

10th December 2023

2nd Sunday of Advent – Love

The second Advent candle is lit – Purple

Jesus In Our Midst

The Christmas tree brings great cheer to the family home. The tree reminds us of all that is beautiful, all that is filled with the gentleness and the promise of God. It stands in our midst as a tree of light, that we might promise the light of Christ to one another and to our world. It stands like that tree of paradise that God made into the tree of life, the cross of Jesus.

On the Feast of St Nicholas gather together around the Christmas tree with the lights off. Bless the star or angel from the top of the tree with Holy water, pray together and when you say Amen, turn the lights on.



Loving God, we pray through the intercession of St Nicholas that You will guide and protect our children. Keep them safe from all harm. Help them grow to become loving disciples of Jesus in Your sight. Give them strength to always mature into deeper faith with You, and to keep alive joy in Your creation.

We ask this through Jesus Christ Our Lord. Amen.

Today's Reading

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

A reading from the Gospel according to Mark

(Mark 1:1-18)

The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ the Son of God. As it is written in Isaiah the prophet: Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you; he will prepare your way.

A voice of one crying out in the desert: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths." John the Baptist appeared in the desert proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. People of the whole Judean countryside and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptised by him in the Jordan River as they acknowledged their sins. John was clothed in camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist. He fed on locusts and wild honey. And this is what he proclaimed: "One mightier than I is coming after me. I am not worthy to stoop and loosen the thongs of his sandals. I have baptised you with water; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit."

Pause for Thought – Love

John the Baptist was an outrageous person. Not many of us would share his taste in clothes or food! However, he stands out most for his words, bravery and challenge. He calls us to look at our lives, our actions and to discover and confess our sins. He asks us to do this because it is the way to real, deep, Christian joy.

Take time to think about the things that you are sorry for. Think of one aspect of your life that you need to change that might bring you closer to God.

In the quiet of your own heart, pray an act of sorrow and ask that the Holy Spirit, given to each of us in Baptism, will strengthen and guide you on your path to Jesus.

*Light the second purple candle
– the candle of love*



God of Love, during the Advent season, when life is busy and excitement is in the air, we take time to think about the awesome gift of the birth of Jesus.

We reflect on the great love you have for us that will be shown through your Son, Jesus.

May the light of this candle reflect the light that resides within each of us, the love that we can bring to this world, and the healing we can offer those who are suffering.

Amen.

Act of Contrition

O my God, I am heartily sorry for having offended Thee, and I detest all my sins because of thy just punishments, but most of all because they offend Thee, my God, who art all good and deserving of all my love. I firmly resolve with the help of Thy grace to sin no more and to avoid the near occasion of sin. **Amen.**

Act of Sorrow

O my God, I thank you for loving me. I am sorry for all my sins, for not loving others and not loving you. Help me to live like Jesus and not sin again. **Amen.**