sunday and

next Sunday. They are also collecting school supplies for distribution on 16th January when they re-open.

Fr Lindsay took an entire car full of gifts for distribution last Tuesday, along with other groceries. Goodna's Welfare Mission is closed now until mid January but keep bringing items to give them good stock for early 2024.



OUR RECTOR ELECT THE REV'D CANON PAUL MITCHELL

His Commissioning date among us here at St John's is **2pm on Saturday the 20th January 2024.** Look out for your invitation to join us on this special day.

We look forward to welcoming Fr Paul and Reverend Sharon here amongst us in late January 2024.

17th December 2023

THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENTYR B

7.30AM - EUCHARIST

9.00AM - FAMILY EUCHARIST

ST JOHN
THE BAPTIST

EST. 1888
ANGLICAN CHURCH
IN THE HEART OF BULIMBA



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT - REFLECTION BY MARY COLE PBVM

This Sunday again focuses on John the Baptist and the question continues — who are you? This is the question being asked in the early communities. Who was John? How can we understand his mission and its connection to the mission of Jesus? The

questioners put to him the names of key Jewish figures who were expected to come in the final days - the Christ, Elijah and the Prophet. 'The Christ' is a Greek translation of the Hebrew title, 'the Messiah'. This was someone in the line of David who was expected to come at the end-times to restore the Kingdom of David. Elijah was one of the great prophets who was believed to have been taken up to heaven in a fiery chariot and would return at the end of time. The Prophet refers to a promise made to Moses that God would raise up in the future, a prophet like Moses to lead the people. Some thought John fitted one of these hoped-for figures. But John turns down these roles, and instead speaks of himself as 'the voice' and he is described as a witness.

Later in John's Gospel, John describes himself as 'the friend of the bridegroom' (3:28-30). In those days, the friend of the bridegroom was the one who went to the home of the prospective bride and he was the voice and witness of the bridegroom. It was the friend who extolled the virtues of the bridegroom to the bride's father in the hope that the father would give permission for the marriage. The friend then made all the negotiations about the dowry, the day of the wedding etc. The friend was totally focused on the desire of the bridegroom. This is how John describes his relationship to Jesus — John is the friend, the best man; Jesus is the bridegroom. In this way John reveals one of the earliest images of Jesus in the Gospel of John — Jesus is the long awaited bridegroom of Israel, the manifestation of God's covenant love and desire. Immediately after John's witness, the first public action of Jesus is to participate in a wedding and provide abundant wine, which was in fact the role of the bridegroom. As Christmas approaches, we might spend time to consider the coming of God to us through this image of love, desire and anticipation associated with a wedding. Those who have experienced this, as brides, grooms, other participants, may recall that time and consider that this very human experience of love, betrothal marriage, is a glimpse into God's love and desire that led to the coming of Jesus.

John knows his place in God's scheme. He humbly attests that there is another, even greater, who is coming. This is John's greatness, to know and accept the particular role he is given for the Kingdom. For some this can take years of searching and pondering. We don't know what John was doing before this ministry, and it seems that Jesus only began his mission around the age of thirty. As Christmas draws near, may it be a time of quiet reflection on the particular gifts God has given to me, and what particular way I may further God's kingdom.

Source: mn.catholic.org.au

To arrange direct debit for your regular giving,
please use the account details:
BSB 704 901 Account number 00014573.
Account name Bulimba Anglican Parish

THIS COMING WEEK IN THE PARISH

FRIDAY	22nd	10.00am	Eucharist
SUNDAY	24th	8.30am	Eucharist
		6.00pm	Children's Christmas Service
		11.30pm	Midnight Mass

ROSTERED DUTIES 24/12	8.30AM	11.30PM
L.A.'s	Sarah/Felicity	Sarah/Roland
MUSIC	Howard	Howard
READERS	Linda P/Allan S	June P/Sarah
INTERCESSOR	Felicity	Linda M
MORNING TEA		
WELCOMERS	Allan T/Sue G	Volunteer
AUDIO VISUAL	Allan T	Volunteer
FLOWERS	No Flowers during Advent	CHURCH CLEANING Wendy/Sara

Locum

Reverend Lindsay Howie Mobile 0490 950 893

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Associate Clergy

Reverend Karen Jansson Mobile 0459 475 332

Reverend Quinn Humphreys Mobile 0403 531 538

Church Contact

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READINGS AND PRAYERS FOR THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

SENTENCE FOR THE DAY:

Bind up the broken-hearted, proclaim liberty to the captives and release to the prisoners, proclaim the year of the Lord's favour, the day of vengeance of our God. Isaiah 61.1-2

THE COLLECT FOR THE DAY:

Eternal God, you sent John the Baptist to prepare the way for the coming of your Son: grant us wisdom to see your purpose and openness to hear your will, that we too may prepare the way for Christ who is coming in power and glory to establish his rule of peace and justice; through Jesus Christ our Judge and our Redeemer, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING: ISAIAH 61.1-4, 61.8-11 VANESSA HANLON DONOVAN SPARKS

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion—to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, to display his glory. They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations. For I the Lord love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. Their descendants shall be known among the nations, and their offspring among the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the Lord has blessed. I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

PSALM 126:

- When the Lord turned again the fortunes of Zion:
then were we like those restored to life.
- Then was our mouth filled with laughter:
and our tongue with singing.***
- Then said they among the heathen:
'The Lord has done great things for them.'
- Truly the Lord has done great things for us:
and therefore we rejoiced.***

Parish Prayers

The Anglican Cycle of Prayer:

In The World: -

- ◇ The Anglican Church of Papua New Guinea
- ◇ The Diocese of the Northern Territory: †Greg Anderson; Clergy and People

In The Diocese:

- ◇ The Parish of Samford: Robert Paget, Jan Crombie
- ◇ St Francis College Formation students
- ◇ The Southport School, Southport: Headmaster - Andrew Hawkins; Chaplain - John Dougherty; Chair of School Council - Fraser Perrin; members of School Council; staff & students

Pray for those in need:

Bronwyn, Duncan Family, Kerrie, Douglas, Helena, Roy, Williamson Family, Helen, Lisa, Rev Paul Bland, Joan, Pam, Dorothy, Gary, Rev Karen, Samantha, Ian, Brian, Karen S, Roy F.

Prayer for our new Archbishop Elect Jeremy Greaves

Almighty God, by your Son Jesus Christ you gave many excellent gifts to your apostles, and commanded them to feed your flock. Bless Jeremy now called to be our next Archbishop. So fill him with your truth, and clothe him with holiness, that as a pastor of your Church he may diligently preach your word, and rightly teach your people, to the glory of your name, and the benefit of your Church. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen

Prayer for our new Rector Elect Paul Mitchell

Gracious God, giver of all that is good, by your Holy Spirit you have appointed various orders of ministry in your Church. Bless Fr Paul now called to be our next Rector. So fill him with your truth, and clothe him with holiness, that he may faithfully minister here among us, to the glory of your name and the benefit of your Church. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, until the ages of ages. Amen.

In Memory

18th December—24th December

*May the souls of the faithful departed Rest In Peace
And Rise in Glory*

5. Turn again our fortunes, O Lord:
as the streams return to the dry south.

**6. Those who sow in tears:
shall reap with songs of joy.**

7. They that go out weeping, bearing the seed:
shall come again in gladness, bringing their sheaves with them.

SECOND READING: 1 THESSALONIANS 5.12–28 ALLAN THOMSON LINDA PHILLIPS

But we appeal to you, brothers and sisters, to respect those who labour among you, and have charge of you in the Lord and admonish you; esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Be at peace among yourselves. And we urge you, beloved, to admonish the idlers, encourage the faint-hearted, help the weak, be patient with all of them. See that none of you repays evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to all. Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil. May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this. Beloved, pray for us. Greet all the brothers and sisters with a holy kiss. I solemnly command you by the Lord that this letter be read to all of them. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

GOSPEL: JOHN 1.6–8, 1.19–28

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, 'I am not the Messiah.' And they asked him, 'What then? Are you Elijah?' He said, 'I am not.' 'Are you the prophet?' He answered, 'No.' Then they said to him, 'Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?' He said, 'I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, "Make straight the way of the Lord"', as the prophet Isaiah said. Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, 'Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?' John answered them, 'I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal.' This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ



ADVENT STUDY 3

MYSTAGOGICAL REFLECTION - DWELLING WITH GOD IN AN ARTWORK

Let's be still and know God more deeply as we encounter him present with us in art.

- 1. Reflection:** Encounter with Christ in the beauty of art...
- 2. Recollection:** What do you see? *An invitation to focus on the work and notice the detail. What story is the work telling? What elements have been used to create the work, co/our, line, shapes, tones, textures? What symbols or gestures might there be within the elements? What is happening?*
- 3. Reflection:** What captured your attention? What moved your heart? What is God revealing to you? How does this relate to your life? *An invitation to be attentive to Christ present in the encounter and to share what you notice.*
- 4. Faith sharing:** How is this work leading us into the Mystery and teaching us about God, Christ, Church, liturgy, and Christian life? *An invitation to connect your experience and the meaning you have found in the artwork, with what Christ is revealing in the living tradition of our Anglican faith.*
- 5. Connection:** Why does what Christ is revealing in the work matter to us now? What's happening in our world and neighbourhood right now? *An invitation to consider how the work can encourage us in our faith.*
- 6. Conversion:** How is your encounter with Christ in the work inviting you to change, to live the mystery?
What is dying? What is being raised up?

Contemplate — rest in the presence of God. Conclude your gathering with the blessing.

Blessing: May God wrap us in integrity, Clothe us in salvation, And adorn us with beauty and joy. And may the blessing of God, Protector, Perfecter and Spirit of Joy, surround us all our nights and days. Amen.

Source: mn.catholic.org.au

MYSTAGOGICAL REFLECTION - DWELLING WITH GOD IN THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

The person guiding the group invites people into the process based on the following invitation.

Listen to God say to you ... Be still and know that / am God (Ps 46:10)

Moved by the Holy Spirit in response we pray... Open my/our ears to the Word of God...

Open my/our heart(s) to the love of God... Open my/our mind(s) to the wisdom of God...

Let us listen for the words of everlasting life...

Each step finishes in silence before the guide invites the group into the next step ...

1. Encounter with Christ in the Word proclaimed ... Listen (Gospel: John 1:6-8, 19-28)

Proclaimed without the liturgical dialogue that usually introduces and concludes it.

A man came, sent by God. His name was John. He came as a witness, as a witness to speak for the light, so that everyone might believe through him. He was not the light, only a witness to speak for the light. This is how John appeared as a witness. When the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' he not only declared, but he declared quite openly, 'I am not the Christ.' 'Well then,' they asked, 'are you Elijah?' 'I am not,' he said. 'Are you the Prophet?' He answered, 'No.' So they said to him, 'Who are you? We must take back an answer to those who sent us. What have you to say about yourself?' So John said, 'I am, as Isaiah prophesied: a voice that cries in the wilderness: Make a straight way for the Lord.' Now these men had been sent by the Pharisees, and they put this further question to him, 'Why are you baptising if you are not the Christ, and not Elijah, and not the prophet?' John replied, 'I baptise with water; but there stands among you — unknown to you — the one who is coming after me; and I am not fit to undo his sandal-strap.' This happened at Bethany, on the far side of the Jordan, where John was baptising.

2. Recollection: What happened? *An Invitation to recall what happened in the text. The detail is*

important — characters, scenery, actions. No interpretation, just what happened.

3. Reflection: What word or phrase captures your attention? What did you experience/feel? What is God revealing to you? How is this relevant to your life? *An invitation to be attentive to Christ present in the encounter and to share what you notice.*

4. Faith sharing: How is the meaning found in your encounter with Christ in the scripture connecting with the season of Advent? *An invitation to connect your experience and the meaning you have found in it, with what Christ is revealing in the living tradition of our Anglican faith.*

5. Connection: Why does what Christ is revealing matter to us now? What's happening in our world and neighbourhood right now? *An invitation to explore the essential connection between liturgy, faith and life.*

6. Conversion: How is your encounter with Christ inviting you to change — to become more and more Christ like? *What is dying? What is being raised up?*

Contemplate — rest in the presence of God. Conclude your gathering with the blessing

Blessing: May God wrap us in integrity, Clothe us in salvation, And adorn us with beauty and joy. And may the blessing of God, Protector, Perfecter and Spirit of Joy, surround us all our nights and days. Amen.

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