

# Third Sunday of Advent

## 14<sup>th</sup> December 2025



### Advent Prayer

Blessed are you, Sovereign Lord,  
God of our ancestors:  
To you be praise and glory for ever!  
You called the patriarchs to live  
by the light of faith  
and to journey in the hope of your promised  
fulfilment. May we be obedient to your call  
and be ready and watchful to receive your Christ,  
A lamp to our feet and a light to our path;  
For you are our light and our salvation.  
**Blessed be God for ever.**

### Collect

God for whom we watch and wait,  
you sent John the Baptist to prepare  
the way of your Son:  
give us courage to speak the truth,  
to hunger for justice,  
and to suffer for the cause of right,  
with Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

### First Reading (Isaiah 35:1-10)

A reading from the Prophecy of Isaiah.  
The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,  
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;  
like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly,  
and rejoice with joy and singing.  
The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,  
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.  
They shall see the glory of the LORD,  
the majesty of our God.

Strengthen the weak hands,  
and make firm the feeble knees.  
Say to those who are of a fearful heart,  
"Be strong, do not fear!  
Here is your God.  
He will come with vengeance,  
with terrible recompense.  
He will come and save you."  
Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,  
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;  
then the lame shall leap like a deer,  
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.  
For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,  
and streams in the desert;  
the burning sand shall become a pool,  
and the thirsty ground springs of water;  
the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp,  
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.  
A highway shall be there,  
and it shall be called the Holy Way;  
the unclean shall not travel on it,  
but it shall be for God's people;  
no traveller, not even fools, shall go astray.  
No lion shall be there,  
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;  
they shall not be found there,  
but the redeemed shall walk there.  
And the ransomed of the LORD shall return,  
and come to Zion with singing;  
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;  
they shall obtain joy and gladness,  
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

### Psalm (Psalm 146)

**Response: My soul give praise to the Lord.**

It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever,  
Who is just to those who are oppressed.  
It is God who gives bread to the hungry,  
The Lord, who sets prisoners free. **R**

It is the Lord who give sight to the blind,  
Who raises up those who are bowed down,  
The Lord, who loves the just,  
The Lord, who protects the stranger. **R**

The Lord upholds the widow and orphan  
But thwarts the path of the wicked.  
The Lord will reign for ever,  
Zion's God, from age to age. **R**

## **Second Reading (James 5:7-10)**

A reading from the Letter of James.

Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains.

You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. Indeed, we call blessed those who showed endurance. You have heard of the endurance of Job, and you have seen the outcome that the Lord brought about, for the Lord is compassionate and merciful.

## **Gospel Reading (Matthew 11:2-11)**

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offence at me."

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you." Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

## **Post Communion Prayer**

We give you thanks, O Lord,  
for these heavenly gifts;  
kindle in us the fire of your Spirit  
that when your Christ comes again  
we may shine as lights before his face;  
who is alive and reigns now and for ever.  
**Amen.**

## **For your prayers**

### **In our Prayers:**

Tommy Lacken, Martin Fletcher, Terry Folan, Sheila Hoppenbrouwers, Eamon Irvine, Fr Michael Shier, Carol Martin, Philomena Sorrenti, Maggie Stevenson, Hope Oram, Sherry Lacken, Doug Williams, Neville Thomas, Lynn Williamson, Juan Carlos Mandich, Nancy Mandich, Eliane Ferreira Batista, Joanne Dack, Jaqueline Ives, Joan Rivellini, Tommy Naylor, Albert Kwasi Kwateng, Lenny Shaw, baby Maison

### **Among the departed:**

Patrick Barrett, Celia Silk

### **Anniversaries of Death:**

Jack Sheehan, Emily Saunders, June Ives, Jeffrey Score, George Lock (Verger), Robert Wheatley, Maud Lowe

### **In our parish:**

We pray for St Luke's Community Centre and Dance Square

### **In the wider world:**

We pray for the Middle East and a peaceful resolution of the conflict in Gaza and between Israel and Iran. We pray for all those suffering in those conflicts.

## **Notices**

### **This week in church...**

**Wednesday    Open Church: 10am-1pm**  
**11-12am Study Group**  
**12.30pm Mass**

**Next Sunday    Fourth Sunday of Advent**  
**10.30am Family Mass**  
**with Christingle**

### **Midnight Mass**

**Wednesday, 24<sup>th</sup> December 11pm**

The First Communion of Christmas Day with the Blessing of the Crib and everyone's favourite Christmas Carols.

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### **Christmas Morning Mass**

**Thursday, 25<sup>th</sup> December 10.30am**

With carols at the Crib and presents for the children.