



3rd Sunday of Advent, Yr B

Lectio Divina

Lectio: This Sunday the third candle, the pink candle of the Advent Wreath is lit. The pink candle is lit to remind us of the Joy of the coming of the Good News. Advent asks us to seek repentance in a context of joyful waiting. The First and Second Readings focus on joyful waiting but the Gospel text chosen from John's Gospel focusses on Jesus' coming as the coming of the Light. Advent through Christmas and Epiphany to the Presentation of the Lord (2nd Feb), Candlemas, is called the Season of Light. So our text from John's Gospel presents John the Baptist as the witness to the Light. The first verses of our text are from John's Prologue. In the Prologue, John is presenting Jesus and his identity as the Word of God and Light of the world. John's Prologue continues till naming Jesus the Son of God¹. The second group of verses of our text follows the Prologue. It begins the First Part of John's Gospel within which: **Jesus reveals himself through signs**. This Part continues to the end of Ch. 12 when the Second Part begins within which: **Jesus completes his work**. So the first matter regarding Jesus' identity is to make clear who John the Baptist was. If Jesus was the Messiah, then the Scriptures had prophesized that Elijah would come before the Messiah². In John the Baptist, what was prophesized comes true. Immediately after our text, Jesus comes to John the Baptist for baptism.

Read: John 1: 6 - 8, 19 - 28

Meditatio: Who is Jesus for me? What do I understand about the role of John the Baptist? Am I a witness to Jesus? Do I treasure my gift of faith? Do I feel impelled to help others to come to belief in Jesus? How is Jesus the Light for me? What is the connection for me between faith and light? How am I progressing in my preparations through Advent? What does 'being a follower of Jesus' mean for me? What is my role in spreading the Good News i.e. witnessing to Jesus? How can I help people find Jesus especially those who are still waiting for the Messiah? Who do I believe are prophets in the world today? What do I have to say about myself; do I identify myself as a Christian? Am I comfortable with the concept of 'witnessing to Jesus'? Do I feel like a 'voice in the wilderness' in my attempts to share my faith? Does my life lead others straight to Jesus? Am I true in what I say, do and believe? In what ways does sin mess up my life? Though I am not the Christ, Elijah nor a prophet, do I think I still have a role in leading others to Baptism, to faith in Jesus? Can I recognize Jesus' presence in my life? In whom does Jesus come to me? Do I understand how blessed I am to be a baptized follower of Jesus?

Oratio: Pray for a deeper relationship with Jesus. Pray for the light of faith. Pray that everyone might come to believe in Jesus. Pray for catechists and all who help spread the faith to others. Pray that we can be good witnesses to Jesus and lead others to find Jesus in their lives. Pray for priests and all ministers in the Church. Pray that ordained clergy will be prophetic in their preaching. Pray for pride in our Christian faith. Pray for forgiveness of sins that they may not limit nor confuse our witness to Jesus. Pray that we will listen to and be inspired by the prophets sent by God in our world. Pray for perseverance in doing our part in the spreading of the Good News. Pray for joy and wonder in our faith. Pray in thanks for the gift of Baptism.

Contemplatio – Dwell in stillness, simply aware of the boundless expanse of mercy that surrounds you.

After your prayer — In putting up your Christmas decorations remember you are celebrating the joy of the Good News and also that Christ is our Light.³

✍ Fr Joe

John 1: 6 – 8, 19 - 28

A man came, sent by God.

His name was John.

He came as a witness,

as a witness to speak for the light,

so that everyone might believe through him.

He was not the light,

only a witness to speak for the light.

This is how John appeared as a witness. When the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him,

‘Who are you?’ he not only declared, but he declared quite openly, ‘I am not the Christ.’ ‘Well then,’ they

asked ‘are you Elijah?’ ‘I am not’ he said. ‘Are you the Prophet?’ He answered, ‘No.’ So they said to him,

‘Who are you? We must take back an answer to those who sent us. What have you to say about yourself?’ So

John said, ‘I am as Isaiah prophesied:

a voice that cries in the wilderness:

‘Make a straight way for the Lord.’

Now these men had been sent by the Pharisees, and

they put this further question to him, ‘Why are you

baptizing if you are not the Christ, and not Elijah, and not the prophet?’ John replied, ‘I baptize with water;

but there stands among you – unknown to you – the one who is coming after me; and I am not fit to undo his

sandal-strap.’ This happened at Bethany, on the far side of the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

Notes:

1 Last Sunday Mark began his Gospel with the words: “The beginning of the Good News about Jesus Christ, the Son of God”.

John’s Gospel, is written last when people were starting to reflect on the identity of Jesus. So John’s Gospel is more reflective than the first Gospel written – Mark’s. John’s Prologue Jn 1:1-18.

2 Mk 9; 11, Malachi 3:1, 4: 22

3 You could support the spreading of the Good News through the actions of StVdeP and the Melbourne Overseas Mission through their Appeals at this time.