



Dear Parents and Carers,

Advent is the season of preparation and hope, culminating in the celebration of the birth of Jesus, which brings us the good news that we are loved unconditionally by God.

This Sunday's Gospel is also filled with hope. John the Baptist points away from himself towards Jesus. John makes it clear that it is Jesus that the people should follow: the hope of the world. Pope Francis reminds us, "Hope is a strength, a grace and a gift from God".

Wednesday 6th December 2023

This season of hope is a great opportunity to be spiritually refreshed, to get rid of everything negative in life and make it altogether positive: to look forward knowing that God is with us. Let's use this Season of Advent to make a fresh start and to be filled with hope.

Enhance the joy of Advent through exploring this Sunday's Gospel and this Wednesday's word, which is **HOPE**.

Dom Henry Wansbrough



To see this week's Parish Version of The Wednesday Word: wednesdayword.org - Parents' Pages - Lectio Divina with Fr Henry.

THE GOSPEL IN CHURCH Sunday 10th December 2023



The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. It is written in the book of the prophet Isaiah: "Look! I am sending my messenger ahead - he will prepare your way. A voice cries out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of 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. People from the land of Judaea and the city of Jerusalem came to him and, as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan, they confessed their sins. But John said, "There is someone else to come - someone who is more powerful than I am. I have baptised you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit."

Adapted from Mark 1:1-8
The 2nd Sunday of Advent, Year B

You are warmly invited to learn more about the Gospel through your local parish church.

"Advent increases our hope."
Pope Francis

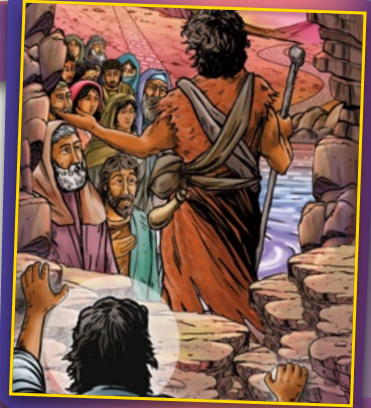


It's a blessing to have hope. Hope is a virtue which can sustain us through life's greatest difficulties. When we spend time learning about and listening to Jesus, we are filled with hope and strengthened, and so are able to bring great hope and good news to others.



1 Our Special Time Together

Enjoy reading the Gospel overleaf (or below for younger children)



It is written in the book of the prophet Isaiah: "Look! I am sending my messenger ahead - he will prepare your way." John the Baptist was a prophet who lived in the desert. People from all around came to him and John told them to change their ways and prepare to welcome the Lord. As they were baptised by him in the river Jordan, the people confessed their sins. John told them, "I baptise you with water, but someone is coming soon who is more powerful than I am, and he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit."

Who did John tell the people to welcome? Which word or words stood out for you in this Gospel, and why? See the Gospel picture opposite. What does it make you think about?

2 Wednesday's Word is ...

HOPE



3 Loving God & Each Other

"Advent is the spiritual season of hope."

Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI

John the Baptist brought a message of hope to the people. His message is for us too. Hope is a wonderful gift. Ask your child what the word 'hope' means to them. Can they remember a time when they faced a difficult situation and someone (or maybe their faith) gave them hope? Each of you say who or what gives you hope when times are tough. Can you remember a time when you gave hope to someone?

"Always know in your heart that God is by your side. Let us never lose hope!"

Pope Francis

We can grow in hope through praying and learning about Jesus. As part of our Advent preparations for Christmas, let's consider if there is anyone we know who is sad or troubled and needs hope. In what ways can we bring hope to that person or those people? Perhaps we can: be a good friend and a patient listener, offer support and encouragement where needed; tell others about the hope that Jesus brings into our lives; let them know we are praying for them.

Dear Lord Jesus, thank you for the hope you bring to our lives. Please help us to bring hope to others as we journey through Advent. Amen.

Gospel Gallery

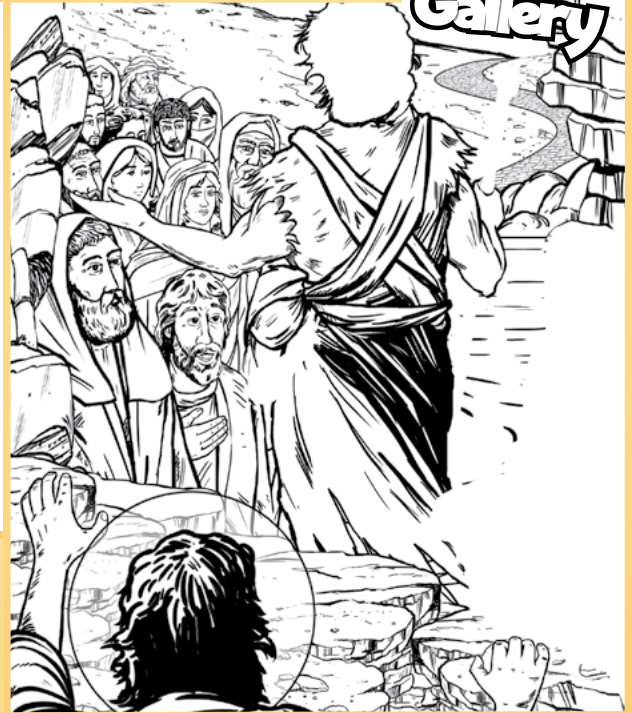
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WEDNESDAY WORDSEARCH

SMARTSEARCHERS FIND THESE EIGHT WORDS EITHER ACROSS OR DOWN

- JOHN PROPHET
- LIVED DESERT
- PEOPLE BAPTISED
- CONFESSED SINS

SUPERSEARCHERS FIND THE WORDS BACKWARDS OR DIAGONALLY



Search for at least three differences between this picture and the colour one. Then draw them in before colouring.

Cross out the letters **ilf** in the jumbled words below to find 4 real words.

prelpatrie witaly melsisengert lamit

"Look! I ___ sending my ___ ahead - he will ___ your ___."

