



SUNDAY 6TH DECEMBER, 2025.

2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR A

Reflection on the Gospel - Matthew 3:1-12

Desertification of earth is becoming the norm in these troubled times of ours and wilderness or desert features powerfully in today's Gospel reading. The desert is the biblical place of encounter with God, the place of beginnings and of testing.

The voice of John the Baptizer is heard in the Judean desert. His food and clothing are desert-derived. John is identified as the one of whom Isaiah spoke, the voice crying out in the wilderness, "Prepare the way...." Ecologically, the Isaian image is confronting: preparing the way involves major earthworks that reconfigure the landscape, levelling the mountains and filling the valleys to create straight paths.

Yet the way is never straight and the metaphor must not be literalised. John knows this. The preparation he calls for is ongoing metanoia or reevaluating: keep on turning your lives around, keep on expanding your horizons, for the kingdom of the heavens is "close at hand". The kingdom is both present and yet still approaching: the verb used here, *ēngiken*, allows for this ambiguity.

The First Reading from Isaiah (11:1-10) provides content to the notion of kingdom or *basileia*: John is announcing the advent of God's long awaited empire of justice and right relationship. He offers a baptism of repentance (*metanoia*). In other words, John's baptism presupposes a commitment to a renewed way of life.

His ministry is hugely effective. It attracts "people of Jerusalem, all Judea and the region along the Jordan River." The arrival of two groups of religious authorities prompts a fierce response: "you brood of vipers". John has no patience with those who use their privileged positions to seek their own advantage. He challenges them with the striking image of the "more powerful one who will baptise

with the Holy Spirit and fire" and will sort out those who refuse to turn their lives around (the chaff) from those who listen to the call for metanoia (the wheat). The latter are "gathered in" while the former are burned "in a fire that never goes out".

Fire is a multi-faceted image in the biblical record. Here it is used metaphorically for the judgment on the wicked. Fire, as we well know in this dry land, is a challenging symbol: it is both friend and foe. In the first-century Manual of Discipline from the Qumran community by the Dead Sea, water, refining by fire, and "a holy Spirit" are listed together as the instruments of God's saving and purifying action.

John, who may have been a member of the Qumran community, presents his own role as preparatory to that of Jesus, the Spirit-filled, powerful and enduring agent of God's refining and purifying work in the world. We recognise our own ongoing need for a "baptism" with the Holy Spirit and fire. We prepare the way by constantly expanding our vision and turning our lives around in the direction of God's reign of compassionate care.

By Sr. Veronica Lawson, RSM

DEATHS & ANNIVERSARIES

We pray for those who have died recently.
We also pray for all whose anniversaries
occur at this time.
May they rest in peace.

ADVENT MEDITATION SHEETS

The 2nd week of Advent meditation sheets are available for Parishioners to take home for use individually or as a family group.

ADVENT WREATH

SECOND CANDLE ----THE CANDLE OF PEACE

Today we light two purple candles.



Today, as we gather on the second Sunday of Advent, we light the second of the candles, remembering how God's love was manifested to the People of Israel through the law and the prophets.

Response: Come, Lord Jesus

First Reading: Isaiah 11:1-10

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

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.

The Word of the Lord. (R.) Thanks be to God.

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: Romans 15:4-9

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans
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.

The Word of the Lord. (R.) Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation: Luke 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: Matthew 3:1-12

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew
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.'

**The Gospel of the Lord.
(R.) Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ**

THE APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God,
the Father Almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried;
He descended into hell;
on the third day He rose again from the dead;
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of God
the Father Almighty;
from there He will come to judge the living
and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Holy Catholic Church,
the communion of Saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and life everlasting. Amen.**

Communion Antiphon: Bar 5:5; 4:36

Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the heights, and behold the joy which comes to you from God.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL - GIVING TREE

A Giving Tree is set up in the foyer with name tags containing the names of items suitable for including in the hampers. Parishioners are invited to buy some extra Christmas items when shopping for including in the hampers, e.g. Custard, puddings, Christmas cakes, mince tarts, short breads, chocolates/lollies/ soft drinks. Bring your donations to church and place them under the tree by the weekend of 13th & 14th December. The hampers will be prepared on 17th December. We are very grateful for your support.

CHRISTMAS CAROLS

ST. AUGUSTINE'S CHURCH YARRAVILLE

Saturday 20th December 2025

Starting 6pm

Keep the date free

Please bring a plate for supper afterwards

COLUMBAN CALENDARS

Copies of the 2026 Columban Art Calendar are available for sale at \$10 each, at the back of the church after Mass. By buying a calendar from Columbans, you help to support their missionary work and it can help you keep track of important feast days in the church year.

CONGRATULATIONS

Next Saturday, 13th December, one of our former parishioners, Anthony Vassallo will be ordained a Permanent Deacon by Archbishop Shane MacKinley for the Archdiocese of Brisbane. Anthony and his wife, Sharon, joined our Parish community in Yarraville and Kingsville for a little over a year while Anthony transferred to Melbourne for work. We wish Anthony every blessing as he embarks on this new phase of his ministry in the Church. I will be attending the Ordination on Saturday morning so **there will be no Saturday morning Mass at Corpus Christi**. Thank you for your understanding. Fr Werner.

HUMAN RIGHTS DAY: Wednesday 10 Dec 2025

The theme for 2025 is, "Human Rights: Our Everyday Essentials," highlighting how human rights are fundamental to daily life, often in ways that are not always noticed. This campaign aims to re-engage people by showing that human rights are essential for a secure and dignified life.

PARISH PRIEST:

Rev. Fr. Werner Utri

PARISH SECRETARY: Emilia Balkan**PHONE:** 0401 158 113;

(03) 9314 7710

EMAIL: yarraville@cam.org.au**ST. AUGUSTINE'S OFFICE HOURS:**

Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Fridays

9.30am till 2.30pm

PARISH WEBSITE:www.melbcatholic.org/yarraville**SAFEGUARDING:** Pat Mc Laughlinpatmac766@gmail.com**PARISH CHURCHES****ST AUGUSTINE'S**

71 Somerville Road Yarraville

CORPUS CHRISTI

376 Geelong Road, Kingsville

ANNUNCIATION

4 Nolan Avenue, Brooklyn

PARISH NEWSLETTER:

To receive an Email copy of our newsletter, scan the QR code.

LITURGY TIMES**TUESDAY MASS**

St Augustine's....6.00 pm

Exposition: 5.30 –6.00pm

WEDNESDAY MASS

Corpus Christi....9.15 am

THURSDAY MASS

St Augustine's...9.15 am

FRIDAY MASS

Corpus Christi....9.15 am

SATURDAY MASS

Corpus Christi....9.30 am

SATURDAY VIGIL MASS

St Augustine's...5.00 pm

SUNDAY MASS

Annunciation.....8.00 am

St Augustine's....9.30 am

Corpus Christi..11.00 am

St Augustine's..11.30 am

(Polish)

RECONCILIATION:**SATURDAYS** after 9.30am

Mass at Corpus Christi

St. Augustine's...4.15pm

NEXT ITALIAN MASS

On hold until further notice

COLLECTIONS

THE FIRST COLLECTION supports the Priests of our Parish, the Archbishop, Priests on special duties and retired priests.

THE SECOND COLLECTION (includes envelopes), supports the running costs of the Church and pastoral initiatives.

To set up a **Direct Debit** Payment to our bank accounts for the Presbytery and the Church, use these account details.

ST. AUGUSTINE'S YARRAVILLE

St. Augustine's Yarraville Church Account:

BSB 083347 Account No. 638052213.

St. Augustine's Yarraville Presbytery A/C:

BSB 083347 Account No. 638051413

CORPUS CHRISTI KINGSVILLE &**ANNUNCIATION BROOKLYN**

Corpus Christi Kingsville Church Account:

BSB 083347 Account No. 485182315

Presbytery Account:

BSB 083347 Account No. 638051413

QR Codes for one off donations.

This QR code is unique to the Parish of St. Augustine's and gives you access to giving a donation via Credit card.



This QR code is unique to the Parish of Corpus Christi Kingsville

There are census cards at the back of the church for new subscribers wishing to use weekly envelopes. Record details and put the card on the collection plate at Mass or contact the Parish office for a set of envelopes.

SAFETY OF CHILDREN AND ALL**VULNERABLE PEOPLE**

At Yarraville, Kingsville and Brooklyn, we hold the care, safety and well-being of children and all vulnerable people as a central and fundamental responsibility of our communities. The Parish Statement of Commitment and Reporting Process are on display at the entrance of all the Churches and all Diocesan Policies are available on the website or at the parish office.

www.cam.org.au/Professional-Standards/Statements

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY - We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians who have walked upon and cared for this land for thousands of years. We acknowledge the continued deep spiritual attachment and relationship of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to this country and commit ourselves to the ongoing journey of reconciliation.

ROSTER FOR THIS WEEK(6th & 7th December)**2nd Sunday of Advent Year A****READERS:** St. Augustine's

5.00pm Kath Baker

9.30am Pina Guzzardi

Anna Messina

COUNTING.....Phillip Marques**READERS:** Corpus Christi

11.00am Natasha Fernandes

Imelda Gibson

MINISTERS: St. Augustine's

5.00pm..... Joseph De Bono

9.30am.....Gerald Bain-King

MINISTER: Corpus Christi

11.00am.....Val Taylor

ROSTER FOR NEXT WEEK(13th & 14th December)**3rd Sunday of Advent Year A****READERS:** St. Augustine's

5.00pm Nic Fusca

9.30am Agnes Hopmans

Sam Polzella

COUNTING.....Krystyna Biront**READERS:** Corpus Christi

11.00am Cass Pelino

AJ Pelino

MINISTERS: St. Augustine's

5.00pm.....Maree Ryan

9.30am.....Pina Guzzardi

MINISTER: Corpus Christi

11.00am.....Hong Nguyen

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

Many thanks for your donations of non-perishable food. Cereal, long life milk, tea, coffee, milo, soup, pasta, pasta sauce, baked beans, spaghetti, tins of tuna, tinned fruit, rice, jam, biscuits; washing powder/liquid, shampoo, soap, deodorant, toothpaste and brushes are always needed.

Mary Mackillop Spirituality Centre

St. Joseph's by the Sea Williamstown

16 Esplanade Williamstown. 3016

(03) 9397 6012. mmsm.org.au