Prepare the way

SUNDAY Plus

7 DECEMBER 2025

2nd Sunday of Advent **Divine Office Week II** Year A

E & W: Bible Sunday

The Advent messenger

You cannot tell the story of Jesus without first speaking about John the Baptist. He introduces the adult Jesus in all the Gospels. John worked no miracles, held no office, belonged to no religious party. Yet his importance for Jesus was unique: he stands as the only religious leader whom Jesus ever sought out and spoke of with deep affection and admiration. He is described as a voice crying in the wilderness, a large presence that dominates the emptiness of the wasteland.

The purpose of this energetic renewal movement is to prepare for the one who is to come. And we know that "one" to be Jesus of Nazareth. Although John has his own group of disciples, he does not make himself the focus of his prophetic witness; he does not claim that he is the way, the truth and the life. John understands his own powerful place within the larger context of God's plan, and this frees him to defer to the one who will baptise with the Holy Spirit. Jesus' greatness does not diminish John's importance: John is important precisely because of who Jesus is.

John challenges all of us to foster the greatness in others without feeling threatened about the value of our own contribution; to celebrate the importance of others because we have a sense of our own worth and value before God.

As the relationship between John and Jesus teaches us, the generosity in recognising the goodness in others can help them call out the good that is in ourselves. When that happens, there are no losers.

Fr Denis McBride C.Ss.R.,
Jesus and the Gospels

God of surprises, open my eyes to see you at work. Surprise me this Advent as I try to make more space for you in my life. Let me celebrate your goodness. ✠ Amen.

Try to be good

People sometimes say: "We are in a society that is all rotten, all dishonest." That is not true. There are still so many good people, so many honest people. Rather, what can be done to improve society? I would say: let each of us try to be good and to infect others with a goodness imbued with the meekness and love taught by Christ. Christ's golden rule was: "Do not do to others what you do not want done to yourself. Do to others what you want done to yourself." And he always gave. Put on the cross, not only did he forgive those who crucified him, but he excused them. He said: "Father, forgive them for they know not what they do." This is Christianity, these are sentiments which, if put into practice would help society so much.

Pope John Paul I

The way we communicate is of fundamental importance: we must say "no" to the war of words and images, we must reject the paradigm of war.

Pope Leo

Jubilee 2025: Pilgrims of Hope

Search for peace

The first sign of hope should be the desire for peace in our world, which once more finds itself immersed in the tragedy of war. Heedless of the horrors of the past, humanity is confronting yet another ordeal, as many peoples are prey to brutality and violence. What does the future hold for those peoples, who have already endured so much? How is it possible that their desperate plea for help is not motivating world leaders to resolve the numerous regional conflicts in view of their possible consequences at the global level? Is it too much to dream that arms can fall silent and cease to rain down destruction and death? May the Jubilee remind us that those who are peacemakers will be called "children of God". The need for peace challenges us all, and demands that concrete steps be taken. May diplomacy be tireless in its commitment to seek, with courage and creativity, every opportunity to undertake negotiations aimed at a lasting peace.

Pope Francis, Spes non confundit, 8

READINGS

Today:
Isaiah 11:1-10
Romans 15:4-9
Matthew 3:1-12

Monday:
Genesis 3:9-15, 20
Ephesians 1:3-6, 11-12
Luke 1:26-38

Tuesday:
Isaiah 40:1-11
Matthew 18:12-14

Wednesday:
Isaiah 40:25-31
Matthew 11:28-30

Thursday:
Isaiah 41:13-20
Matthew 11:11-15

Friday:
Isaiah 48:17-19
Matthew 11:16-19

Saturday:
Ecclesiasticus 48:1-4, 9-11
Matthew 17:10-13

Next Sunday:
Isaiah 35:1-6, 10
James 5:7-10
Matthew 11:2-11

redemptorist publications

Sunday Plus. Edited by Denis McBride C.Ss.R. and Sr Janet Fearns FMDM. Copyright © Redemptorist Publications, Chawton, Hampshire, GU34 3HQ, A registered charity limited by guarantee. Registered in England 03261721. www.rpbooks.co.uk.

carbon footprint