



# THE SAVING WORD

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT / C

8 DECEMBER 2024

## FIRST READING

Bar 5:1-9

A reading from the prophet Baruch.

*Jerusalem – God will show you splendour.*

Jerusalem, take off your dress of sorrow and distress,  
put on the beauty of the glory of God for ever,  
wrap the cloak of the integrity of God around you,  
put the diadem of the glory of the Eternal on your head:  
since God means to show your splendour to every nation under heaven,  
since the name God gives you for ever will be,  
'Peace through integrity, and honour through devotedness.'

Arise, Jerusalem, stand on the heights and turn your eyes to the east:  
see your sons reassembled from west and east at the command of the Holy One, jubilant that God has remembered them.

Though they left you on foot,  
with enemies for an escort,  
now God brings them back to you like royal princes carried back in glory.  
For God has decreed the flattening of each high mountain, of the everlasting hills,  
the filling of the valleys to make the ground level

so that Israel can walk in safety under the glory of God.  
And the forests and every fragrant tree will provide shade  
for Israel at the command of God;  
for God will guide Israel in joy by the light of his glory  
with his mercy and integrity for escort.

■ The word of the Lord.

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 125. R. v. 3

**R.** The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.

1. When the Lord delivered Zion from bondage, / it seemed like a dream. / Then was our mouth filled with laughter, / on our lips there were songs. **R.**



2. The heathens themselves said: 'What marvels / the Lord worked for them!' / What marvels the Lord worked for us! / Indeed we were glad. **R.**

3. Deliver us, O Lord, from our bondage / as streams in dry land. / Those who are sowing in tears / will sing when they reap. **R.**

4. They go out, they go out, full of tears / carrying seed for the sowing: / they come back, they come back, full of song, / carrying their sheaves. **R.**

## SECOND READING

Phil 1:3-6, 8-11

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians.

*Show yourselves sinless and without blame in the day of Christ.*

Every time I pray for all of you, I pray with joy, remembering how you have helped to spread the Good News from the day you first heard it right up to the present. I am quite certain that the One who began this good work in you will see that it is finished when the Day of Christ Jesus comes. God knows how much I miss you all, loving you as Christ Jesus loves you. My prayer is that your love for each other may increase more and more and never stop improving your knowledge and deepening your perception so that you can always recognise what is best. This will help you to become pure and blameless, and prepare you for the Day of Christ, when



# OUR LADY of MT CARMEL PARISH BULLETIN

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday Advent - 8 December 2024 - Year C

### OUR LADY OF MT CARMEL PARISH HILTON

**Parish Priest:** Fr Michael Separovich  
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**Phone:** (08) 9314 7733  
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**Web:** <http://www.olmchilton.org.au/parish-bulletin/>

### OFFICE HOURS

**Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday:** 9am – 3pm  
**Thursday:** 9am – 12.30pm

### MINISTRY TEAM

**Parish Secretary:** Tereza Camacho  
**Safeguarding Officer:** Brigette Liddelow 0432 908 980  
**Avila Retirement Village Secretary:** Judy Rowlands 0448 205 283  
**OLMC Primary School Principal:** Jayson Peacock 9269 2000  
**OLMC Primary School RE:** Tracey Marsden  
**Seton Catholic College Website:**  
<http://www.seton.wa.edu.au/olmc-parish>

**REFLECTION: Cf De Sancta Virginitate (On Holy Virginity).** At this time of the year, it is easy to feel rundown, overwhelmed and exhausted. We probably feel like the crowds which Jesus met over and over again during His ministry. However, what do we hear, see and learn from Jesus each time He meets them in their human state? Jesus in the midst of His activity pauses, looks and takes into Himself those around Him. He sees and beholds the chaos in His presence: Those who are hungry, sick, abandoned, isolated and wounded. What is the Divine response? “His heart was moved with pity”. The awareness of misery causes Jesus to experience an inner physiological reaction which provokes His desire to heal, to teach and to restore all that is broken. During this season of Advent may we not be afraid to bring our littleness and weakness to Jesus. As we lift our heads towards Him, do we recognise His gaze of love and deep longing to give Himself to us? Every time we go to Mass Jesus comes to us in the Eucharist so that we may recognise Him, receive Him and welcome His love. During this Advent season may we come to a deeper understanding that God is constantly pursuing us in order to bring us back to himself. Yesterday the Church celebrated the feast of St Ambrose (B 339AD). He became the Bishop of Milan in 374. Only after a very short period as

Catechumen. An immediate conversion began. He gave all his personal property to the poor and his lands to the Church. He explained that he both had to learn and teach at the same time. Ambrose became famous for his practical and bold sermons. St Augustine was one of his famous converts. He lived a penitential life, taking food very sparingly; he was at the disposal of all throughout the day and his nights were devoted to writing. Ambrose defined the position of the Church, its authority to teach morals and to govern itself. He strongly recommended Our Lady as the patron and model of religious. We can take Ambrose as one of our models for Advent. Commenting on the gospel scene of the Visitation, Ambrose applies Elizabeth’s words to each individual believer, “You too, are blessed because you have heard and believed. The soul of every believer conceives and brings forth the Word of God and recognises His works. Let Mary’s soul be in each of you to glorify the Lord. Let her spirit be in each of you to rejoice in the Lord.” This theme was taken up by St Augustine who wrote that Mary’s greatness lies not so much because she is Christ’s Mother, but because she is Christ’s Disciple. We cannot be Christ’s Mother in the flesh, he said, but we can be Christ’s Mother when we bring Him to birth in the hearts of others.



**OLMC PARISH CHRISTMAS EVE NATIVITY:** Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> December 2024 at 6pm. If your child / children would like to be involved in this simple nativity, please email Tracey Marsden on [Tracey.Marsden@cewa.edu.au](mailto:Tracey.Marsden@cewa.edu.au).

### 2024 CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church  
 82 Collick Street, Hilton  
 08 9314 7733  
[Sec.hilton@perthcatholic.org.au](mailto:Sec.hilton@perthcatholic.org.au)

### Christmas Eve

Tuesday 24 December 2024  
 5.45pm Carols 6pm Vigil Children’s Mass  
 9pm Night Mass  
 No Midnight Mass

### Christmas Day

Wednesday 25 December 2024  
 7.30am Mass  
 9am Mass





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## BULLETIN SPONSORS

### AUSTRALIAN LEADING LOCK SERVICE

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Judy 0448 205 283.

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39 Hulme Court, Myaree  
9329 9889 or  
[www.rich7harvest.com.au](http://www.rich7harvest.com.au)

### ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

Meet every Monday, except for public  
holidays, between 7 and 8 pm in the  
first meeting room to the left of the  
Church. New members are always  
welcome. Please contact Ian  
(President) on 0428 121 152 for  
further information.

### BOWRA & O'DEA FUNERAL DIRECTORS

Because the little things are  
everything.  
312 South Street, Hilton  
9239 7744 or  
[www.bowraodea.com.au](http://www.bowraodea.com.au)

**MASS TIMES WEEKENDS:** Saturday  
Vigil 6pm, Sunday 7.30am & 9am.

**MASS TIMES WEEKDAYS:** Tuesday  
9am, Wednesday 9am, Thursday  
9am, Friday 9am & Saturday 9am.

**RECONCILIATION - Saturday's:**  
9.30-10am and 5.15-5.45pm or by  
appointment.

**EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION:**  
Wednesday 5.30 – 6.30pm & Friday  
9.30 – 10.30am.

### MASS INTENTIONS

**Saturday 7 December to Friday 13  
December 2024**

#### Saturday 7 December

**9am:** Bernice Lueck (RIP)

**6pm Mass:** For the People

#### Sunday 8 December

**7.30am Mass:** Ivan Lyon (RIP 1<sup>st</sup>  
Anniversary)

**9am Mass:** Stephen Randall (RIP)

#### Tuesday 10 December

**NO Mass (Funeral)**

#### Wednesday 11 December

**9am Mass:** Emilio Jurica (RIP)

#### Thursday 12 December

**9am Mass:** Holy Souls

#### Friday 13 December

**9am Anointing Mass:** In Thanksgiving

**HOLY TRINITY CHARISMATIC PRAYER  
GROUP:** Monday night's 7-9pm.

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:** O people of  
Sion, behold, the Lord will come to  
save the nations, and the Lord will

make the glory of his voice heard in  
the joy of your heart.

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

**PREPARATION FOR CHRISTMAS:**  
Second Rite of Reconciliation at Mater  
Christi Parish, 340 Yangebup Road,  
Yangebup on Wednesday 11  
December 2024 at 7pm.

**COVID:** Parishioners, please be aware  
that Covid Virus has struck our  
worshipping community. Please  
exercise the given precautions if you  
are unwell, please remain at home  
until you recover. We are all called to  
be caring of each other. Thank you. Fr  
Michael.

**DISABLED BAYS CHURCH PARKING:**  
Parishioners who are entitled to park  
in disabled parking bays, please  
exhibit your permit on your car  
dashboard. This diffuses  
misunderstanding by other  
parishioners who are also in search of  
disabled parking bays. Thank you for  
your corporation and pastoral concern  
for those in who have particular  
needs.

**2025 COLUMBAN CATHOLIC ART  
CALENDARS:** Are on sale for \$10 each  
from the Parish Office. The Columban  
Art Calendar is an iconic Catholic  
Calendar.

**ST VINCENT DE PAUL:** Christmas cards  
are now on sale for \$3.50 pack of 5.

**PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS:** Jesus you  
are the Good Shepherd who is always  
mindful of your Church. Watch over  
those who are Baptised in your name  
and grant peace and harmony to all  
families. We ask you to choose from  
the families of our Parish many priests,  
deacons, sisters and brothers who will  
gladly spend their lives making you  
known and loved.

**PLEASE PRAY FOR SICK  
PARISHIONERS:** Christine Rhow,  
Veronica-Marie, Maria, Consiglia  
Ciavatta, Martin-Joseph, Irwin  
Beachell, Isabella Da Cunha, Damien-  
Ivan, Norma Elliott, Rudi Tassell,  
Steven, Davina, Zoe-Anne, Elisabetta  
Paddon, Edward Fortune, Kiara-Eve,  
Beatrice Fernandez, Lisa Bubb,  
Romilda Marinelli, Aaron LoCicero,  
Jacqueline Paul, Lou Collova, Christine  
Schwarten Henry, Fr Joseph Angelo, Fr  
Anibal Da Cunha, Peter Scanlan, June  
McGinnity, John Brackovich, Alison,  
Sofia, Rebecca, Fr Francis  
Sundararajan, Fr Greg Carroll, Bill  
Watkins, Daniel DiMarco, Joshua  
Oorschot, Fr John Piumatti, Fr Don  
Kettle, Mila Hogan, Mara Ravlich, Fr  
Vittorio Ricciardi, Lloyd Smith, Tegan  
Colgan, Patrick O'Brien, Archbishop  
Emeritus Barry Hickey, Fr Jean  
Fernandez, Fr Benedict Quadros, Fr  
John Hogan, Alessia Saraceni.



you will reach the perfect goodness which Jesus Christ produces in us for the glory and praise of God.

■ The word of the Lord.

**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!

**GOSPEL**

Lk 3:1-6

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

*All people shall see the salvation of God.*

In the fifteenth year of Tiberius Caesar's reign, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judaea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of the lands of Ituraea and Trachonitis, Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, during the pontificate of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah, in the wilderness. He went through the whole Jordan district proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the sayings of the prophet Isaiah:

A voice cries in the wilderness:  
Prepare a way for the Lord,  
make his paths straight.  
Every valley will be filled in,  
every mountain and hill be laid low;  
winding ways will be straightened  
and rough roads made smooth.  
And all mankind shall see the salvation  
of God.

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

**A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL**



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# Breaking Open the Word

## PREPARE A WAY FOR THE LORD

Today's Gospel places us squarely within history and competing political leadership. Luke introduces us to the ascetic and enigmatic figure of John the Baptist. There are four elements to Luke's presentation of John. He comes into Luke's Gospel within the context of imperial power, local politics and religious leadership; he proclaims a baptism 'of repentance'; his ministry reflects the liberating words of the ancient prophet, Isaiah, to prepare for the coming of the Messiah. Significantly, God's word comes to John in the wilderness. This is the symbolic place of nothingness and struggle. It's a marginal and liminal space and links to Israel's encounter with God in their forty years' wanderings.

These four aspects about John speak to us: We seek to live our contemporary discipleship with authenticity and fidelity within a world of power politics and church struggles; we, too, find ourselves at times in life's 'wilderness'—that symbol of struggle and nothingness; at the same time, we seek to honour our baptismal commitment as we desire to orient our lives towards God; we prepare ourselves, in the spirit of Isaiah, for the coming of our Messiah, Jesus.

This Sunday might become a time to invite John the Baptist to be our companion in preparing our hearts for the birth of Jesus. In the words of Isaiah, we are invited this Sunday to 'Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight'. We ready our hearts for God's coming to us in the anticipated birth of Jesus.

**Fr Michael Trainor**