



WELCOME TO ST MARYS PARISH

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Office Hours: Mondays and Fridays: 9.30am —3:30pm

The Living Word

Second Sunday of Advent, Year A

7 December 2025

First Reading Is 11:1-10

He judges the poor with justice.

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 Rom 15:4-9

Christ, the hope of all people.

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 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 Mt 3:1-12

Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.

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.'



Reflection by Greg Sunter

When John the Baptist performed baptism it was for the forgiveness of sin. The baptism he gave was a mark of the desire to enter into a new life of right action. It was not a baptism of initiation into community that is the case today. John had two key words that he is recorded as preaching: repent and prepare. His call for repentance was a call to turn away from sin; a call to have a change of heart; a call to turn one's life around and make a fresh start. His call for preparation is in the long line of prophets that includes the great prophet Isaiah from whom we take today's first reading. All of the prophets urged the people towards hope in the future. Isaiah and others spoke specifically of a person – a Messiah – who would bring that hope to reality. But the tradition demanded a readiness for the Messiah and that was the call to preparation that John the Baptist echoed at the beginning of the public life of Jesus.

John's taunting of the Pharisees and Sadducees is an indication of this need for preparation and readiness. He accuses them of being too confident of their own rightness. He demands proof from them of their honest repentance: 'but if you are repentant, produce the appropriate fruit'. Rather, he suspects that they think that salvation is assured for them by virtue of being a Jew; a son of Abraham. He warns them that an axe hangs poised to cut down any part of the Jewish tradition that is failing to produce good fruit. This is a theme that is picked up later by Jesus himself; you can't be complacent about your own position, you have to welcome the new truth revealed by Jesus and give yourself wholeheartedly to God.

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Second Sunday of Advent – A

Let's reflect and learn.



Readings

Is 11:1-10; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17; Rom 15:4-9; Matt 3:1-12

Integral to the season of Advent is the person and ministry of John the Baptist. He was, in every way, a strange character. His clothing was made of animal hair. He ate locusts and wild honey for breakfast, lunch, and dinner. He spent much of his time in the wilderness, far from human company. When he came to town—that is, to where people lived—it was usually to scream at the top of his lungs, calling everyone to repentance in preparation for the coming of the Messiah.

No one was spared. He challenged the soldiers and the tax collectors. He called out the Pharisees and the Sadducees. Not even the commoners were exempt. While many of them were pious, some were not. And none were free from sin. John the Baptist was intolerant of sin and even less patient with hypocrites. His invitation to everyone was simple: produce fruits as evidence of righteousness.

We appreciate John the Baptist better when we understand his mission in relation to the ministry of the promised Messiah, whose coming he dedicated his entire life to heralding. John knew what the coming of the Messiah meant for his people, who at that time were languishing under an oppressive Roman regime. He was deeply concerned about the pervasiveness of injustice in the land, especially the suffering of the poor—those at the receiving end of military brutality, extortion, and all other forms of dehumanization. He was saddened that so many of his people had abandoned the path of righteousness and had succumbed to despair. Above all, he understood the urgency of his mission. He was preparing the way for the Messiah, the only true king of justice and prince of peace.

In this season of Advent, the church presents John the Baptist to us as a model. John teaches us that waiting for the coming of Christ is not merely a joyful expectation—it is also careful preparation. It requires a commitment to making the world more just for everyone. It involves fearlessly challenging the structures of sin and oppression. Often, it means standing courageously against abusive power, protesting if necessary. Most importantly, it demands that our lives, at every moment, embody the fullness of the gospel of Christ, especially its emphasis on love, justice, mercy, and peace.

John the Baptist's total commitment to his mission as the herald of the Messiah is therefore very instructive. Pope Francis reminds us, in his 2013 apostolic exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium* (The Joy of the Gospel) that, through our baptism, God has called us all to be missionary disciples. This means that, like John the Baptist, everything about us must point to the Christian message. It is not enough to proclaim the gospel with our lips; we must live it.

As in John the Baptist's time, our world today faces a myriad of challenges. Many parts of the world are experiencing violent crises: Nigeria, Sudan, Ukraine, Israel-Palestine. Numerous people continue to live under repressive regimes and inhuman conditions. We must never forget that we are the hands, feet, and voice of Jesus to a world desperately in need of peace, justice, and mercy.

The good news is not just the imminence of justice and peace, but that it is through our lives and ministry that the justice and peace of God will flourish.

William Orbih, Ph.D.

ST MARY'S PARISH MOTTO

**"Reaching out to each other
- growing together in love"**

St Mary's Mooroopna acknowledge the Yorta Yorta Nation and the Aboriginal people who have walked this land for thousands of years

WEEKEND MASS TIMES

Saturday Vigil 6.30pm

Sunday 10.30am

RECONCILIATION

10:30am to 11:15am Saturday

WEEKDAY MASS TIMES

Mon 8/12	No mass	
Tues 9/12	Holy hour	5pm
Tues 9/12	Mass	6pm
Wed 10/12	Mass	6pm
Thurs 11/12	Mass	6pm
Fri 12/12	Mass	10am

EASY WORSHIP

**Sat 6 Dec: Sarah
Sun 7 Dec: Liz Donnelly**

**Sat 13 Dec: Imelda
Sun 14 Dec: AM Carroll**

SAVE THE DATE

**The next Baptism Formation Meeting is on
Tuesday 10 February 2026 from
7pm in the Church**



**\$11— Available in the
St Mary's Narthex**

**COLUMBAN
ART CALENDAR**

Welcome to the Second Sunday of Advent



On the second Sunday in Advent
the "Peace" candle is lit

The Peace Candle

Lord God, may the light of this wreath be a sign of peace and tolerance to all people, who prepare for your coming. Let the truth of your Word lead us all toward your kingdom, for which we long. We ask it in the name of the one born in Bethlehem, Jesus our Lord. Amen.

MEN'S GROUP

Well another year of Men's group has come to this, Our Christmas Breakup Breakfast. On Saturday the 13th of Dec at 7.30am in the St Brendan's Parish center, we will close the men's group for 2025. You are invited to join us, if possible, can you bring along some Christmas food that has some special meaning for you. As we look back, we will share some of the highlights, challenges, and Joys of 2025. Please come and join us, if you have a question ph Anthony 58212633 Tues or Thurs.

Sacrament of Confirmation Candidates 7 December 2025

We look forward to
Cristina and Bella's
Confirmation at Mass this Sunday
7 December 2025.



St Mary's Mooroopna Christmas Mass Times

Christmas Eve - Wednesday 24 December

6:30pm - Carols in the Church

7pm - Mass in the Church

Christmas Day - Thursday 25 December

10:30am - Mass in the Church

ST. BRENDAN'S PARISH
INVITES YOU TO COME
AND JOIN OUR

Misa De Gallo

A CHRISTMAS
NOVENA MASS

16-24 DECEMBER 2025
@6:00AM

"Come Lord Jesus, come!"

Fr Ronald led the final Mass for the school year, held in the Marian Centre on Friday, 5 December. It was a very meaningful celebration, enriched by beautiful singing and prayer. It was wonderful to see such strong participation from a wide range of students. Congratulations to Elaine, AM Carroll and to all the staff and students involved.

To conclude the Mass, the Prep students formed a guard of honour to farewell the Grade 6 students—a lovely and thoughtful way to recognise them.



Australian Catholic Youth Festival 2025 took place this week, from 30 November to 2 December. The Sandhurst pilgrims joined more than 6,000 young people from across Australia in celebration and faith-filled encounter. Pictured are pilgrims from Notre Dame College together with Fr Rob Galea and our very own Fr Adi.





Readings
for
this week:

Isaiah 11:1-10
Romans 15:4-9
Matthew 3:1-12

Readings
for
next week:

Isaiah 35:1-6,10
James 5:7-10
Matthew 11:2-11

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Mooroopna Market
Ferrari Park
Last Sunday of each Month
9am to 2pm



MERRITT
FUNERAL SERVICES

PH (24HRS): 03 5825 1651

YOUR PRAYERS ARE ASKED FOR

Sick List: Graeme Weir, Cherie Mammone, Jim McIntyre, Dennis Corboy, Barry Monaghan, Pat Hicks, John Raleigh, Josie Anderson, Rosemary Haig, Jill Taylor (White), Kellie Seymour, Robert Rocca, Rosanna Scarcella, Melissa Scali, Wendy Sinclair, Carolyn Purcell, Maria Nugent, Karen Murphy (Mavis & Kevin's daughter in law), Kath Treacy, Leo Pye

Recently Deceased:

Anniversaries:

ALTAR HELPERS Sat 6 Dec: Liz Donnelly

Sat 13 Dec: not required

BINGO 13 Dec: Maree Williams, Debbie Dunkley, Chris Hogarty, Miriam Hogarty, Emma Difiede

6th & 7th Dec	COMMENTOR	READER	SPECIAL MINISTER	OFFERTORY
6:30 pm	Margaret Campbell	Millicent Raymond	Rob O'Meara	Raymond Family
10.30 am	Fiona Dowling	Inez Raleigh	Elaine Vertriest	Leo & Brenda Pye
13th & 14th Dec				
6:30 pm	Checca Richards	Cathie McMaster	Miriam Hogarty	Valoia Family
10.30 am	Helen Betson	Valoia Family	Maree Williams	Michael & Kaye Gaffy