

GOSPEL

Mt 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.

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Breaking Open the Word

THE ONE WHO IS TO COME

Today's Gospel focus continues with John the Baptist, introduced to us last Sunday. From prison he sends his followers to Jesus to find out if he is the 'one who is to come or have we to wait for someone else?' This question picks up an early memory that some thought John might have been the Messiah. Jesus explicates his Messianic credentials to John's enquirers: the blind see, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear and the dead raised to life. In other words, Jesus affirms that he is the one who brings restoration, community and healing. Jesus' self-identification further affirms the blessedness of those who remain faithful to him.

In the biblical world, 'faith' was another way of affirming fidelity and commitment to another. This leads Jesus to attest, in this spirit of fidelity and commitment, John's prophetic mission of desert asceticism and preparation for the coming of the Messiah. As we come into these final days before Christmas, our role becomes like John: we align ourselves in fidelity and faith to the one who is to be born, who will bring healing and hope to our world that struggles to know this.

But we also hear Jesus' affirming words – the final sentence in today's Gospel passage addressed to us. Despite John's greatness as the one who prepares for the coming of Jesus, 'yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he'. The Gospel's audience, including us, are affirmed. We have unique status in the eyes of God. This divine promise accompanies us in the days ahead.

Fr Michael Trainor

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT / A

FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Isa 35:1-6, 10

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 in their faces; joy and gladness will go with them and sorrow and lament be ended.

■ The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 145:6-10. R. cf. Isa 35:4

R. Lord, come and save us. (or Alleluia!)

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.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Isa 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 PETER CHANEL CATHOLIC PARISH

Under the Pastoral Care of the Claretian Missionaries

848 Ballarat Road, Deer Park 3023

Parish Priest: Fr. Felimon Libot, CMF

Asst. Priests: Fr. John Pham, CMF; Fr. Luis F. Rev, CMF

Parish Secretary - Rosemarie Mendoza

Bookkeeper - Rosa Milan

Tel: 93633132 Email : deerpark@cam.org.au

Website: www.cam.org.au/deerpark

Office Hours: Tuesday - Friday 9:00am - 3:00pm



ADORATION CHAPEL
"The Master is here and wants to see you." John 11:28

Adorers are needed for these hours:

Tuesday: 3am, 4am, 11pm

Wednesday: 4pm

Saturday: 4pm

Contact: Lucy Sgro 0424056823

DEATH REMEMBRANCE: Joseph Grima, Paul Sulfaro, Ronnie Zammit, Proceso Batin, Francis Savie & Anna, Silverio Baez, Maria Tedesco, Emanuel Attard, Roko, & Anica Koprivanac, Stephen Stolnik, Fr Miguel Shadbolt, Fr John O'Reilly, Jose Samuel Martinez, Concepcion Ramiro Dela Cruz, Celina Coppari de Rodriguez, Teresa Jacob, Peral Callanan, George Calleja, Hetty Hope, Terry Brightton, Mr & Mrs Gotta Cecilia & John, Jose N.J., Nelly Reyes del Rosario, Ernesto Monteleagre Jr, Lucrecia & Mateo Denubo, Edna Celestino, Edelwina Serrano, Frank Peronace, George, Maria & Charlie Damiana, Victorino Go Jr, Susan Go, Paul D'Souza, Peter D'Souza, Nancy Valles, Peter Cao Van, Matta Nguyen Thi Loan, Salvatore Mazzarella, Angelo Debrincat, Ali Souls in Purgatory

RECENT DEATH: Tricia Divinagracia

SPECIAL INTENTION: Edna & Jona Rose dela Rosa, Sergio Ledesma, Pauline

HEALING: Pauline Gatt, Tony&Agatha Saliba, Arlyn, Charlie&Helen Aquilina, Marie E, Gauci family, Lan Ing Sin, Mu Tjiung Sing, Nick Manugas, Jennifer Sorla, Luci Li, Amador Ramiro, Anna, Kathleen

THANKSGIVING: Rukmal, Baby Kaylan, Josie Kelly, Susan, Carina, Dulce, Arturo Gubatanga, Annabelle Hugan, Angelicu Junior Deverallalan, Josef-Concel, Legion of Mary Members of SPC, Maria Sulfaro & family, Ephraim Sunny, Nick & Grace San Lorenzo, John Juhasz

THIS WEEK: 14 December 2025 - Third Sunday of Advent - A

	7:00pm	7:00am	8:30am	10:00am	12:00pm	6:00pm
Commentator	Carina F	Richelle M	Dulce T	Roger S J	Tami M	Gloria T
1st Reader	Flora S	RJ Baculo	Kumudu M	Anna C	Arlene P	Marvin D
2nd Reader	Jennifer S	Glenda A	Kathleen T	Marilou S J	Kirk D G R	Evelyn N
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion	Delia J George E Antonietta C Paul M	Richelle M Stefan P	Roland D Ferdinand T Rukmal M Hilda D S	Teo C Don C Cathryn D Froilan M	Jacqueline R Ian H Kirk D G R Emman C	Maria Sulfaro Joe C Michael D Vernon A
Altar Servers	George E	Tony Cilia	Adrian D A	Henry Fawaz	Raphael P Rev S Arielle Mary Ann	Jericho Jude Jherizelle
Choirs	Eucharistic Choir	AHFI	Holy Redeemer	MWF with UHM Sisters	Lea Lapid	CFCA

NEXT WEEK 21 December 2025 - Fourth Sunday of Advent - A

	7:00pm	7:00am	8:30am	10:00am	12:00pm	6:00pm
Commentator	Delia J	RJ Baculo	Perly C	Julie Ann M	Flora S	Vernon A
1st Reader	R Dantas	Richelle M	Wynna D	Nonie G	Diana T	Shereen Q
2nd Reader	R Rego	Susan C	Gynn D	Greah P	Kirk D G R	Mel O
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion	George E Grace S L Antonietta C	Richelle M	Cedric B Joyce B Roland D Teo C	Maria Mizzi Lidia L Nelissa D Nonie G	Jacqueline R Tami M Emman C	Joe C Gloria T Oliver T Ric M
Altar Servers	George E	Tony Cilia	Adrian D A	Henry	Raphael P Rev S Arielle Mary Ann	Jericho Jude Jherizelle
Choirs	Excelsis Choir	AHFI	MWF with UHM Sisters	Emmaus	Lea Lapid	Exmnoz

9-Day Dawn Mass. First day of 9-Day dawn mass novena will be on Tuesday, 16 December at **5:00 AM**
President: Bishop Martin Ashe, DD
NO 7AM mass from 16 December.
7am mass will resume on 26 December

Traditional Breakfast. We will have our traditional breakfast after the mass and we still welcome food sponsors. Please contact the Parish office 03 93633132 or Arlyn Lim 0430768008. Thank you.

Offertory. We warmly invite families to take part in the offertory procession during our 9-day Dawn Masses novena. This is a beautiful way to offer your prayers, intentions and thanksgiving as you bring forward the gifts. If your family would like to participate on one of the mornings please contact the Parish office 03 93633132 or Arlyn Lim 0430768008. Thank you and may the Lord bless you and your family.

EFTPOS facility available in the foyer the church for those who wish to generously donate to the church. We thank you for your generosity and support. May God bless you and your family.

NO 7pm Mass on Monday,
15 December due to SPC Primary School Graduation mass.

Christmas Mass Times:

24 December

8:30am; 12:00 pm

7:00pm Mass for the Family
10:00pm

12:00 MN Christmas Eve mass
Christmas Carol at 11:30pm

25 December - Christmas Day
8:30am; 10:00am; 12:00pm; 7pm

31 December

8:30am; 12:00pm; 7:00pm
10:00pm

12:00 MN- New Year's Eve Mass

1 January 2026 - New Year's Day
8:30am; 10:00am; 12pm & 7pm

SPC Sunday School & SPC Youth
Group meetings will resume next year in Term 1. Thank you.

Timorese Mass. Saturday, 20 December

Piety Store. Christmas cards, Calendars, Bible Diaries 2026 now available at the Piety store.

Next Week 21 December 2025
Fourth Sunday of Advent - A

A VOCATION VIEW

"As your models in suffering hardships and in patience, friend, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord." (James 5:10) A vocation is responding to the call of God