



ST LUKE'S PARISH

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Second Sunday of Advent, Year C

9 December 2018

First Reading Bar 5:1-9

Jerusalem – God will show you splendour.

Jerusalem, take off your dress of sorrow and distress, put on the beauty of the glory of God for ever, wrap the cloak of the integrity of God around you, put the diadem of the glory of the Eternal on your head: since God means to show your splendour to every nation under heaven, since the name God gives you for ever will be, 'Peace through integrity, and honour through devotedness'. Arise, Jerusalem, stand on the heights and turn your eyes to the east: see your sons reassembled from west and east at the command of the Holy One, jubilant that God has remembered them. Though they left you on foot, with enemies for an escort, now God brings them back to you like royal princes carried back in glory. For God has decreed the flattening of each high mountain, of the everlasting hills, the filling of the valleys to make the ground level so that Israel can walk in safety under the glory of God. And the forests and every fragrant tree will provide shade for Israel at the command of God; for God will guide Israel in joy by the light of his glory with his mercy and integrity for escort.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 125. R. v.3

(R.) The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.

1. When the Lord delivered Zion from bondage, it seemed like a dream. Then was our mouth filled with laughter, on our lips there were songs. (R.)
2. The heathens themselves said: 'What marvels the Lord worked for them!' What marvels the Lord worked for us! Indeed we were glad. (R.)
3. Deliver us, O Lord, from our bondage as streams in dry land. Those who are sowing in tears will sing when they reap. (R.)
4. They go out, they go out, full of tears, carrying seed for the sowing: they come back, they come back, full of song, carrying their sheaves. (R.)

Second Reading Phil 1:3-6. 8-11

Show yourselves sinless and without blame in the day of Christ.

Every time I pray for all of you, I pray with joy, remembering how you have helped to spread the Good News from the day you first heard it right up to the present. I am quite certain that the One who began this good work in you will see that it is finished when the Day of Christ Jesus comes. God knows how much I miss you all, loving you as Christ Jesus loves you. My prayer is that your love for each other may increase more and more and never stop improving your knowledge and deepening your perception so that you can always recognise what is best. This will help you to become pure and blameless, and prepare you for the Day of Christ, when you will reach the perfect goodness which Jesus Christ produces in us for the glory and praise of God.

Gospel Acclamation Lk 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 Lk 3:1-6

All people shall see the salvation of God.

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.



Reflection by Fr Michael Tate

Do we have to be like John the Baptist, eccentrically dressed and scavenging for food, to prepare the way of the Lord? No. You and I are called to be a John or Joan the Baptist, preparing people's hearts in our own time and place. But we have to allow God to prepare our hearts for this role. John the Baptist challenges us to 'Repent', i.e. to turn around our own lives seeking God's forgiveness. John then challenges us to see the big picture which is that 'All who live shall see the salvation of God'. Pope Francis is the exemplary universal pastor inspiring us to become 'les mercifuls sans frontieres'. And young people through social media are already saying 'We are one community of human beings on this fragile planet'. The challenge for most of us is more immediate and apparently of smaller scope. The challenge this Advent is to identify the one person whose heart you can help prepare to celebrate the coming of the Lord Jesus in three weeks' time. The best method is to let that person see your faith and joy centred on that little Jewish baby lying in a manger. Do that, and who knows what may happen because that little baby is in fact the Sovereign Lord of history and of the whole cosmos. With God's grace, you don't have to be as eccentric or bizarre as John the Baptist to play your part in changing the course of history! We could take a moment to pray that, repenting of our own sins where necessary, we may prepare the heart of at least one person so that the Lord Jesus may enter in this Christmas, helping him fulfil his mission that all who live shall see the salvation of God.

HYMNS	
442	In Faith and Hope and Love
490	Prayer of St Francis
432	O Breathe on Me, O Breath of God
549	Immaculate Mary

NOTICES

Helpers Wanted – Memorial Garden Maintenance

If you are interested in assisting with maintaining the pot plants in the columbarium area and at the front of the church, please see Monsignor Peter or contact the parish office on 3324 3222 or stlukes@bne.catholic.net.au.

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.



Second Sunday of Advent Reflection

Glittery holiday ads can blind us to our stewardship values and distort our needs and wants. It is important that during this season of endless buying we remember that each of us also has the need to give back to God and to those that are in need.

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 light refreshments.

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 bishops to engage in important discussions around protections for religious schools
- ❖ A Brisbane parish evangelises the town through a spectacular display of Christmas lights
- ❖ Archbishop Mark Coleridge reflects on the liturgical year in an advent pastoral letter
- ❖ Loreto Sister remains busy in the field hospital at age 60

SAINT OF THE WEEK



In 1531, Juan Diego, a peasant convert was walking in the hill country of central Mexico. A woman, surrounded by bright light, appeared and introduced herself as the Virgin Mary. She requested that a church be built in the place where they stood. The first chapel was built in about 1533. A new basilica was constructed in 1964.