



4 Drake St, Mornington VIC 3931
Parish Office: Tue to Fri 9am to 4pm: Ph: 5975 2200
Email: mornington@cam.org.au
Web: stmacartansparish.com.au
BSB:083 347 Account No: 547373281
Parish Priest: Rev. Fr Geoffrey McIlroy
Parish Coordinator: Tim Lambourne



Upcoming Events - here

Christmas Services
See timetable within
Children's Liturgy

Is on during 11am Mass for children aged 5-11 approx.

Children along with adult leaders, will be called up at the start of Mass and be taken to the community house and returned after approx. 20min.

Thanksgiving November:

Pledged: \$15,482

Actual: \$11,090

= 71.6%

>90% is what we need.

Thank you

Upcoming Holy Days:

- 8th Dec— The immaculate conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary: **SOLEMNITY**
MASS 9:15am here!
- 13h Dec –St Lucy, Virgin, Martyr

Youth groups

Quinns Place (Teenagers)

Every Friday 6pm-10pm

Last Quinns Place for 2025 –
17th December

Encounter Group (Primary school age)

Sunday 14th of December –Last
Encounter for 2025 –Christmas breakup

WE HOLD IN OUR PRAYERS

Pray for the sick and their Carers: Fred Verna, Cinzia Paola, Joan Watts, Michaela Gabriel, Margaret Raynor, Kath O'Malley, Pam Cahill, Helen Roberts, Phil Stokes, Audrey Tunks, Therese Simmons, Tony Beale, Rosie Trianda, Tony Hannan, David Harnett & Mary Ross



Death Anniversaries: John Atta & Laurie Drake

Recent Deaths: Rita Fordyce

Video Sunday 7th December, 9am Mass

LIVESTREAMING: <https://vimeo.com/event/5556522>

Or go to website to copy link: <http://www.melbcatholic.org/s/mornington>

ALSO: at our regular YouTube link:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCW8lyzEMe20DLyOppts0Fw/videos>

Mass Times:

- Weekdays: Tues to Saturday 9:15am
- Saturday night: 6 pm
- Sunday: 9am, 11am
- Anointing/Healing Mass: 9:15am
[1st Friday of each Month]

HOLY HOUR / ADORATION:

Wednesday's 9:45 - 10:30 and Saturday's 9:45 - 10:30 approx. (after 9:15am Mass)

RECONCILIATION:

9:45am: Wed & Saturday (after 9:15am Mass) or by appointment 59752200

YOUTH GROUPS: QUINN'S PLACE:

Year 7+ Friday's 6pm-10pm Community House & Hall

ENCOUNTER: Youth Group: Primary school age Midday-1:30pm after 11 AM mass on the 2nd & 4th Sundays of each Month in the Community House



TO DONATE TO OUR CHURCH ACCOUNT & FOR THANKSGIVING:

St Macartan's Parish BSB: 083 347 Account Number: 547 373 281

Account name: St Macartan's Catholic Church



First Reading

Isaiah 11:1-10

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

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

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

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

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.'

Communion Antiphon

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

Scriptural Context

Brood of Vipers!

The gospel of Matthew in particular casts the Pharisees in a very dim light. John's insult to them, calling them a brood of vipers, is indeed echoed by Jesus later in this gospel. In this gospel, Jesus describes the Pharisees as hypocrites and blind guides. The community for whom this gospel was written were predominantly Jewish Christians. However, at the time of writing serious cracks were appearing in the relationship between the Jewish community and the Christian sect. This gospel aligns closely with the Jewish tradition but is very critical of the inflexibility of the Pharisees.

Gospel reflection

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 readi-

ness 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.

Living the Gospel – Prepare Ye!

John the Baptist's call to 'Prepare the way of the Lord' is a summary of the purpose of the season of Advent. Every year, as we celebrate the Nativity, we celebrate once again the presence of God in our world. God became incarnate in the world through Jesus but also always was and continues to be incarnate in the world through each person. If we are to accept this reality and live it out, we need to remind ourselves this Advent to prepare the way for the Lord to be present in and through us every day of our lives.

Gospel Focus – Out of the wilderness

Time spent in the wilderness is associated with a time of preparation for undertaking a special purpose. When Moses led the people from Egypt they wandered in the wilderness for 40 years. This was a time of renewing themselves after their time in Egypt and rediscovering their covenant with God. After his baptism, Jesus retreats to the wilderness to prepare for his public ministry. It was also out of the wilderness that a lot of rebellion and unrest emerged. A desire for change and action is what comes out of the wilderness.



Pope send message of encouragement to the Youth at the ACYF (Australian Catholic Youth Festival)

By Fr Geoff

The Australian Catholic Youth Festival (ACYF) is a national gathering of Catholic young people established by the Australian Bishops more than ten years ago.

It was run over three days, in Melbourne at the Convention Centre, the Festival provided young people from all across Australia with the opportunity to come together to connect, deepen their relationship with Jesus, be empowered to live their faith in the world and experience the breadth of the Church in Australia.

I was privileged to be there on the Monday, the last day, and was stationed at the Vocation booth, which was amongst some 100 other booths, showcasing, different Religious Orders, Youth Ministries, Youth Associations, & Dioceses from around Australia.

The booths were surrounding a centre stage, where regularly throughout the day were, interviews, entertainment (singers, dancing etc.). There were food and drink marquees and chill out areas.

Over in other sections was an Expo centre, there were opportunities for the youth to receive reconciliation to attend Mass to go into a chapel for prayers etc.



At the Vocation booth, we had a basketball ring and ball for youth to challenge themselves in getting 4-10 consecutive successful shots and win prizes - Caps, pens, holy cards etc. Those who wanted to sit and chat to myself or other Priests could do so and discuss vocations and many did so.

What was encouraging to me was first of all the number of Youth - There were 1000's, yes no exaggeration. From all around Australia. All smiling, happy, enthusiastic and openly Catholic and followers of Christ. This was amazing as we sometimes don't see enough of the Youth in our Church and we can forget they are there and many do have faith.

I send a special cheerio, to the Padua Youth I met up with, the youth who remembered me from my time in other Parishes and those who I was privileged to speak to about their vocation discernment, primarily - Nathaniel & Austin.

This event was a huge success and show we need more of these types of events in Melbourne & Australia. Let us somehow, keep the ball rolling and find new ways to keep connected to the Youth, who are Our Future!

Listen to Pope Francis's message:

https://www.instagram.com/reel/DRrRkYcFShY/?utm_source=ig_web_button_share_sheet

Caritas Australia: Be a light in the darkness for families facing adversity this Christmas.

This Christmas, we are inviting Australians to “be a light in the darkness” for families who are living through the trauma of war, displacement, and poverty. The Intensity of the conflict in Ukraine has increased and more people are experiencing displacement and poverty.

But with your support, we can bring hope to these families. Our partner, Caritas Ukraine are on the ground working hard to prepare food kits, emergency shelter kits and psychosocial assistance to families facing adversity.

Donate today at <https://www.caritas.org.au/christmas-appeal/be-the-light-in-darkness/>

Cause towards sainthood advances as Pope raises Mary Glowrey to Venerable

The cause for sainthood for Australian-born doctor and missionary in India Mary Glowrey has advanced after Pope Leo XIV recognised her ‘heroic virtues’ on 21 November 2025. Venerable Mary of the Sacred Heart Glowrey, as she will now be titled, is just the second Australian, after St Mary MacKillop, to be accorded this status.

Born in the Victorian town of Birregurra in 1887, Glowrey was an experienced doctor in Melbourne hospitals and private practice when she travelled to India, aged 32, and entered religious life in Guntur, located in present-day Andhra Pradesh. She spent 37 years in service to marginalised women and children.

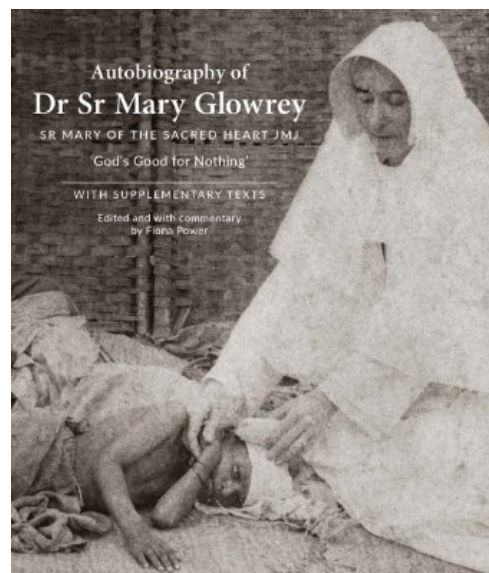
Glowrey completed her secondary and tertiary education in Melbourne through scholarships, graduating from the University of Melbourne in 1910 (MBBS) and 1919 (MD).

She joined a Dutch religious congregation in India in 1920. Known as Sr Mary of the Sacred Heart JMJ, she dedicated her life to caring for marginalised women and children in India by providing medical treatment and establishing healthcare facilities, training programs and support networks.



In 1943, Glowrey founded what is now India’s largest non-government healthcare network, the Catholic Health Association of India (CHAI).

She died in Bangalore (Bengaluru) in 1957.



St Mac's Café – December Report

As we draw to a close for 2025 and head into the Christmas season, I would like to say a BIG THANK YOU to the generous St Mac's parishioners who supported this ministry through the many weekly contributions in the way of casseroles, desserts and other food dishes. Without your continued help, we would NOT be able to continue this outreach to the many 'guests' who have passed through the doors on a Wednesday night.

Many of the guests have told us on several occasions that we were the needed listening ear, the positive meeting place, the salvation for their loneliness as well as a springboard for their participation in our community through meeting others. On occasions, we have been able to direct a number to services both within the parish and the community.

Further, I would like to thank the small group of willing volunteers who gave their time, their talents and willingness to adapt to the many and varied demands placed on them throughout the year. Without them, we would not be able to bridge this gap in our society. THANK YOU!

Peter Lynch

Catholic Mission sincerely thanks the parish community of St Macartan's for your generous and faith-filled support of this year's World Mission Day Appeal.

Your kind gift of **\$1,730.00** is more than a donation - it is a lifeline of hope. Through your compassion, mothers in Zambia will walk safer roads to give birth with dignity, and children in remote villages will take steps towards a brighter future through access to healthcare and education.

Your generosity not only strengthens local missionaries in Zambia, but also sustains the Church's vital work across more than **1,000 mission dioceses worldwide.**

In a world where many feel forgotten, your parish has reminded them they are seen, loved, and never alone. Thank you for walking with us - hand in hand, heart to heart, and mission to mission.

We look forward with joy to continuing this journey together, bringing life, faith, and hope to those on the margins.

**With deepest gratitude,
The Catholic Mission team**

Christmas Fair & Pet Blessing

GREAT SUCCESS!

Hello All

Last Saturday, St Macartan's Parish held our inaugural Christmas Fair & Pet blessing and even though, up until 9am, there was rain and storm clouds. As we began, the sun came out to greet all the pets and their owners.

It was a lovely sight to behold - Thank you Lord.

There were pony rides, stalls, food & drink, prizes, giveaways, a choir, music a helpful vet and even a special "boogie" blessing was received by all.

Many new friends were made from our local community and all who participated in it loved it and said they will return.

So I want to give a special THANKYOU to our excellent PPC (Parish Pastoral Council) who came up with this initiative.

To all the stall operators - well done to you, and I'm sure next year will be bigger and better and we want you back.

To the wonderful MPLC (Morning Peninsula Welsh Ladies Choir cohort), who came and sang away the storm clouds.

Our magnificent local Veterinarian - Dr Kelly Halls

The kind hearted Padua team for rescued Cats

etc, etc

But most of all, those who came with their Pets - What a terrific group of people you are. We want to keep you connected. So join us whenever you like.

Blessings to you all

We look forward to next year

Fr Geoff

PS - Please feel free to upload any photos or video to our Parish Dropbox:

<https://www.dropbox.com/request/RVqv2RwhJGfKMHjNb3N>



St Macartan's Parish Christmas Masses



Carols half an hour before each Christmas Mass

Wednesday 24th December Christmas Eve

- **5pm Children's Mass**

(All Children encourage to this Mass and to dress up):

[Angel/Mary/Joseph/Star/Donkey/Cow/Sheep/Camel]

- **7.30pm Christmas Eve Mass**
- **11pm Christmas Eve Mass**

Thursday 25th December Christmas Day

- **8.00am Christmas Dawn Mass**
- **10.00am Christmas Day Mass**

Friday 26th December Boxing Day

- **NO MASS**

Volunteers needed for the Christmas Masses:

Mass Coordinators, Greeters, Ushers and Collectors

Readers and Commentators, Eucharistic Ministers

Can all those wishing to volunteer for the above, please email Jody Kerrins and confirm which Mass you will be attending – jody54@westnet.com.au



Jokes of the Week



#1: Shirt over the wings: Grandma Martha was scolding her little grandson on his failure to go to church on a Sunday. "You will never get into Heaven the way you are going today," she told him. "Well, Granny, the reason that I don't go is I got a problem. I can't for the life of me figure how I'm gonna get my shirt on over those wings I'll have on my way to Heaven." "Never mind about shirts," said the grandma. "The question in your case is how are you gonna get your hat on over those horns which the bad boys get when they are taken to hell?"

#2: Baby Cheesus: I was over at the in-laws, all of us atheists or ex Christians, and at the end of a big Christmas supper we were all sitting with a huge cheese platter with coffee on the way when my 7-year old son, who had recently been to chapel with his school decided he had something to say: 'I know what the true meaning of Christmas is!' 'Christmas is all about cheeses!'

#3: A cop pulls over a carload of nuns. The cop says, "Sister, this is a 80km highway. Why are you going so slow?" The Sister replies, "Sir, I saw a lot of signs that said 41, not 80." The cop answers, "Oh, Sister, that's not the speed limit, that's the name of the highway you are on!" The Sister says, "Oh! Silly me! Thanks for letting me know. I'll be more careful." At this point, the cop looks in the backseat where the other nuns are shaking and trembling. The cop asks, "Excuse me, Sister, what's wrong with your friends back there? They are shaking something terrible." The Sister answers, "We just got off Highway 180."

St Macartan's Primary School

It is the home straight now. It has been a big year, but there is plenty more fun to be had yet!

For all the latest at St Macartan's Primary, please see the attached link.



[St Macartan's School Newsletter - Week 8 Term 4](#)

Mass Coordinators

6.00pm Alis Fisher

9.00am Clive Tucker 0421 772 563

11.00am Patricia Duryea 0418 139 599

2nd Sunday of Advent - 6/7 December 2025

6.00pm Readers Louise Renshaw, Fay Murphy
Eucharistic Mins Marlene Tesmann, Chistina Llopart
Audio Visual—Carmel McGrath

9.00am Readers Spencer Meier, Michael Kerr
Eucharistic Mins - Michael Kerr, Patricia Thomas
Audio Visual - Marino Cassmento

Live Stream—Tim Lambourne
11.00am Readers- Irene Hackett, Iris Hallinan
Eucharistic Mins- Sue Fletcher, Barb Ensil
Audio Visual—Graham Michel

Children's Liturgy - Gabriela Bartosikova & Tricia Dureya

3rd Sunday of Advent – 13/14 December 2025

6.00pm Readers: Brian Scantlebury, Adrian Mitchell
Eucharistic Mins Alis Fisher, Joyce Ward
Audio Visual: Chris Curtain

9.00am Readers Kathleen Ronchi, Don Ziino
Eucharistic Mins: John and Mary Lewis
Audio Visual: James Barrett

Live Stream: Didier LeMiere
11.00am Readers Michael Harrison, Esme Higgins
Eucharistic Mins: Evelyn Atkins, Terry Roberts
Audio Visual: Graham Michel

Children's Liturgy: Barb Ensil and Joy Andrews

Those wishing to volunteer contact Jody 045 0096 210, or via email:

jody54@westnet.com.au

THANK YOU

PARISH CONTACTS

Parish Contact Details:

- **AV & Livestreaming Technician:** Didier Le Miere: 0400 801 891
Email: Didier.lemiere31@gmail.com
- **Baptisms:** Every Saturday at 11am Contact Office: 5975 2200
- **Baptism Preparation:** Contact Fr Geoff:
- **Catholic Mission Parish Ambassador:** Jody Kerrins
jody54@westnet.com.au
- **Child, Youth and Family Counsellor:** Joanne Devota-Rando 0403 113 199
- **Finance Committee:** Frank Crea: 0417 104 041
- **Marriage & Counselling:** Charmaine Holmes: 0413 394 085
Email: charholmes59@gmail.com
- **Marriage Preparation:** Fr Geoff, Email: Geoffrey.mcilroy@cam.org.au
- **Memorial Wall:** Contact Parish Office: 5975 2200
- **Parish Pastoral Council (PPC):** Jody Kerrins (Chairperson)
Email: jody54@westnet.com.au
- **Men's Night:** Contact Kerry McInerney 5976 2155
- **OH&S:** Contact Tim Lambourne Mornington@cam.org.au
- **Safeguarding Officer:** Tim Lambourne Mornington.ChildSafety@cam.org.au
- **Spiritual Director/Pastoral Counsellor/Psychotherapist:** Angelo Campagna Ph: 0411 305 478, Website: www.angelocampagna.com.au
- **St Mac's High Spirits:** Teacher is Michael Kerr: Contact office: 5975 2200
- **St Mac's Café: Coordinator:** Peter Lynch 0402325681 or Fr Geoff 5975 2200
- **St Macartan's Gift Shop:** Trish Thomas: 0425 749 379
- **St Vincent de Paul:** Barry Murphy: 0419 225 455
- **Volunteer Application Support Officer:** Contact Parish Office: 5975 2200
- **Visitation Inquiries:** Office 5975 2200
- **Weddings contact the Office**
- **Youth Worker (Quinn's Place):** Kristina Turner,
Email: Kristina.b2906@bigpond.com
- **Youth Worker (Encounter):** Kate McInnes:
Email: morningtonparish.youth@cam.org.au
- **Schools:**
- **St Macartan's Primary School:** Ph: 5979 9200
- **Principal:** Colleen McGreal
- **Deputy:** Andrea Kershaw
- **Padua College:** Ph: 5976 0100
- **Principal:** Kelly McGurn

If you or someone you know is in immediate danger, contact the following crisis services:

Emergency 000

Lifeline 13 11 14

Kids Helpline 1800 55 1800

MensLine 1300 78 99 78

Suicide Call Back Service

1300 659 467



ST THOMAS MORE OVERNIGHT PARISH YOUTH RETREAT



**SAT 13TH, 2PM –
MIDDAY SUN 14TH**

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SIMON CARRINGTON**

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It's a balanced mix of formation, prayer, and plenty of fun, including:

Talks from Simon Carrington [Home - Fire Up Ministries](#), a talk from Joe Milhem, outdoor games & team activities, dinner, snacks, and breakfast provided, campfire gathering, all-night Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, confession available during Adoration, closing Mass at 10:00am Sunday.

Practical details

the youth are invited to camp overnight (BYO tent, sleeping bag, etc.) If any young person has difficulty sourcing camping gear, they are encouraged to let us know in advance and we'll do our best to help. **\$50 donation per person**, collected on arrival, to support food and speaker costs.

FRIENDS OF OUR PARISH

I have always appreciated good customer service and good value for money. Therefore, whenever I find someone who supports our Parish in these ways, they become friends and I truly believe we should show our support to them too. More



74 Main Street, Mornington, Victoria 3931
Fr Geoff rates it as: Yum, Yum, & Yummy!
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MORNINGTON

KIDS FIND THE WORD PAGE

A Voice in the Wilderness

In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the Desert of Judea and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near."
Matthew 3:1-2 (NIV)

The puzzle is based on Matthew 3:1-12 (NIV).



L L H S N R E P E N T K O L B
Z N O Y U R J Z Z M C S Z G D
O K N C I W B X N B E A G B C
Z U I A U Y E O N H O N M K Y
G B H N A S L X T E I A E E S
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R D E F D E S O A O X O B E E
T O Y Z E K N B J H E A V E N

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