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**OFFICE HOURS:** 10.00AM - 3.00PM on MONDAY - FRIDAY; CLOSED ON WEDNESDAYS  
**PARISH TEAM:** Fr Ben Brooks, Fr Chathura Silva, Fr Jessie Banez  
Carolyn Gutteridge—**Parish Secretary**  
Rosie Caelli—**Sacramental Co-ordinator**  
**FACEBOOK:** @CatholicParishLaunceston

## SECOND SUNDAY ADVENT (YEAR A) - 4 DECEMBER 2022

### FIRST READING

Isaiah 11:1-10

A shoot springs from the stock of Jesse, a scion thrusts from his roots: on him the spirit of the Lord rests, a spirit of wisdom and insight, a spirit of counsel and power, a spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord. (The fear of the Lord is his breath.) He does not judge by appearances, he gives no verdict on hearsay, but judges the wretched with integrity, and with equity gives a verdict for the poor of the land. His word is a rod that strikes the ruthless, his sentences bring death to the wicked. Integrity is the loincloth round his waist, faithfulness the belt about his hips. The wolf lives with the lamb, the panther lies down with the kid, calf and lion cub feed together with a little boy to lead them. The cow and the bear make friends, their young lie down together. The lion eats straw like the ox. The infant plays over the cobra's hole; into the viper's lair the young child puts his hand. They do no hurt, no harm, on all my holy mountain, for the country is filled with the knowledge of the Lord as the waters swell the sea. That day, the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples. It will be sought out by the nations and its home will be glorious.

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 71:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17. R. cf. v.7

**(R.) Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace for ever.**

1. O God, give your judgement to the king,  
to a king's son your justice,  
that he may judge your people in justice  
and your poor in right judgement. (R.)
2. In his days justice shall flourish  
and peace till the moon fails.  
He shall rule from sea to sea,  
from the Great River to the earth's bounds. (R.)
3. For he shall save the poor when they cry  
and the needy who are helpless.  
He will have pity on the weak  
and save the lives of the poor. (R.)
4. May his name be blessed for ever  
and endure like the sun.  
Every tribe shall be blessed in him,  
all nations bless his name. (R.)

### SECOND READING

Romans 15:4-9

Everything that was written long ago in the scriptures was meant to teach us something about hope from the examples scripture gives of how people who did not give up were helped by God. And may he who helps us when we refuse to give up, help you all to be tolerant with each other, following the example of Christ Jesus, so that united in mind and voice you may give glory to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. It can only be to God's glory, then, for you to treat each other in the same friendly way as Christ treated you. The reason Christ became the servant of circumcised Jews was not only so that God could faithfully carry out the promises made to the patriarchs, it was also to get the pagans to give glory to God for his mercy, as scripture says in one place: For this I shall praise you among the pagans and sing your name.

### 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

Matthew 3:1-12

In due course John the Baptist appeared; he preached in the wilderness of Judaea and this was his message: 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.' This was the man the prophet Isaiah spoke of when he said: A voice cries in the wilderness: Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight. This man John wore a garment made of camel-hair with a leather belt round his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judaea and the whole Jordan district made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. But when he saw a number of Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism he said to them, 'Brood of vipers, who warned you to fly from the retribution that is coming? But if you are repentant, produce the appropriate fruit, and do not presume to tell yourselves, "We have Abraham for our father," because, I tell you, God can raise children for Abraham from these stones. Even now the axe is laid to the roots of the trees, so that any tree which fails to produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown on the fire. I baptise you in water for repentance, but the one who follows me is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to carry his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fan is in his hand; he will clear his threshing-floor and gather his wheat into the barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go out.'



### ADVENT WREATH RESPONSORY

**Priest:** May the Lord's peace be with us all.  
**All:** **The Lord is our faith and our life.**  
**Priest:** May His love shine in our hearts.  
**All:** **Our hope is in the coming of the Lord.**

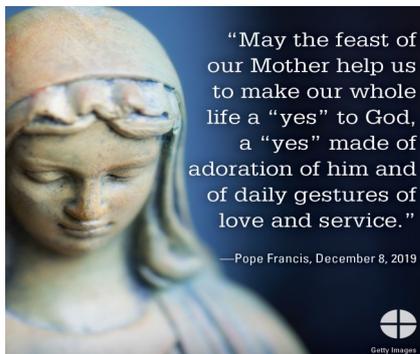
## Food for thought...Reflection by Sr Dianne Bergant CSA

Today's readings are like Chaucer's Canterbury Tales. The biblical authors sketch profiles of individuals after whom we can model our lives as we embark on our pilgrimage to eschatological fulfilment. Isaiah depicts the righteous messianic king; Paul provides us with a glimpse of Jesus, the one who ministers to all; and Matthew describes John the Baptist, the prophet who prepared for the Advent of Christ.

The gifts Isaiah attributes to the messianic king are the same gifts that we receive with the anointing of the Spirit: wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety and fear of the Lord. The image of the messianic king may have been fulfilled in Jesus, but it is also offered to us as a model after which we can pattern our lives.

Paul declares that Christ came for all. Just as the Canterbury tales describe pilgrims of all backgrounds and characters, so our companions on the pilgrimage come from diverse circumstances. Since the invitation was extended to all, we are expected to welcome all. Some of Chaucer's characters were quite unpleasant, but they were part of the group. Many of the people to whom Jesus ministered were quite unpleasant, but this did not deter him. His example is set before us today.

John the Baptist lived a life of radical self-denial, but he did not require this of others. He preached repentance or change of heart, not a rejection of the circumstances of life. He called for a return to righteousness, to relationships rooted in honesty and respect. He condemned presumption and arrogant reliance on one's religious origin, complacency and the shirking of responsibility, disinterest in the welfare of others.



"May the feast of our Mother help us to make our whole life a "yes" to God, a "yes" made of adoration of him and of daily gestures of love and service."

—Pope Francis, December 8, 2019



The Archdiocese will celebrate the **Feast of the Immaculate Conception on December 8** as the occasion for the blessing and dedication of the new altar for the Cathedral after extensive renovations. St Mary's Cathedral is the mother church of the Archdiocese and so this event is a very significant one for all Catholics in Tasmania.

**The Archbishop cordially invites all members of the Catholic community in Tasmania to attend this Mass of blessing and dedication at 7:00pm on Thursday 8 December at St Mary's Cathedral.**

## A VOCATION VIEW

**Isaiah says: "The earth shall be filled with knowledge of the Lord." Who taught you knowledge of the Lord, and whom are you teaching today?**



## POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER INTENTION FOR DECEMBER:

Volunteer not-for-profit organisations

We pray that volunteer not-for-profit organisations committed to human development find people dedicated to the common good and ceaselessly seek out new paths to international co-operation.

## YOU ARE ASKED TO PRAY

**FOR OUR NEWLY BAPTISED** especially **Nicholas Herynk** (David and Rinelle) who will celebrate the Sacrament of Baptism within our parish this weekend.

**FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK:** Sr Teresa OCD, Fr Martin Aye Ngwe, Fr Terry Yard, Kath Aldred, Teresa McMahon, Kim Izzard, Pauline Heazlewood, Patsy Heath, Alex Thrower, Marie Cousins, Alida Moolenschot, Archivaldo Pechon, Sharon Manzone, Suzy Fenton, Elizabeth Nettlefold, Shirley Ambrose, Qian Zhang-Allchin, Carole Cleary, Bev Callahan, Nanette Gunton, Helen Wright, Alfred Weeding, Maureen Saunders, Mary Morgan, Mary Carter, Scott Bailey, Ralf Roston, Tony Long, Kristel Latham, Joan Keefe, Jennifer Dowell, Andrew Campbell, Bill Lewis, Vincent Burke, Eduardo Bilanes, Brian Hudson, Brian Beardwood, Denise Austin, Jane Gillard, Joel Wilkinson, Jesse Moore, Elaine Blake, John Walsh, Clare Maddox, William Siegrist, Anne Harris, Jane Savaro, Amelia Eckert, Allison Thambugala, Ava Woolley, David Lewis, Christian Barrett, Xavier Banks, George Donovan, Max Jamieson, Jan McClean, John Bennett, and Peter Marshall.

**FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED:** Gianina Battochio, Noelene Clayton, Sofia Zakrzewski, Railiene Duke and Theresia Burger who have died recently, Robert Parkes, Perry Pereira, Ann Kolka, John Juhasz, Sr Augustine Healy PVBM, Cynthia Duncan, Janet Moore, Paul Smart, Elizabeth Gregory, Henryk Stepien, Leonard Rae, Marcello Gugliotti, Eileen Laverack, all victims of the COVID-19 virus and all whose anniversaries occur at this time.

**FOR OUR PARISH FAMILY AND THE WIDER COMMUNITY:** As the COVID virus continues to affect our lives, we pray in a special way for all those involved in frontline services. We pray for the gift of healing and peace for all who contract the virus, especially for those who are in hospital, and for their families.

*Our mission is to love and serve our God, each other and the wider community*

**PARISH ACTIVITIES, INFORMATION AND NEWS**

**ONE HOUR WITH JESUS** *This Sunday, 4th December at the Carmelite Monastery.* You are welcome to join the Carmelite nuns in spending some time in prayer before the Blessed Sacrament: 2.00pm Office of None (afternoon prayer of the Church); 2.15 - 3.00pm Silent prayer before the Blessed Sacrament; 3.00pm Benediction

**FRIDAY HOLY HOUR** Adoration and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will take place for one hour every Friday after the 12noon Mass at the Church of the Apostles. Please come and spend time with the Lord and pray for our parish, our diocese, our nation and our world.

**COLUMBAN CALENDARS** are available from the Parish Office or the church at the cost of \$9 each.

**ROSARY:** is recited each and every Monday at 7:30pm in the comfort of your own home. We pray our Blessed Mother will watch over us all at this time of uncertainty and sadness. Enquiries: Jan (0409 175 940) or Adrian & Liz (0407 074 693)

**THE CARMEL SHOP:** 7 Cambridge Street, West Launceston is open on Wednesdays between 11.00am - 4.00pm

*Please collect a copy of Archbishop Julian's Advent Pastoral Letter available at all Masses*

*St Vincent de Paul Leaving Collection at all masses this weekend.*

**WEEKEND MASS TIMES**

Saturday	6.00pm Vigil	Sacred Heart, Newstead
Sunday	7.30am	Carmel
9.00am	St Finn Barr's, Invermay	
9.00am	St Patrick's Chapel	
10.30am	Apostles	
6.30pm	Apostles (Oct—March)	

**WEEKDAY MASSES - 5th—10th December**

Monday:	7.30am	Carmel
Tuesday:	7.30am	Carmel
	12noon	Newstead -
Wednesday	7.30am	Carmel
	5.30pm	Apostles
Thursday:	7.30am	Carmel
	12noon	Invermay
Friday :	7.30am	Carmel
	12noon	Apostles
Saturday:	9.00am	Carmel

**RECONCILIATION**

Saturday:	10.00am - 11.00am	Apostles
	5.15pm - 5.45pm	Newstead

**MASS LIVE-STREAMED**

**Each and every Sunday at 9am**



**On Facebook @catholicparishlaunceston  
if you don't have a Facebook account go to:**

**[https://www.facebook.com/pg/  
CatholicParishLaunceston/videos/](https://www.facebook.com/pg/CatholicParishLaunceston/videos/)**

**Sunday Mass is also televised every Sunday Morning  
on WIN and WIN HD, 6.00am - 6.30am.**

***Can you please help?***

Fruit pickers from Tonga and East Timor have recently arrived to work at the Hillwood Berry Farm and the parish is taking up a clothes collection to help them adapt to our cooler weather. The collection will run for just 2 weeks and any help with jumpers, track pants, thermal underwear, beanies, scarves, socks would be appreciated. Sizes Medium—large for both female and males. Donations can be left at the Parish Office during work hours.

***Thanks in anticipation***

**VINNIES CHRISTMAS APPEAL**

***Please support the annual Christmas appeal and  
give the gift of Hope this Christmas***

*Please take a Christmas Appeal Envelope and return to the Parish Office with your donation or directly to St Vincent de Paul Society. Donations can also be made via bank transfer to: St Vincent de Paul Society Tasmania, Bank: CBA; BSB:067 601; Account No: 10178303.*

***Bank details for direct debit donations to support the  
financial needs of your Parish:***

**Account Name:** Launceston Catholic Parish.

**BSB:** 067 000; **Account No:** 1031 6153.

**Reference:** "your surname"



**The Catholic Parish of Launceston embraces and whole-heartedly supports the  
Archdiocese of Hobart Safe Communities Policy and Framework.**

**Further information is available at: <https://hobart.catholic.org.au/safe-communities>**

## PRAYER FOR SPIRITUAL COMMUNION



*My Jesus,  
I believe that You  
are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.  
I love You above all things,  
and I desire to receive You into my soul.  
Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally,  
come at least spiritually into my heart.  
I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You.*

### WAY TO ST JAMES CYGNET PILGRIMAGE

14<sup>th</sup>- 15<sup>th</sup> January 2023

After a two-year absence due to COVID, our *Way to St James Cygnet Pilgrimage* is happening again on the 14<sup>th</sup>- 15<sup>th</sup> January 2023.

This two day Tassie Camino is a great opportunity to begin your new year right walking in peace and solidarity through the beautiful Huon Valley with other pilgrims from Tasmania and across Australia. We walk from Mountain River on day one, and Ranelagh on day two, finishing the pilgrimage with a procession to the Church of St James in Cygnet, in the midst of the Cygnet Folk Festival.

You can find out more about this pilgrimage at the website <https://www.waytostjames.com.au/> Or you can follow the Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/waytostjamescygnet>

### GOSPELS FOR THE COMING WEEK:

<b>Monday 5th:</b>	<b>Luke 5:17-26</b>
<b>Tuesday 6th:</b>	<b>Matthew 18:12-14</b>
<b>Wednesday 7th:</b>	<b>Matthew 11:28-30</b>
<b>Thursday 8th</b>	<b>Luke 1:26-38</b>
<b>Friday 9th:</b>	<b>Matthew 11:16-19</b>
<b>Saturday 10th</b>	<b>Matthew 17:10-13</b>

### **NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS: THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

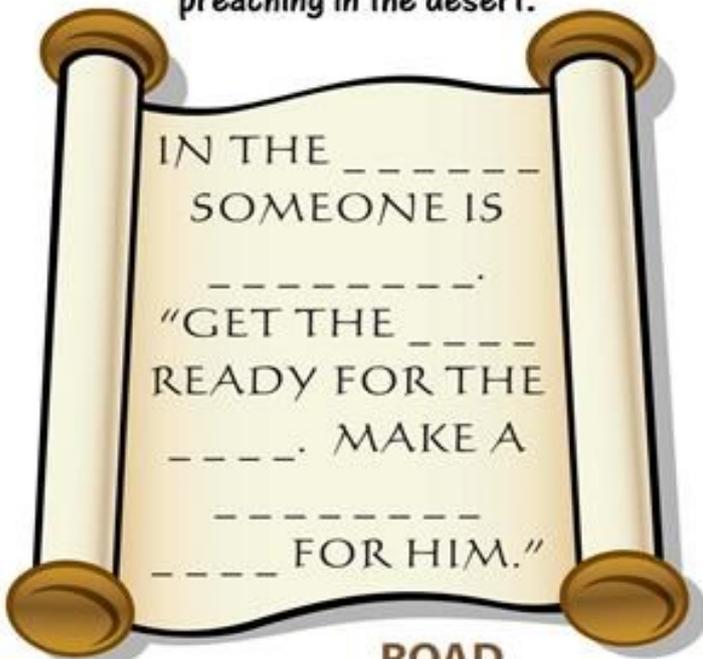
**Isiah 35:1-6**  
**Psalms 145:6-10**  
**James 5:7-10**  
**Matthew 11:2-11**



*Ponder and pray the living Word of God*

## Children's Corner

Use the words below to complete Isaiah's prophecy which tells of John the Baptist preaching in the desert.



ROAD  
STRAIGHT LORD PATH  
SHOUTING DESERT

### DINING WITH FRIENDS

An initiative of the St Vincent de Paul Society together with the Launceston Parish.



If you are feeling lonely, would like to make new friends, or would just enjoy a FREE home cooked meal prepared by and shared with people who care, please come along to *Dining with Friends*.

**Next gathering: Tuesday, 6th December at 6.00pm in the Pastoral Centre.**

**Bookings are essential for catering**  
Enquiries and RSVP phone 6326 5551

### Majellan Media – Because Family Matters Most

As we count down the days to Christmas and amid the busyness of the season, a great way to keep the focus on Jesus is to use a time-honoured tradition—the advent calendar. Our online *Advent calendar* is designed to help participate more actively in the season of Advent as we await the joyful celebration of Christmas.

The calendar has a short reflection, and suggestion of an action to help pray each day and remember that in our preparation for Christmas, we are awaiting the birth of Jesus our Redeemer.

[www.majellan.media](http://www.majellan.media)