


PREPARE A WAY

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT



Reflection and Prayer for Advent 2022 with Sunday readings and the Sandhurst Mission and Pastoral Council Preparation and Consultation Plan 2022-2023.

SIGN OF THE CROSS.

Come, Lord Jesus! Rev. 22:20

FROM THE READINGS _____

First Reading: 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 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 an 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.

Isaiah 11:1-10

Gospel:

A voice cries in the wilderness:

“Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight.”

Matthew 3:3

Prayer and Reflection I

- **Read** the scripture passages aloud or silently.
- **Reflect and pray**, stopping to ponder any ‘stand out’ words or phrases. 10 mins
- **Respond** 10-15 mins

Individuals: Write or sit quietly with your reflections.

Groups: Share your responses and listen to others (2-3 mins each).

- o What stands out for you?
- o What do you want to take with you?

FROM THE SANDHURST MISSION AND PASTORAL COUNCIL PREPARATION AND CONSULTATION PLAN 2022 - 2023

- **A process of preparation and consultation (July–December 2022)**

The primary objective of the recent preparation and consultation has been to make progress toward the formulation and establishment of a Diocesan Pastoral Council, to be known as the Sandhurst Mission and Pastoral Council (SMPC). The process builds on the significant work already undertaken via the Review of the Strategic, Consultative and Administrative Structures of the Diocese, as described in the Go Forth Report, December 2020, the Listening and Dialogue Phase of the 5th Plenary Council of Australia and the Diocesan Consultation for the 19th Ordinary Synod of Bishops on Synodality. The process of preparation and consultation has been intended to empower the people of God and enhance the sense of co-responsibility and synodality across the Diocese and to encourage expressions of interest in becoming a member of the SMPC. Feedback from this process will inform the Statutes of the SMPC.

SMPC page 8.

- **How will the preparation and consultation work?** Preparation and consultation meetings for groups across the Diocese are being facilitated by the Mission and Pastoral Life Team. The preparation and consultation meetings provide information about what the SMPC is and why it is important for our Diocese. The meeting process included opportunities to ask questions and provide feedback to the Bishop. A record of the collective questions and feedback of each group are being kept and processed by the facilitators with copies provided for each group. De-identified collective feedback and questions are being provided to the Bishop and will help inform the Statutes of the SMPC.

SMPC page 9-12.

Prayer and Reflection II

- **Read** the paragraphs from the SMPC Preparation and Consultation Plan, aloud or silently.
- **Reflect and pray**, considering
 - o What stands out for you?
 - o Any Advent scripture insights that shine additional light on these words.
 - o Ways in which your insights may relate to
 - a) your parish
 - b) our Diocese?
- **Express a hope for the future.**



PRAYER

FOR THE SANDHURST MISSION AND PASTORAL COUNCIL

In this time of Advent, we turn to Mary,
our Mother of Good Counsel
and patroness of our Diocese,
as we seek to become a more missionary and pastoral Church:
people of faith, hope and love for our world.

May we be led
by the same wisdom and courage sent by the Holy Spirit
to guide her along unfamiliar paths
and through challenging decisions.
We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Our Lady of Good Counsel, pray for us. Amen.

Sandhurst Mission and Pastoral Council (SMPC) Preparation and Consultation Plan, page 6.



Prepared for Advent Year A 2022. Catholic Diocese of Sandhurst, PO Box 201 Bendigo, Vic, 3552 Email: adultfaith@sandhurst.catholic.org.au **Acknowledgements:** Go to: www.sandhurst.catholic.org.au/ Click on banner 'A Year of Preparation and Consultation for a Sandhurst Mission and Pastoral Council', scroll down for prayer card and 'Preparation and Consultation Plan'. For SMPC updates and more diocesan news register to receive the Sandhurst eNews: www.sandhurst.catholic.org.au OR access digital code.

