

Homily 2021.12.05 Second Sunday of Advent (Year C)

NOTES ONLY, NOT FULL TEXT

John the Baptist appears in the Gospel this Sunday and next – two instalments.

He inhabits the prophecy in Isaiah, the voice in the wilderness.

“Prepare a way for the lord” – familiar Advent call.

Needs careful handling, what does “Prepare” mean?

It can't mean that we have to get everything sorted before he gets here.

If we could do it all ourselves then we wouldn't need a saviour.

God comes to save us, to rescue us, therefore doesn't expect it all to be sorted by us.

Our need is for God. This is a time of joyful hope and expectation for that need to be met.

The tone is set by the prophet Baruch. Other than the Easter Vigil this is his only appearance in the Sunday readings. He writes of the restoration after the exile in Babylon, the return to Jerusalem. We too look for restoration and return in Jesus who comes to us.

More from John the Baptist next Sunday about what preparing for the Lord might look like.

For now, the gift is coming, but we have to put our arms out to receive it. I don't need to do everything, but I need to do something to receive the gift. We need to open ourselves. The gift must be received, held and unwrapped.

We tend to keep God out of our dark bits, the bits most in need to his grace and power

Example: pet with hurt paw. Curls up around the paw and won't let you or the vet get at it.

Advent, Prepare = opening to receive the gift of Jesus, his grace, power, and love.