



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 3rd December 2025

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



A Word from
The Saints

"Prepare a path for God so that he can enter your heart."

St John Baptist De La Salle

THE GOSPEL IN CHURCH Sunday 12th December 2025



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*

**Getting to know Jesus makes life joyful.
Learn more about this Sunday's Gospel in your
local Parish Church: all are very warmly invited.**

2025 Preparing for Christmas: Family Time Overleaf

Having Hope
in our **Families**

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!



Good News for Families

TOGETHER TIME



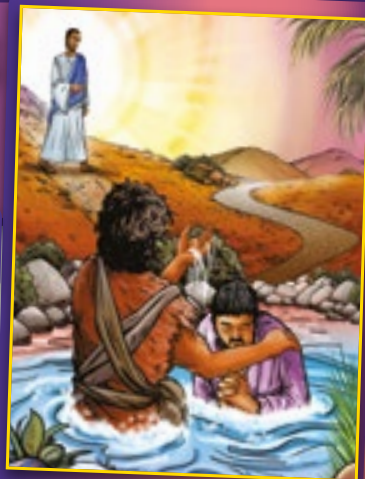
1

READ & REFLECT! Listen & Learn with Jesus, the Word!

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 Sunday's Gospel, and why? Spend a few relaxing moments pondering the picture together. Share any thoughts before moving on.



Sunday Gospel Gallery

Look at this Sunday's Gospel picture. What can you see? How do you feel? What does it make you think about?

2

SHARE & CARE! Growing in Goodness & Love: This Wednesday's Word...

"God wishes us to prepare ourselves to receive Jesus with love; let us clear our hearts of all that could displease Him."

St Alphonsus Liguori

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?

Now is the time to prepare to celebrate Jesus' birth - God's arrival into our world in the person of Jesus. 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); make an extra effort to consider other people's needs.

PREPARATION



3

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



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**

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."



Find and draw 5 differences, then colour the picture



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.



This week I will try my best to...



Write a promise & draw a big smile on Smiley