

ST LUKE'S PARISH

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Third Sunday of Advent, Year C

16 December 2018

First Reading Zep 3:14-18

With gladness the Lord will rejoice over you.

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 The Lord has repealed your sentence; he has driven your enemies away.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 a 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.

Responsorial Psalm Is 12:2-6 R. v.6

(R.) Cry out with joy and gladness: for among you is the great and 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.)
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 Phil 4:4-7

The Lord is near.

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.

Gospel Acclamation Is 61:1 (Lk 4:18)

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; he sent me to bring Good News to the poor. Alleluia!

Gospel Lk 3:10-18

What, then, must we do?

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



Reflection by Fr Michael Tate

Some people have an image of God who must be obeyed out of fear. Rules of behaviour are kept as part of a deal to avoid punishment. But St Paul was imitating God when he told the Philippians that all he wanted was their 'happiness'. God's deepest desire is that we share divine bliss. St Thomas Aquinas tells us that the goal of human life is this beatific happiness.

Of course, there is a way of life which responds to the Divine Lover. John the Baptist insists on rules of social justice, particularly those which forbid taking advantage of the vulnerable. But these are the minimum. He envisages a response of extravagant generosity. It will take Baptism in the Holy Spirit and Fire to make this possible.

This was effected by the One foretold by John. He doesn't name him, but we know it was Jesus of Nazareth who had the power to unleash such over-the-top generosity. Jesus sent his Holy Spirit at Pentecost as if in wind and fire. This created a new community which, the Acts of Apostles tells us, responded with acts of unrestrained generosity to the vulnerable and needy.

We might pause for a moment to pray for a generous spirit responding in gratitude to the Divine Lover who, as Risen Lord, has the power and will to enable us to be filled with Divine Bliss.

HYMNS	
284	Prepare the Way
318	A New Commandment
189	Lord, To Whom Shall We Go?
See Below	Come, O Long Expected Jesus

Come, O Long Expected Jesus

1. Come, O long expected Jesus, born to set your people free,
from our fear and sins release us
in your heart our rest shall be.

2. Israel's strength and consolation,
hope to all you shall impart;
dear desire of ev'ry nation,
joy of ev'ry longing heart.

3. Born, your people to deliver,
born a child and yet a king,
born to reign in us for ever,
now your gracious kingdom bring.

4. By your own eternal Spirit
rule in all our hearts alone;
by your all sufficient merit
raise us to your glorious throne.

Text: Charles Wesley 1707-1788, alt.

Tune: STUTTGART 87.87, adapt. Henry J. Gauntlett 1805-1876
from a melody in C.F. Witt *Psalmodia Sacra*, Gotha 1715

NOTICES

Parish Office Christmas Closure

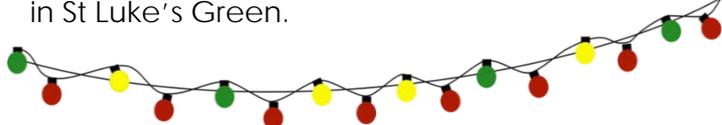
The parish office will close on 24 December 2018 and will reopen on 2 January 2019. Please contact stluke@bne.catholic.net.au if urgent. We wish all St Luke's parishioners a blessed Christmas and joyful New Year.

St Luke's Parish Morning Tea's 2019

Sunday 6 January
Sunday 3 February
Sunday 3 March
Sunday 7 April
Sunday 12 May
Sunday 2 June
Sunday 7 July
Sunday 4 August
Sunday 1 September
Sunday 6 October
Sunday 3 November
Sunday 1 December



All parishioners are warmly invited to bring a plate and join in monthly morning teas after 8am Mass in St Luke's Green.



The Lights of Christmas at St Stephen's Cathedral

Celebrate the season of peace, joy and goodwill, with an extraordinary light and sound show.

7:30pm until midnight every night from Wednesday 12 December until Christmas Eve.

If you have an item you would like considered for the newsletter please contact the Parish Office.

Christmas Mass Times



Christmas Eve

Monday 24 December,
5pm.

Followed by canapés, champagne and other refreshments served on the front lawn.

Christmas Day

Tuesday 25 December,
8am.

Advent Morning Prayers

Morning Prayer will be held in St Luke's Church each Wednesday morning at 9am throughout the Advent season. All are welcome to attend.

THE CATHOLIC LEADER

Available from the churches this weekend for \$2

This week's edition includes:

- ❖ Australian Franciscan Friar at home in the priesthood after his twelve-year journey
- ❖ Brisbane to remember one year anniversary of the death of Bishop John Gerry at St Stephen's Cathedral
- ❖ And much more!

SAINT OF THE WEEK



St John of the Cross was born into a poor Spanish family in 1542. After attending a Jesuit college, he joined the Carmelite Order, studied theology and was ordained a priest at the age of 25. St Teresa of Avila encouraged him to join the Discalced Carmelite Reform, which provided two houses for friars. But after several years he was seized and imprisoned by the Calced Carmelite friars, who rejected the reform. St John of the Cross was a mystic and poet, and it was during his captivity that he wrote some of his finest work. He eventually escaped and founded a college at Baeza. St John is regarded as a Doctor of Mystical Theology, and was officially declared a Doctor of the Church in 1926.