



St Mary's Cathedral

SYDNEY

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Sunday, 10 December 2017
Second Sunday of Advent – Year B

Dear Parishioners and Visitors,



It has been a very busy week around the cathedral with the Christmas crib in the square, the “Lights of Christmas” launch, the Australian Catholic Youth Festival events, and the general “buzz” that this time of year generates. The challenge is for us all to keep Christ at the centre of our lives in the midst of all that we have to do, “preparing a way for the Lord” in our hearts and seeking forgiveness for our sins, as the beginning of St Mark’s Gospel reminds us.

The coming week will no doubt be equally busy for most of you as your end-of-year and Christmas activities build up. Here at St Mary’s the Lights of Christmas continue, the “Christmas Celebration” concerts with the Cathedral Choir and the Orchestra of the Antipodes will be held on Friday the 15th, the blessing of the basilican *Umbraculum* and *Tintinnabulum* and the new kneeling hassocks will occur at the 10.30 Mass next Sunday, and the annual Carols Service replaces Vespers and Benediction that afternoon. But all our preparations for Christmas would be in vain if we do not put the first priority on our spiritual preparation for the Lord’s coming. After all, Christmas 2017 may in fact not come: Christ might return later today. “Oh, I’ve been a bit too busy to be in touch” is not going to be a convincing response to His enquiries. Neither is “But we did a survey and most people thought you wouldn’t be back.”

Fr Don Richardson, Dean

Liturgy...

Is 40:1-5. 9-11

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Prepare the way for the Lord.

‘Console my people, console them’ says your God. ‘Speak to the heart of Jerusalem and call to her that her time of service is ended, that her sin is atoned for, that she has received from the hand of the Lord double punishment for all her crimes.’ A voice cries, ‘Prepare in the wilderness a way for the Lord. Make a straight highway for our God across the desert. Let every valley be filled in, every mountain and hill be laid low, let every cliff become a plain, and the ridges a valley; then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all mankind shall see it; for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.’ Go up on a high mountain, joyful messenger to Zion. Shout with a loud voice, joyful messenger to Jerusalem. Shout without fear, say to the towns of Judah, ‘Here is your God.’ Here is the Lord coming with power, his arm subduing all things to him. The prize of his victory is with him, his trophies all go before him. He is like a shepherd feeding his flock, gathering lambs in his arms, holding them against his breast and leading to their rest the mother ewes.

The word of the Lord.

Response: Thanks be to God!

Responsorial Psalm Ps 84:9-14. R. v.8

(R) Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

1. I will hear what the Lord God has to say, a voice that speaks of peace, peace for his people. His help is near for those who fear him and his glory will dwell in our land.**(R)**

2. Mercy and faithfulness have met; justice and peace have embraced. Faithfulness shall spring from the earth and justice look down from heaven.**(R)**

3. The Lord will make us prosper and our earth shall yield its fruit. Justice shall march before him and peace shall follow his steps.**(R)**

Liturgy...

Second Reading 2 Pt 3:8-14

A reading from the second letter of St Peter

We wait for new heavens and a new earth.

There is one thing, my friends, that you must never forget: that with the Lord, 'a day' can mean a thousand years, and a thousand years is like a day. The Lord is not being slow to carry out his promises, as anybody else might be called slow; but he is being patient with you all, wanting nobody to be lost and everybody to be brought to change his ways. The Day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then with a roar the sky will vanish, the elements will catch fire and fall apart, the earth and all that it contains will be burnt up.

Since everything is coming to an end like this, you should be living holy and saintly lives while you wait and long for the Day of God to come, when the sky will dissolve in flames and the elements melt in the heat. What we are waiting for is what he promised: the new heavens and new earth, the place where righteousness will be at home. So then, my friends, while you are waiting, do your best to live lives without spot or stain so that he will find you at peace.

Amen

The word of the Lord.

Response: Thanks be to God!

Gospel Acclamation

Lk 3:4. 6

Alleluia, alleluia!

Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths:
all people shall see the salvation of God.

Alleluia!

Liturgy...

Gospel Mk 1:1-8

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

Make straight the paths of the Lord.

The beginning of the Good News about Jesus Christ, the Son of God. It is written in the book of the prophet Isaiah:

Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way. A voice cries in the wilderness: Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight, and so it was that John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. All Judaea and all the people of Jerusalem made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. John wore a garment of camel-skin, and he lived on locusts and wild honey. In the course of his preaching he said, 'Someone is following me, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to kneel down and undo the strap of his sandals. I have baptised you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.'

The Gospel of the Lord

Response: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ!



CATHEDRAL CLERGY

*Archbishop Anthony Fisher
Father Donald Richardson, Dean
Father Brendan Purcell
Father Emmanuel Yoon Jae Seo
Father Pierluigi Passoni*

CATHEDRAL STAFF

*Chris Backhouse- Cathedral Sacristan
Thomas Wilson – Director of Music
Helen Morassut – General Manager, St Marys
Cathedral Precinct*

A COPY OF THE CATHOLIC WEEKLY CAN BE PURCHASED FOR \$2

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| Weekend Mass | Saturday Vigil: 6.00pm Sunday: 7.00am, 9.00am, 10.30am (Solemn High Mass); 12noon Latin Mass in the extraordinary form; 6.00pm Mass |
| Weekday Mass | Monday to Friday: 6.45am, 1.10pm & 5.30pm; Saturday: 9.00am & 12noon Public Holidays: 9am (or as advertised) |
| Reconciliation | Monday-Friday: 12noon -1.00pm & 5.00pm to 5.25pm Saturday 11.30am- 11.55am, 4.30-5.30pm |
| Vespers (Evening Prayer) | Monday to Thursday: 5.00pm; Saturday 5.30pm; Sunday 5.00pm (with Benediction of the Blessed Sacraments) |

****COELIACS:** Special Provision is made for Coeliacs at the Cathedral. Those who are gluten intolerant may receive communion either from the Chalice or with a gluten low host. Application should be made to the Sacristan before Mass.