

THE BIBLE PREPARES US FOR CHRISTMAS  
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT (YEAR B) – 6 December 2020



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#### WELCOME FR GARY WALKER

We welcome Fr Gary Walker to our parish community this weekend as I'm away for three days with Murri Ministry commitments in Cleveland Parish. Fr Gary is a Columban priest.

#### THE ZAIRE RITE

Recently the Zaire Rite was in the news, where Pope Francis approved the celebration of the Mass, not only in local language, but in other Congolese cultural ways as well. The Rite will be studied internationally and reflected upon.

[\[Vatican News article\]](#)

This news from Africa would give some hope to the people in the Amazon Region in South America, to the First Peoples in Australia and to other peoples in the world, as they seek future recognition of their own cultural ways of praising God.

#### LIFTING OUR SPIRIT

Some schools have finished for the year, and other schools finish this week. Children and youth lead us into the holiday spirit. Promising news during the week about a COVID-19 Vaccine lifts our spirit, and brings good news for next year.

We look forward to being safer in the future. The *Season of Advent* looks forward to our recognizing the true meaning of Christmas and the coming of Jesus, born into our lives as our Saviour.

## BIBLE PASSAGES PREPARE US FOR CHRISTMAS

The Bible passages for this weekend in Advent are:

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading** – Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11

**Psalm** – 85 (84 in some translations)

**2<sup>nd</sup> Reading** – 2<sup>nd</sup> Letter of St Peter 3:8-14

**Gospel** – Mark 1:1-8

These Bible Passages prepare us for Christmas.

## HUMBLE IMAGES OF GOD & OURSELVES

Last week in Isaiah, we read the humble message that God is the Potter who fashions us, the clay.

As we prepare for the true meaning of Christmas, we are invited to be humble.

In Isaiah today, we hear another humble image.

God is like a shepherd who gathers us, his lambs into his arms.

*'He will feed his flock like a shepherd;  
he will gather the lambs in his arms,  
and carry them in his bosom,  
and gently lead the mother sheep.'*

We are invited to be humble, not arrogant.

To be humble and open to God who fashions us.

To be humble and trust God like a lamb in the shepherd's arms.

## PSALM 85 (84)

In psalm 85, we see the relationship between steadfast love, faithfulness, righteousness and peace.

*'Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet;  
righteousness and peace will kiss each other.  
Faithfulness will spring up from the ground,  
and righteousness will look down from the sky.  
The Lord will give what is good,  
and our land will yield its increase.  
Righteousness will go before him,  
and will make a path for his steps.'*

## AN INVITATION

We are all invited this week, in our preparation for Christmas, to write down how our parish community and each of us, respond to the call of God to be in

- steadfast love,
- faithfulness,
- righteousness and
- peace

## 2 PETER 3

Righteousness is justice, but also much more.  
It is the loving relationship with God, lived justly with integrity and respect.  
We are called to grow in righteousness,  
so that righteousness can make a home in us.

In the 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading from St Peter, he says

*'But, in accordance with his promise,  
we wait for new heavens and a new earth,  
where righteousness is at home.'*

## MARK 1

In Mark's Gospel today, John the Baptist makes his entrance.

*"He proclaimed, 'The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me;  
I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals.  
I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.'"*

We recognize the very special ministry in human history  
of the prophet John the Baptist.

John was chosen by God to prepare the way for Jesus.

John humbly knew that he was not worthy before Jesus.

As we prepare for Christmas, may we grow in love of God and neighbour.

May we grow humbly in our love of God and our neighbour.

May today's Bible readings prepare us for Christmas.

Let us pray.

Fr Gerry

Readings: <https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/120620.cfm>