

17th December 2023

3rd Sunday of Advent – Joy

The third Advent candle is lit – Rose

Jesus In Our Midst

Gaudete Sunday is the day when we light the pink candle, to represent joy.

For the time of prayer today why not wear something pink; a pink tie, pink hair clips, pink lipstick have some fun and spread some happiness!

Gaudete Sunday has for many years been the day when the children of Rome bring the figurines of Baby Jesus from their family cribs to St. Peter's Square to be blessed by the Pope during the Angelus. The day is affectionately known as 'Bambinelli Sunday'.



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 John

(John 1:6-8, 19-28)

A man named John was sent from God. He came for testimony, to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He was not the light but came to testify to the light. And this is the testimony of John. When the Jews from Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to him to ask him, "Who are you?" He admitted and did not deny it, but admitted, "I am not the Christ." So they asked him, "What are you then? Are you Elijah?" And he said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" He answered, "No." So they said to him, "Who are you, so we can give an answer to those who sent us? What do you have to say for yourself?" He said: "I am the voice of one crying out in the desert, 'make straight the way of the Lord,'" as Isaiah the prophet said. "Some Pharisees were also sent. They asked him, "Why then do you baptise if you are not the Christ or Elijah or the Prophet?" John answered them, "I baptise with water; but there is one among you whom you do not recognise, the one who is coming after me, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to untie." This happened in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptising.

Pause for Thought – Joy

You may wish to sprinkle Holy water on the baby Jesus and your family members, and say this prayer together as the baby Jesus is cradled in someone's hands:

God our Father, you loved us so much that you sent us your only Son, Jesus, born of the Virgin Mary, to save us and lead us back to you.

We pray that, with your blessing, this image of Jesus might be a sign of your presence and love in our homes.

Open our hearts, that we might receive Jesus in joy, do always what he asks of us, and see him in those who need our love.

We ask this in the name of Jesus, your beloved Son, who came to give peace to the world.

You, who live and reign forever and ever.

Amen.

You are invited to wrap the baby Jesus figurine in Christmas wrapping and place Him under the tree, to be opened on Christmas morning as the first gift of Christmas.

On Christmas morning place the baby Jesus in your crib with the rest of the Holy family.

*Light the rose candle
– the candle of joy*



God of Hope, we enter your holy season of Advent giving thanks to You for the love You have for all of us.

We begin to prepare for the celebration of the birth of our Lord and Saviour, Your Son, Jesus.

With the promise of Your Son, we live with great hope and anticipation; Hope in the knowledge of the love You continue to give us.

Hope in the knowledge that Jesus is coming into our lives and hearts to heal us and love us.

We are a people of hope, and no matter how difficult times sometimes are, we know that Your Son is coming and that you continue to shower us with Your love.

Amen.



SCAN ME

Music suggestion

Scan this QR code with your mobile phone to listen to:

Come to us by Greg Watson