



Gospel Matthew 11:2-11

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Are you the one who is to come, or must we wait for someone else?

John in his prison had heard what Christ was doing and he sent his disciples to ask him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or have we got to wait for someone else?' Jesus answered, 'Go back and tell John what you hear and see; the blind see again, and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised to life and the Good News is proclaimed to the poor; and happy is the man who does not lose faith in me.'

As the messengers were leaving, Jesus began to talk to the people about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swaying in the breeze? No? Then what did you go out to see? A man wearing fine clothes? Oh no, those who wear fine clothes are to be found in palaces. Then what did you go out for? To see a prophet? Yes, I tell you, and much more than a prophet: he is the one of whom scripture says: Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way before you. I tell you solemnly, of all the children born of women, a greater than John the Baptist has never been seen; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he is.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

Reflection by Greg Sunter

Why would John the Baptist send messengers to question Jesus? We recall from last week's gospel passage that John had a somewhat 'fire and brimstone' perception of what Jesus would be like. Perhaps as he sat in his prison cell John began to wonder whether Jesus was indeed the Messiah that John believed him to be. Perhaps the question was not for himself but rather for his disciples that he sent to Jesus. Given the answer that Jesus provided them, perhaps John's intention was for the disciples to recognise that Jesus was in fact the one that John had proclaimed and that the disciples should switch their allegiance to Jesus. John probably guessed that he would not be leaving that prison alive and may have been leading his disciples to the next step in their discipleship by having them go and scrutinise Jesus.

The indirect answer that Jesus provides to the query would have not sounded like such a roundabout response as it does to us. The picture Jesus describes of the blind seeing, the lame walking, lepers cleansed, and the deaf hearing would have been very familiar to those who were listening and the first audience of this gospel. These were signs of the coming of the Messiah that had been foretold by the prophets. In his answer, Jesus effectively says, 'Well, all the things that are supposed to happen when the Messiah comes are happening now with me. There's your answer!'

The reading continues to build on the Advent themes of anticipation, preparedness and hope. As we draw closer to the celebration of the Nativity, in this reading is confirmation that our hope is not misplaced. Today's readings emphasise the joy that lies in the anticipation and expectation of what is

coming.

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ST MARTIN DE PORRES

Catholic Parish

Avondale Heights

Today's Celebration is on pages:

Old Missal: 10 New Missal: 110



3rd Sunday of Advent, Year A

14 December 2025

First Reading Isaiah 35:1-6, 10

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

God himself will come and save us.

Let the wilderness and the dry-lands exult,
let the wasteland rejoice and bloom,
let it bring forth flowers like the jonquil,
let it rejoice and sing for joy.

The glory of Lebanon is bestowed on it,
the splendour of Carmel and Sharon;
they shall see the glory of the Lord,
the splendour of our God.

Strengthen all weary hands,
steady all trembling knees
and say to all faint hearts,
'Courage! Do not be afraid.

'Look, your God is coming,
vengeance is coming,
the retribution of God;
he is coming to save you.'

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
the ears of the deaf unsealed,
then the lame shall leap like a deer
and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy,
for those the Lord has ransomed shall return.
They will come to Zion shouting for joy,
everlasting joy on their faces;
joy and gladness will go with them
and sorrow and lament be ended.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 145:6-10. R. see Is 35:4

(R.) Lord, come and save us.

1. It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever,
who is just to those who are oppressed.
It is he who gives bread to the hungry,
the Lord, who sets prisoners free. (R.)

2. It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind,
who raises up those who are bowed down,
the Lord, who protects the stranger
and upholds the widow and orphan. (R.)

3. It is the Lord who loves the just
but thwarts the path of the wicked.
The Lord will reign for ever,
Zion's God, from age to age. (R.)

Second Reading James 5:7-10

A reading from the letter of St James

You also must be patient; do not lose heart, the Lord's coming will be soon.

Be patient, brothers, until the Lord's coming. Think of a farmer: how patiently he waits for the precious fruit of the ground until it has had the autumn rains and the spring rains! You too have to be patient; do not lose heart, because the Lord's coming will be soon. Do not make complaints against one another, brothers, so as not to be brought to judgement yourselves; the Judge is already to be seen waiting at the gates. For your example, brothers, in submitting with patience, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

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!

St Martin de Porres Parish

158 Military Rd, Avondale Heights Vic 3034

🌐 www.melbocatholic.org/avondaleheights

Parish Priest: Fr. Paul Tru

Secretaries: Lee Tran: Wednesday - Friday
Charles Meneze: Tuesday

New Office Hours: Closed Monday

10am - 3pm Tuesday - Friday

Pastoral Assoc: Sr. Cres Villas, asjm
Sr. Connie Mamo, asjm (Vol)

Phone: 9337 6016

E-mail: avondaleheights@cam.org.au

Weekend Masses

Saturday Vigil 6:00pm

Sunday 8:00am & 9:30am

Vietnamese 11:00am

Weekday Masses

Tuesday to Friday 9:15am

Benediction Wednesday after Mass

Reconciliation Wednesday 10.00am
Saturday 5:30pm

St Martin de Porres School

Principal: Stefanie Harvey

Secretaries: Mary Carmuciano
Maria Aloe

Phone: 9331 9000

E-mail:

principal@smavondaleheights.catholic.edu.au

🌐 www.smavondaleheights.catholic.edu.au

The Augustinian Sisters

Convent: 2 Venice Court,
Avondale Heights

Phone: 9337 4595

E-mail: sisaugustinian@gmail.com

Website: www.asimoz.org

Safeguarding is Everyone's Responsibility.

The Parish of St Martin de Porres and the Archdiocese of Melbourne are committed to the care, wellbeing and protection of children, young people and vulnerable people in our community. Child protection and the dignity of every person is the responsibility of everyone.

IN OUR PRAYERS

Sick:

Vince Salemi; Peter Falzon; Giovanni; Robyn; Monika Marland; Edmund Boileau; Mellisa; Brady Dizon; John Burns; Alex Mather; Hazel; Joseph Nguyen Ngoc Thi; Claudia & Thomas; Maria Nguyen Lam Quynh; Andreu & Marita; Emily & Grace; Nancy Green; Adamo; Rose.

Recently Deceased:

Rosa Gangemi; Rocco Di Martino; Medelita Tan; Carmela Russo; Rosaria Cavallaro; Rommel Dizon; Antonia Serrano; Cassandra Galati; Chloe Gomez; Giovanna Montalto; Renzo Lanini.

Anniversaries & Remembrances:

Antonino, Tony & Amalia Gangemi; Victor Degabriele; Dominico Nguyen Tan Xuân; Dominico & Maria Nguyen; Phero & Maria Dau; Maria Vũ Thi Dau; Phero Dinh Thanh Tuan; Catarina, Anna, Gioan Baotixita & Maria; Dominic Cumbo; Joseph & Consiglia Grima; Emmanuel, Teresa & Menu Sammut; Francis & Bernarda Grima; John & Tonina Darmanin; Emmanuel & Nazzarena Farrugia; Carmelo & Rita De Bono; Joseph Apap; Victor Micallef; Charlie Sciberras; Charlie Galea.

Parish Support Programme:

Pledge: \$2,588 Received: \$1,967

Shortfall: \$621 Loose: \$1,109

Presbytery: \$1,344

Contributing to the Collections

You may wish to use the QR code if you have left your cash at home. Thank you for your generosity.



Devotion to Divine Mercy

Mondays: 2.30pm Rosary
3pm Divine Mercy Chaplet



CELEBRATION THIS WEEKEND

Baptisms: Milana Grace Artusa
Michael Emmanuel Artusa



Christmas Activities



Individual Reconciliation

(with many Priests)

Monday 15th December 7pm

Vietnamese; English; Italian - Fr Paul

Tuesday 16th December 7pm

English; (Maltese; Italian-Fr Paul, Fr Buhagiar)

Christmas Masses

Christmas Eve - Wednesday 24th December

Family Mass 6:00pm

Vietnamese Mass 9:00pm

Carols & Midnight Mass 11:30pm

Christmas Day - Thursday 25th December

English 8:00am & 9:30am

Vietnamese 11:00am



Advent Prayer Sessions with

Sr Connie & Sr Mayla

Wednesdays 10am in the
Pastoral Centre. Everyone welcome.

Christmas Rosters

Are in the foyer of the church – Please indicate where you can help out at Masses.

Delivery of Christmas Cards

Please take a bundle and deliver to streets listed in the letter.

Christmas Items Available in the Foyer

Majellan Christmas cards 10 pk

2026 Columban Calendars

\$10 each available after Mass

Please bring correct money. Thank you.

The Augustinian Sisters Latest Newsletter

Read about Sr Lorraine's journey to the Philippines and Vietnam.

<https://www.asimoz.org/mission-news-november-2025.html>



Advent Prayer of Praise

O redeemer, creator of the stars,
you reign in everlasting light.
Your people look to you in hope
for your promise is our reward.

Come, Lord Jesus, come.

You have set your people free
for you came among us
and redeemed your people.

We watch and wait for your coming again
when all will be judged in fairness and truth.

Come, Lord Jesus, come.

Save us by your everlasting power
hear your servants when we call.

Light our lamps, open our eyes,
make us ready to meet you face to face.

Come, Lord Jesus, come.

No longer a people in darkness,
your glory reaches to the ends of the earth.

Let the paths be straight
and the mountains laid low.
Exult in the Lord, all you just.

Come, Lord Jesus, come.

Amen.

Liturgy Help



St Vincent de Paul Society
Christmas Appeal *good works*

Gifts for the needy under the Christmas Tree

Thank you to everyone who
responded with generosity.
Please place your gifts
under the tree by
Wednesday 17th December.



NEW PARISHIONERS

We welcome you and ask that you make
yourself known to us by completing the New
Parishioners Form in Documents and Forms
under Recommended Links on our website
and return it to the Parish Office. Thank you.