



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 Mk 1:1-8

Make straight the paths of the Lord.

The beginning of the Good News about Jesus Christ, the Son of God. It is written in the book of the prophet Isaiah:

Look, I am going to send my messenger before you;

he will prepare your way.

A voice cries in the wilderness:

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

and so it was that John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. All Judaea and all the people of Jerusalem made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. John wore a garment of camel-skin, and he lived on locusts and wild honey. In the course of his preaching he said, 'Someone is following me, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to kneel down and undo the strap of his sandals. I have baptised you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.'

Reflection by Fr Michael Tate

John immersed, baptised, his followers in water, symbolising the washing away of the sins of the past. But he could not empower people by drenching them in the dynamic life of God. John anticipates 'Someone' (not named!) who does have the power to inundate, baptise, people with the Holy Spirit.

From the heading of St Mark's Gospel, we know that that 'Someone' is 'Jesus Christ, Son of God' who came to flood our lives with that Divine Power which can effect a completely new *future* for humanity.

That is why St Mark took the term 'gospel' (good news) which was used on inscriptions announcing an Emperor's birth or victory, and used it to describe his inspired rendering of the mission of Jesus Christ, which was to inaugurate the 'Kingdom of God', overcoming the pretensions of all Emperors of any kind throughout history.

We could pause for a moment to thank God for the Good News of our being baptised with *water* in the 'Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.'

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WELCOME TO ST BRIDGET'S CATHOLIC COMMUNITY GREYTHORN

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

Second Sunday of Advent, Year B

6 December 2020

First Reading Is 40:1-5. 9-11

Prepare the way for the Lord.

'Console my people, console them'
says your God.

'Speak to the heart of Jerusalem
and call to her

that her time of service is ended,
that her sin is atoned for,
that she has received from the hand of the
Lord

double punishment for all her crimes.'
A voice cries, 'Prepare in the wilderness
a way for the Lord.

Make a straight highway for our God
across the desert.

Let every valley be filled in,
every mountain and hill be laid low,
let every cliff become a plain,
and the ridges a valley;
then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed
and all mankind shall see it;

for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.'

Go up on a high mountain,
joyful messenger to Zion.

Shout with a loud voice,
joyful messenger to Jerusalem.

Shout without fear,
say to the towns of Judah,
'Here is your God.'

Here is the Lord coming with power,
his arm subduing all things to him.

The prize of his victory is with him,
his trophies all go before him.

He is like a shepherd feeding his flock,
gathering lambs in his arms,
holding them against his breast
and leading to their rest the mother ewes.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 84:9-14. R. v.8

*(R.) Lord, let us see your kindness,
and grant us your salvation.*

1. I will hear what the Lord God has to say,
a voice that speaks of peace,
peace for his people.
His help is near for those who fear him
and his glory will dwell in our
land. (R.)
2. Mercy and faithfulness have met;
justice and peace have embraced.
Faithfulness shall spring from the earth
and justice look down from
heaven. (R.)
3. The Lord will make us prosper
and our earth shall yield its fruit.
Justice shall march before him
and peace shall follow his steps. (R.)

Second Reading 2 Pt 3:8-14

We wait for new heavens and a new earth.

There is one thing, my friends, that you must never forget: that with the Lord, 'a day' can mean a thousand years, and a thousand years is like a day. The Lord is not being slow to carry out his promises, as anybody else might be called slow; but he is being patient with you all, wanting nobody to be lost and everybody to be brought to change his ways. The Day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then with a roar the sky will vanish, the elements will catch fire and fall apart, the earth and all that it contains will be burnt up.

Since everything is coming to an end like this, you should be living holy and saintly lives while you wait and long for the Day of God to come, when the sky will dissolve in flames and the elements melt in the heat. What we are waiting for is what he promised: the new heavens and new earth, the place where righteousness will be at home. So then, my friends, while you are waiting, do your best to live lives without spot or stain so that he will find you at peace.

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
 Web: 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 Ella Meikle recently deceased, our deceased family and friends; and Lucia Garra, Kevin Lennox. Ann Sandy and Rosemary O'Hehir whose anniversaries occur 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.

Meditation, Prayer and Chat: Connect with our affiliated parishes and fellow parishioners by joining the liturgy via zoom to:

- ❖ **Friday Night Prayer** – hosted and lead by Jo Ryan at 5.00pm.
- ❖ **Meditation Group** – 9.30am each Wednesday via zoom – contact Susie Hii on susiehii.hc@gmail.com for connection details.

Stewardship: Your Stewardship envelopes can now be returned when attending Mass and placed in the baskets in the narthex. For convenience you may continue to do a Direct Credit Transfer to the parish accounts directly online, details are:-

Church Account – for envelopes and donations; Bank NAB, BSB 083-347; Acct. No 64 341 3829 (Please include your name and if applicable your Stewardship Envelope Number for correct recording)

Presbytery Account – support of the Parish Priest; Bank NAB, BSB 083-347; Acct. No 64 341 5066



ST VINCENT DE PAUL CHRISTMAS APPEAL - 5 and 6 December:
 Our St Vincent de Paul Conference is seeking your support for their work with vulnerable members of the community. Despite the COVID-19 restrictions, St Bridget's Greythorn Vinnies Conference members have continued to assist those in need through these difficult times.

The impact of the pandemic is stretching the resources of the Conference and any donation you feel able to make will assist us in providing a hand up to people experiencing poverty and disadvantage. All donations over \$2 are tax deductible. How to donate:

- **At church** – use envelopes in Narthex and place in **Leaving Collection Basket after Mass** or in **Poor Box** (located near the piety stall)
- **Online** – vinnies.org.au (write Greythorn Conference in comments box)
- **Phone** – 13 18 12 (specify donation for Greythorn Conference)

Lector Roster for 12 & 13 December

Saturday @ 5.00pm	Sunday @ 10.00am	Sunday @ 5.30pm
E Kelly	R Canale	R Stewart

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

Mass Times at our Parishes from 8-13 December:

	St Bridget	St Bede	St Anne	St Joachim
Tuesday		9.15am		
Wednesday			10.00am	
Thursday		9.15am		
Friday		9.15am	10.00am	
Saturday	5.00pm	6.00pm	5.00pm	
Sunday	10.00am 5.30pm	9.00am 11.00am	10.30am	8.00am

Parishioners are welcome to book for any Mass across the affiliated parishes. Please arrive at least 5 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.

Parishioners must 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 – after booking – that you are unable to attend, please cancel so that someone else can use that place. There is a strict limit on the number of people that can attend each Mass. Social distancing applies, and no one may be admitted unless wearing a mask (except people with a medical exemption) or without a prior booking.



Advent Reflection: Scripture reflection group invites you to join us for Advent reflection using resources developed by the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne to help you deepen your Advent journey, including weekly guided reflections on the Advent readings, Sunday Gospel reflections and other multimedia to help engage with Scripture from a contemporary perspective. These opportunities might deepen your sense of Advent anticipation, as you await and prepare for God's great gift of love and hope for our world: Jesus. Held on Sunday morning @11.00am via Zoom.

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 or www.pariahofstanneandstbede.org.au and follow the prompts.

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 for many years. So the North Balwyn Inter Church Council will bring the carols to you using technology. Please log onto - www.carolsnorthbalwyn.org.au – to watch and join in the singing of the carols this year. They will continue to be available "on demand" throughout December.