



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.

### Reflection by Fr Michael Tate

St John's Gospel never calls John, 'the Baptist'. No, he is John the Witness: 'a witness to speak for the Light'. We discover in this Gospel that this light is embodied in Jesus Christ, most graphically portrayed in the Transfiguration when Christ's body is radiant, translucent, with Divine Light.

Jesus Christ is the light of the world, the One who came to liberate human beings from the many dark captivities which imprison them, the One who vanquished the inky blackness of the tomb.

We can become partakers in the life of this Divine Light. At baptism, this is symbolised by the lighting of a small candle from the great Easter candle which is sung into the church on the Easter Vigil as 'Christ our Light', the Conqueror of Death.

As a baptised people our allegiance to 'The Light' is not to be a private matter between 'me and God'. No, like John, we must bear witness to 'The Light' by being instruments of His power to dispel the darkness which can enshroud people's lives.

We could pause for a moment to commit ourselves to fulfil the promise of our baptismal candle so that we might more authentically celebrate the birth of the Divine Light come into human history.

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## WELCOME TO ST BRIDGET'S CATHOLIC COMMUNITY GREYTHORN

St Brigid's Greythorn is committed to the safety, wellbeing and dignity of all children and vulnerable adults.

Third Sunday of Advent, Year B

13 December 2020

### First Reading Is 61:1-2.10-11

*I exult for joy in the Lord.*

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me, for the Lord has anointed me.

He has sent me to bring good news to the poor,

to bind up hearts that are broken;

to proclaim liberty to captives,

freedom to those in prison;

to proclaim a year of favour from the Lord.

'I exult for joy in the Lord,

my soul rejoices in my God,

for he has clothed me in the garments of salvation,

he has wrapped me in the cloak of integrity,

like a bridegroom wearing his wreath,

like a bride adorned in her jewels.

'For as the earth makes fresh things grow,

as a garden makes seeds spring up,

so will the Lord make both integrity and

praise

spring up in the sight of the nations.'

### Responsorial Psalm

Lk 1:46-50. 53-54. R. Is 61:10

(R.) *My soul rejoices in my God.*

1. My soul glorifies the Lord,  
my spirit rejoices in God, my Saviour.  
He looks on his servant in her  
nothingness;  
henceforth all ages will call me  
blessed. (R.)
2. The Almighty works marvels for me.  
Holy his name!  
His mercy is from age to age,  
on those who fear him. (R.)

3. He fills the starving with good things,  
sends the rich away empty.  
He protects Israel, his servant,  
remembering his mercy. (R.)

### Second Reading 1 Thes 5:16-24

*May you all be kept blameless, spirit, soul and body, for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

Be happy at all times; pray constantly; and for all things give thanks to God, because this is what God expects you to do in Christ Jesus.

Never try to suppress the Spirit or treat the gift of prophecy with contempt; think before you do anything – hold on to what is good and avoid every form of evil.

May the God of peace make you perfect and holy; and may you all be kept safe and blameless, spirit, soul and body, for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. God has called you and he will not fail you.

### 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 Jn1:6-8.19-28

*There stands among you, unknown to you, the one who is coming after me.*

A man came, sent by God.  
His name was John.  
He came as a witness,

**St Bridget's Parish Greythorn - Parish Directory:**  
**48 Sweyn Street, Balwyn North 3104.**

**Parish Priest:**  
Fr John Salvano

**Assistant Priest:**  
Fr Lenin Thenamirtham  
(Contact St Bede's Parish Office  
9401 6355)

**Priest in Residence:**  
Fr Kevin Lenehan

**Parish Secretary:**  
Mario Landini

**Parish Contact:**  
Phone: 9401 6355  
Office Hours: Wednesday & Friday 9-3.  
Email: [greythorn@cam.org.au](mailto:greythorn@cam.org.au)  
Web: [www.stbridgetsgreythorn.org.au](http://www.stbridgetsgreythorn.org.au)

**Parish Hall Hire:**  
Enquiries - Parish Office 9857 6395

**Sacramental Program:**  
Contact: Edgar D'Souza  
0412 183 141

**Child Safety Co-ordinator:**  
Anne Credlin  
(Contact via Parish Office)

**Refugee Action Group:**  
Chair: Robert Stewart  
Contact via Parish Office

**St Vincent De Paul Society**  
President: Anne Hartley  
Help Line 1800 305 330

**Parish School:**  
Principal: Robyn Thomson  
Contact : 9857 6394

**NOTE: Baptisms and Weddings by appointment only. Contact the Parish Office for details.**

**We Remember:** We pray for Mary Stapleton recently deceased, our deceased family and friends; and for Mary Reid whose anniversary occurs at this time: may they rejoice forever with our Risen Lord. We pray for the sick (Frank O'Connor) and housebound; may they come to know the healing power of God's love.

**NOTE: Due to NBN issues, the phone at the Parish Office is non operational for the time being. For all parish related enquiries, please call 9401 6355, (Parish Office at St Bede/St Anne) 9-1pm on Tuesday-Friday.**

**Melbourne Overseas Mission:** The annual collection for the Melbourne Overseas Mission is being held today. MOM continues to embrace opportunities to assist the disadvantage people in Papua New Guinea, Peru, West Africa and other islands of the Pacific who live in harsh conditions and extreme poverty. Assistance is also provided to the many volunteers who undertake this work on behalf of the Archdiocese of Melbourne. Envelopes and a basket for donations are in the narthex. Your generous support is appreciated.

**St Vincent De Paul Christmas Appeal - Still accepting donations see a representative in the narthex. -**

- **Online – [vinnies.org.au](http://vinnies.org.au)** (write Greythorn Conference in comments box)
- **Phone – 13 18 12** (specify donation for Greythorn Conference)
- **At church –** use envelopes in Narthex and place in the donation basket or in **Poor Box** (located near the piety stall)

**CAROLS IN THE CLOUD**



**Carols this year will be online starting 6:30pm Saturday 12 December.**

This year the Carols cannot be held in the park (due to COVID) as has been the tradition. So the North Balwyn Inter Church Council will bring the carols to you using technology. To watch and join in the singing, please log onto - [www.carolsnorthbalwyn.org.au](http://www.carolsnorthbalwyn.org.au). They will continue to be available "on demand" throughout December.

**Broadcast Mass:** We will continue to offer the broadcast Mass each week, rotating around our churches. Online Mass is available from 5pm Saturday, and can be accessed from either parish website [www.stbridgetsgreythorn.org.au](http://www.stbridgetsgreythorn.org.au) or [www.parishofstanneandstbede.org.au](http://www.parishofstanneandstbede.org.au) and follow the prompts.

This week's link is <https://youtu.be/DxShwUIYcZE>

Dear Parishioners,

It has been wonderful to see many of you back at Mass these last few weeks, and we rejoice in the opportunity to once again gather to celebrate the Eucharist. I am also aware that there are many who are not yet ready to venture out, and I am mindful and respectful of your decision to be more cautious because of your individual circumstances. You will always be welcome when you feel ready to come along.

The numbers attending our Masses at the moment across the affiliated parishes are in line with the percentages found across the Archdiocese.

Under the most recent changes to government regulation, everyone must book in or be registered electronically. The best way is to book on the links sent out by the parish each week. You can also take your chance that there will be spare seating available and just turn up, but you must use the QR code in the narthex to register – you cannot sign in manually. Thus you will need to bring your mobile phone. If you have trouble using the QR code please ask someone to assist you, a parishioner will be available.

The relaxation of regulations allowed the Grade 6 graduation Mass to go ahead as usual. We are beginning to plan the Christmas Masses, which will need to be different, and with less people, but still allow us to celebrate. Please remember that any parishioner is welcome at any of the four churches of the affiliated parishes: St Anne's, St Joachim's, St Bede's, or St Bridget's.

Kind regards, Fr John Salvano

**Lector Roster for 19 & 20 December**

Saturday @ 5.00pm	Sunday @ 10.00am	Sunday @ 5.30pm
L Sanders	M Buxton	S Beale

**NOTE: Lectors please ensure that you book your attendance via Trybooking.**

**Mass Times at our Parishes from 15-20 December:**

	St Bridget	St Bede	St Anne	St Joachim
<b>Tuesday</b>		9.15am		
<b>Wednesday</b>			10.00am	
<b>Thursday</b>		9.15am		
<b>Friday</b>		9.15am	10.00am	
<b>Saturday</b>	Reconciliation 4.30pm 5.00pm	Reconciliation 9.30am 6.00pm	Reconciliation 4.30pm 5.00pm	
<b>Sunday</b>	10.00am 5.30pm	9.00am 11.00am	10.30am	8.30am
<b>Christmas Day Masses</b>				
<b>Thursday 24<sup>th</sup></b>	5.00pm 7.00pm 9.00pm	5.00pm 7.30pm 10.00pm	5.00pm 7.30pm 10.00pm	
<b>Friday 25<sup>th</sup></b>	10.00am	9.00am & 11.00am	10.30am	8.30am

Parishioners are welcome to book for any Mass across the affiliated parishes. **Parishioners must continue to book using Trybooking.** The link will be sent out each Thursday. If you do not have the internet, then ring the parish office on Wednesday morning to be booked in. If you find that after booking you are unable to attend, please cancel so that someone else can use that place.

Based on the density limits imposed by DHHS, there is a strict limit on the number of people that can attend each Mass. Social distancing applies at all times, and no one may be admitted unless wearing a mask (except people with a medical exemption) or **without a prior booking**. Please arrive at least 10 minutes prior to the beginning of the Mass so that you have time to hand sanitise and are marked off the list as an attendee. If you are unwell, please do not attend Mass. Note, once Mass has commenced we must lock the doors, and cannot admit late arrivals.

Bookings for the Christmas Masses will open later next week.

To assist with compliance, ushers and door marshals are required to monitor parishioner seating and mark parishioner names off the booking list. Please advise the Parish Office on [greythorn@cam.org.au](mailto:greythorn@cam.org.au) if you can assist.

Special Ministers, Lectors are required for the Christmas Masses. Please advise the Parish Office on [greythorn@cam.org.au](mailto:greythorn@cam.org.au) if you can assist.