

Today's Gospel

Luke 3:1-6 The call of John the Baptist

In the fifteenth year of Tiberius Caesar's reign, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judaea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of the lands of Ituraea and Trachonitis, Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, during the pontificate of Annas and Caiaphas the word of God came to John son of Zechariah, in the wilderness. He went through the whole Jordan district proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the sayings of the prophet Isaiah:

A voice cries in the wilderness:

Prepare a way for the Lord,
make his paths straight.

Every valley will be filled in,
every mountain and hill be laid low,
winding ways will be straightened
and rough roads made smooth.

And all mankind shall see the salvation of God.



This Sunday John the Baptist steps into the spotlight and he makes his dramatic appearance felt with his proclamation that the Messiah is coming. He calls upon the people to get ready -for the Lord's salvation is close at hand. He calls on them to have a change of heart, that is to repent of their sins and seek forgiveness from God. It is wonderful and we can sense the joy of the Baptist. God is sending a Redeemer. We know that it does not turn out to be the kind of Redeemer for which many were hoping. This Redeemer is not a man of power and might in the way of the world.

The Gospel of Luke today gives us the words of the Baptist: Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths. John the Baptist proclaims a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. It is the poor and the outcast who follow him. Occasionally a person of wealth and power gets interested in him. Some people seem to think that he is a fanatic.

This Advent presents us with the normal challenge of our faith: Who do we say that Jesus is? Who is Jesus in my life here and now? Do I want a Redeemer? What kind of a Redeemer?

Our God loves us and promises everlasting life in the world to come. In this life He only promises us suffering and trials—with a deep inner joy and peace if we live in faith. Advent reminds us to purify ourselves from all that is not of God. John the Baptist points the way for us in Advent: purify, repent, forgiveness. Yet we know that this message is to prepare us for the coming of One who loves us beyond all we can imagine and who wants us to share His life forever.

Next Sunday we will be called upon to rejoice because the Lord is close at hand and once again, we will set our sights on Bethlehem and the stable. So, let us walk the way of the Lord in this Advent and know the presence of the Saviour in our lives. Come, Lord Jesus.



PARISH OF OUR LADY IMMACULATE

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SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Entrance Antiphon

O people of Sion, behold, the Lord will come to save the nations, and the Lord will make the glory of his voice heard in the joy of your heart.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 125(126)

Response: ***What marvels the Lord worked for us! Indeed we were glad***

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight, and all mankind shall see the salvation of God. Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon

Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the heights, and behold the joy which comes to you from God.

MASS TIMES

Sunday 5th December 2nd SUNDAY OF ADVENT (Year C)

9am
11am

Weekdays Tuesday – Thursday 10.00 a.m.

**Friday: Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 6pm-6.45pm
Followed by Mass at 7pm**

Confessions: After Mass, during Adoration on Friday, or by Appointment.

Tuesday December 7th

Wednesday December 8th

Thursday December 9th

Friday December 10th

Sunday December 11th

9am
11am

**St Ambrose
THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF
THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY
of the 2nd week of Advent
of the 2nd week of Advent**

3rd SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Mass Intentions this week:

Sunday 9am: *The Parish* 11am: *Patricia Kowalewsha*

Tuesday: *Damian Ryan for work prospects*

To request mass intentions, please see Father Leslie after Mass,

or Email him: ladams@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Enquires about Baptism or Marriage should be made directly to Fr Leslie in person or by email.

Prayer Corner: Please remember all the sick and housebound of our parish especially:

Marianne Copp, Patricia Kowalewska, Win Sheridan, Kathleen Wood, Phillip Rockford,

Germain McAulay, Geoffrey Dixon, Joe Bonnici, and Marjorie Lee

On Wednesday this week we celebrate the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

This feast takes us into the mind and heart of God before this world, this universe, came into being. Even then God determined to visit of the many millions he would create, this planet, choose a particular people out of thousands to be his own and at a certain moment in their history allow his unconditional love to take human form as one of them. In the words of St Paul: ' he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love.' And in order for that blameless love to be born he destined one woman to totally pure without spot of sin.

Mary remains the most favoured one, the mother of all graced ones, the one that enjoys the fullness of grace and has done so since before the beginning of time. Like the light from one of the most distant of stars in our galaxy her immaculate conception has shone in the darkness of our existence since before time began proclaiming God's love and his desire for all to share eternal life with him, and will continue to do so until Christ return's in all his glory.

CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE

AT

OUR LADY IMMACULATE CHURCH

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 15TH AT 7PM

WITH REFRESHMENTS INCLUDING

MULLED WINE AND MINCE PIES

DOORS OPEN AT 7PM. NO NEED TO BOOK BUT NUMBERS MAY HAVE TO BE RESTRICTED SO COME EARLY TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT. A RETIRING COLLECTION WILL BE MADE IN AID OF JULIA'S HOUSE

First Holy Communion Candidates

I would like to meet with those whose children wish to be considered as candidates for First Holy Communion.

Could you email me please and then we can arrange to meet-up at the Church.

Thank You

Fr. Leslie

Covid News- Sunday Obligation– Bishop Philip writes in the E News:

At the end of our Plenary Assembly, the Bishops of England and Wales issued a statement entitled "Honouring Sunday." The bishops do not possess the authority to suspend the Sunday obligation. However, since March 2020 the bishops have sought to give guidance to the faithful on the changing conditions in which it is possible to fulfil this obligation. Conditions have clearly moved on since the state of national lockdown last year. Yet, the bishops recognise the uncertainties of the Winter ahead of us and write "At this time, we recognise that for some people there may be certain factors which hinder attendance at Sunday Mass. The pandemic is clearly not over. The risk of infection is still present. For some, there is legitimate fear in gathering together. As your bishops, we recognise that these prevailing circumstances suggest that not everyone is yet in a position to fulfil the absolute duty to attend freely Sunday Mass." However, the bishops ask every Catholic to honestly review their situation motivated by real love which must be our personal response to Christ's total self-offering in the Holy Eucharist.

In effect we continue to attend Mass when we feel confident to do so, the Sunday Obligation remains 'stretched' across the weekdays so if we find Sunday Mass too daunting at this stage then consider attending a weekday Mass when there are fewer people present.

Fr Leslie

**REFRESHMENTS AFTER 9AM MASS
AND AFTER WEDNESDAY MASS IN THE HALL
COME AND JOIN US FOR A CUPPA!**