



Dear Parents and Carers,

Buying presents, decorations and planning our Christmas meal are all good ways of preparing for Christmas. But through all these preparations we do need to keep in mind the real reason for all these festivities. It's important that we spend some time preparing ourselves too.

In this Sunday's Gospel, we hear John the Baptist calling the people to repent (to come back to God) and to prepare themselves for Christ's arrival.

Wednesday 30th November 2022

Christian 'repentance' is a wholly positive experience when we invite God into our lives and take a grip on ourselves, changing some of our ways or even, maybe, our direction in life.

So let's listen to John the Baptist and prepare our hearts well - being ready to receive and share God's love with all we meet as part of this week's Christmas **PREPARATIONS**.

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 4th December 2022



In due course John the Baptist appeared; he preached in the wilderness of Judea and this was his message: "Repent, change your ways; for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand." This was the man the prophet Isaiah spoke of when he said, 'A voice cries in the wilderness: prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight'. This man John wore a garment made of camel-hair with a leather belt round his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judea and the whole Jordan district made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. John said to the people, "I baptise you in water for repentance, but the one who follows me is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to carry his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire."

*Adapted from
Matthew 3: 1-12 (the 2nd Sunday of Advent, Year A)*

**Everyone can learn more about this Gospel
in Church - all are warmly invited.**

**"The Lord is coming. May we
await him with open hearts!"**

Pope Francis



This Sunday's Gospel reminds us to look into our hearts this Advent and see if there are any ways that we could make a change for the better. This is how we can prepare our hearts to be filled with a joy that lasts long after the Christmas festivities have passed. Let's not miss out!

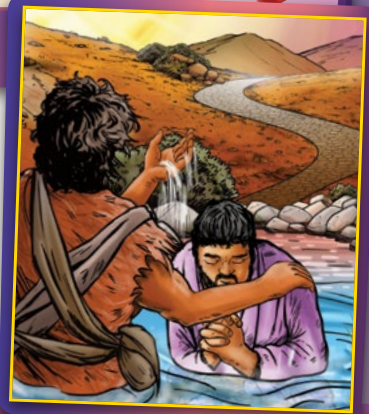


1 Our Special Time Together

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

John the Baptist was a prophet who lived in the desert. He wore clothes made of camel-hair and he ate locusts and wild honey. The people came to him to be baptised and confess their sins. John said to the people, "Repent; change your ways! Think about how you live and get ready to welcome the Lord! 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."

What did John tell the people to do? 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 ...

PREPARATION

3

Loving God & Each Other

Now is the time to prepare to celebrate Jesus' birth - God's arrival into our world in the person of Jesus.

Advent is a time of waiting and preparation. Ask your child what the word 'preparation' means to them. When did your child last prepare for something particularly well or for something special? It may help your child if you can share something about a time when you prepared particularly well for something. How is your child preparing at school for the celebration of Jesus' birthday at Christmas?



Good preparation is always important in everything we do.

As a family, how can you prepare well for Christmas? Perhaps you can: slow down and try to remember the real reason for Christmas - regularly giving thanks to God for the gift of Jesus; read the Bible's Christmas story together; go to the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession); say a prayer each time you open a window on your Advent calendar; make an extra effort to consider other people's needs.

Dear Lord Jesus, please help us to **prepare** well for Christmas and show us how we can help others to do the same. Amen.

Gospel Gallery

W J G T R E S E D W S S
 P T E P N A L E L C I I
 R B L J L I V E D N R N
 O C P D G I W J S G V S
 P E O P L E N M S L B B
 H W E N R G H K J H A T
 E I P W F J O H N P P E
 T G S L J E J L T G T H
 D E S E R T S I M U I P
 P C O N F E S S E D S O
 B H M L G E G N E L E R
 L Z J W D R H L O D D P

WEDNESDAY WORDSEARCH

SMARTSEARCHERS FIND THESE EIGHT WORDS EITHER **ACROSS** OR **DOWN**

- JOHN PROPHET
- LIVED DESERT
- BAPTISED PEOPLE
- 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 **c f o** in the jumbled words below to find 4 real words.

refacdo y Recopefnt fowacys clifove

" _____; change your _____; think about how you _____ and get _____ to welcome the Lord."

John the Baptist prepared the people to receive Jesus. We too can prepare our hearts for Jesus by being busy doing the things that Jesus told us to do: loving God and loving one another.

Write a promise and then draw a big smile on Smiley

This week I will try my best to...

.....

