

## PREPARE A WAY FOR THE LORD

### ENTRANCE ANTIPHON Cf. Isa 30:19,30

O people of Sion, behold, the Lord will come to save the nations, and the Lord will make the glory of his voice heard in the joy of your heart.

### 1st Reading BARUCH 5:1-9

#### A reading from the prophet Baruch

Jerusalem, take off your dress of sorrow and distress, put on the beauty of the glory of God for ever, wrap the cloak of the integrity of God around you, put the diadem of the glory of the Eternal on your head: since God means to show your splendour to every nation under heaven, since the name God gives you for ever will be, 'Peace through integrity, and honour through devotedness'. Arise, Jerusalem, stand on the heights and turn your eyes to the east: see your sons reassembled from west and east at the command of the Holy One, jubilant that God has remembered them. Though they left you on foot, with enemies for an escort, now God brings them back to you like royal princes carried back in glory. For God has decreed the flattening of each high mountain, of the everlasting hills, the filling of the valleys to make the ground level so that Israel can walk in safety under the glory of God. And the forests and every fragrant tree will provide shade for Israel at the command of God; for God will guide Israel in joy by the light of his glory with his mercy and integrity for escort.

The Word of the Lord

**All: Thanks be to God**

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 125

**RESPONSE: The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.**

When the Lord delivered Zion from bondage, it seemed like a dream. Then was our mouth filled with laughter, on our lips there were songs. **R/**

The heathens themselves said: 'What marvels the Lord worked for them!' What marvels the Lord worked for us! Indeed we were glad. **R/**

Deliver us, O Lord, from our bondage as streams in dry land. Those who are sowing in tears will sing when they reap. **R/**

They go out, they go out, full of tears carrying seed for the sowing: they come back, they come back, full of song, carrying their sheaves. **R/**

### 2nd Reading PHIL 1:4-6, 8-11

#### A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

Every time I pray for all of you, I pray with joy, remembering how you have helped to spread the Good News from the day you first heard it right up to the present. I am quite certain that the One who began this good work in you will see that it is finished when the Day of Christ Jesus comes. God knows how much I miss you all, loving you as Christ Jesus loves you. My prayer is that your love for each other may increase more and more and never stop improving your knowledge and deepening your perception so that you can always recognise what is best. This will help you to become pure and blameless, and

prepare you for the Day of Christ, when you will reach the perfect goodness which Jesus Christ produces in us for the glory and praise of God.

The Word of the Lord

**All: Thanks be to God**

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Lk 3:4,6

Alléluia, alléluia! Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths; all people shall see the salvation of God. Alléluia!

### GOSPEL Lk 3:1-6

#### A reading from the Gospel according to Luke

In the fifteenth year of Tiberius Caesar's reign, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judaea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of the lands of Iturea and Trachonitis, Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, during the pontificate of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah, in the wilderness. He went through the whole Jordan district proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the sayings of the prophet Isaiah: A voice cries in the wilderness: Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley will be filled in, every mountain and hill be laid low, winding ways will be straightened and rough roads made smooth. And all mankind shall see the salvation of God.

The Gospel of the Lord  
**All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**



## St Brigid's & St Michael's MIDLAND PARISH

*Second Sunday of Advent*

8<sup>th</sup> December 2024

**Parish Priest:** Fr. Rodrigo da Costa Ponte  
**Assistant Priest:** Fr. Andres Felipe Cortes Fernandez  
**Parish Secretary:** Irene Gungob  
**Safeguarding Officers:** Catherine Schelfhout (Mobile No. 0418 948 040)  
 Melissa Vranjes (Mobile No. 0418 962 404)  
 Monaliza Malabanan (Mobile No. 0413 594 551)  
**Office Hours:** Tuesday to Friday 9:00am to 1:00pm  
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**Website:** https://www.stbrigidsmidland.com.au/  
**Facebook:** stbrigidsmidland  
**Instagram:** @saintbrigids1  
**Sacramental Program:** Gail Ryan (Mobile No. 0411 599 577)  
**Reconciliations:** Saturday 11:00 am to 12:00pm  
 Saturday 5:00pm to 6:00pm  
**Weddings/Baptism:** Only by Appointment

### Parish Calendar — Second Week of Advent

#### Sunday, 08<sup>th</sup> Dec 2024

8:00am Mass (St Michael's)  
 Morning Tea  
 9:30am Mass  
 Arnel Lopez thanksgiving 50th birthday  
 Renato Supan Linsao RIP  
 6:00pm Mass

#### Monday, 9<sup>th</sup> Dec 2024

The Immaculate Conception of  
 The Blessed Virgin Mary (Solemnity)  
 8:00am Mass

#### Tuesday, 10<sup>th</sup> Dec 2024

8:00am Mass

#### Wed, 11<sup>th</sup> Dec 2024

9:30am Mass  
 11:30am Mass (St John of God Hospital)

#### Thursday, 12<sup>th</sup> Dec 2024

8:00am Mass  
 9:30 am Italian Mass –  
 last mass for this year

#### Friday, 13<sup>th</sup> Dec 2024

St Lucy, virgin, martyr  
 9:30am Mass

#### Saturday, 14<sup>th</sup> Dec 2024

St John of the Cross, priest, doctor  
 8:00am Mass  
 11:00am Confessions  
 5:00pm Confessions  
 6:30pm Mass  
 8:00pm Neocatechumenal  
 Community Mass  
 (Parish Hall) everyone is invited

### CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

#### Tuesday, 24<sup>th</sup> December

(St Brigid's)  
 6:00PM Children's Mass  
 (St Michael's)  
 9:45PM Christmas Carols  
 10:00PM Christmas Eve Mass  
 (St Brigid's)

11:00PM Christmas Carols  
 11:30PM Midnight Mass

#### Wednesday, 25<sup>th</sup> December Christmas Day

8:00AM (St Michael's)  
 9:30AM (St Brigid's)

#### Tuesday, 31<sup>st</sup> December

(St Brigid's)  
 8:00PM New Year's Eve Mass  
**Wednesday, New Year's Mass**  
 1<sup>st</sup> January 2025 (as usual)

# ALL HUMANKIND SHALL SEE THE SALVATION OF GOD

The word of God was addressed to John, son of Zechariah, in the desert, and he went through all the Jordan valley. Where else could he go but through the Jordan valley, where there would be water at hand to baptize those wishing to amend their lives?

Now the word Jordan means descent or coming down. Coming down and rushing in full flood is the river of God, the Lord our Savior, in whom we were baptized. This is the real, life-giving water, and the sins of those baptized in it are forgiven. So come, catechumens, and amend your lives so that you may have your sins forgiven in baptism. In baptism the sins of those who cease to sin are forgiven, but if anyone comes to be baptized while continuing to sin, that person's sins are not forgiven. This is why I urge you not to present yourselves for baptism without thinking very carefully, but to give some evidence that you really mean to change your way of living. Spend some time living a good life. Cleanse yourselves from all impurity and avoid every sin. Then, when you yourselves have begun to despise your sins, they will be forgiven you. You will be forgiven your sins if you renounce them. The teaching of the Old Testament is the same. We read in the prophet Isaiah: A voice cries

out in the desert: Prepare a way for the Lord. Build him a straight highway. What way shall we prepare for the Lord? A way by land? Could the Word of God travel such a road? Is it not rather a way within ourselves that we have to prepare for the Lord? Is it not a straight and level highway in our hearts that we are to make ready? Surely this is the way by which the Word of God enters, a way that exists in the spaciousness of the human body. The human heart is vast, broad, and capacious, if only it is pure. Would you like to know its length and breadth? See then what a vast amount of divine knowledge it can contain. Solomon says: He gave me knowledge of all that exists; he taught me about the structure of the universe and the properties of the elements, the beginning and the end of epochs and the periods between, the variations in the seasons and the succession of the months, the revolution of the year and the position of the stars, the nature of living things and the instincts of wild animals, the force of the winds and the thoughts of human beings, the various kinds of plants and the medicinal properties of roots. You must realize that the human heart is not small when it can contain all this. You ought to judge it not by its physical size but by its power to embrace

such a vast amount of knowledge of the truth. But so that I may convince you that the human heart is large by a simple example from daily life, let us consider this. Whatever city we may have passed through, we have in our minds. We remember its streets, walls, and buildings, what they were like and where they were situated. We have a mental picture of the roads we have traveled. In moments of quiet reflection our minds embrace the sea that we have crossed. So, as I said, the heart that can contain all this is not small! Therefore, if what contains so much is not small, let a way be prepared in it for the Lord, a straight highway along which the Word and Wisdom of God may advance. Prepare a way for the Lord by living a good life and guard that way by good works. Let the Word of God move in you unhindered and give you a knowledge of his coming and of his mysteries. To him be glory and power for ever and ever. Amen.

Gospel: Luke 3:1-6

Commentary: Origin of Alexandria

**Donations** Please note of collections during the mass;  
**First Collection** go towards the priest in the parish and to support priests across the Archdiocese who are retired, sick and for those who are in remote areas.  
**Second Collection** will go towards for the maintenance, expenses of our church and growth for the parish mission. If you wish to make a donation, please find our bank details below.

1st COLLECTION	2nd COLLECTION
Acct Name: The Roman Catholic Archbishop of Perth St Brigid's Parish Midland Presbytery NAB BSB 086 006 Acct Number 20317 6014	Acct Name: The Roman Catholic Archbishop of Perth St Brigid's Parish Midland Presbytery NAB BSB 086 006 Acct Number 66860 6141

**Parish Communities**

 Mary Mother of Perpetual Help Wednesdays 7:00 PM	 Divine Mercy Devotion Fridays 6 PM Benediction 1st Friday of the Month	 Legion of Mary Wednesdays 10:30 AM	 Neocatechumenal Way Mass (Everyone is invited) Saturdays 8:00 PM
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**Next Sunday Readings: THIRD SUNDAY of ADVENT**  
**First Reading** Zeph 3:14-18 **Responsorial Psalm** Is 12:2-6 R. Cry out with joy and gladness: for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel.  
**Second Reading** Phil 4:4-7 **Gospel Acclamation** Is 61:1, Lk4:18 **Gospel** Luke 3:10-18

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**Reader's Roster**

**This week**

Saturday 6:30 PM	Sunday 8:00 AM (St Michael's)	Sunday 9:30 AM	Sunday 6:00 PM
*Fely *Valita *Emmanuel	*Boylen Family	*Lily *Nora *Alina	*Maria *Melissa *Nora

**Next Weekend**

Saturday 6:30 PM	Sunday 8:00 AM (St Michael's)	Sunday 9:30 AM	Sunday 6:00 PM
*Fely *Valita *Justin	*E Benfield	*Declan *Vanessa *Bjel	*Charlotte *Melissa *Christina

## PARISH NEWS

**Children's Nativity Mass**  
 practice will be on Sundays, 8th, 15th and 22<sup>nd</sup> December 10:30 am, after the 9:30am Mass. We are also in need of readers, and children to act out the nativity play plus a couple of older children to help with the younger ones.

**Christmas Raffle Donations**  
 A huge thanks to everyone who generously donated awesome prizes for our raffle. We are still accepting donations until next week.

*For those who purchased their tickets last weekend and brought home their ticket booklet cover and/or ticket stubs, kindly return them in the parish office or give it to one of the ticket seller after the mass, for we need them to register and place the stubs in the raffle barrel.*

**Italian Mass** Last mass for this year is on 12th Dec and will resume on 6th February 2025.



### St. Michael's News

#### Advent Discussion

every Friday until Christmas at 10 a.m. in St. Michael's Hall. We are using the Brisbane Liturgy publication : "Hope Reigns."

#### St. Michael's Christmas Eve Mass at 10p.m.

will be an outdoor Mass this year. Carols first at 9.45 p.m. you are warmly invited to join us for a wonderful celebration of Jesus's Birth. If you would like to help with the organizing and setup please see Fr. Rodrigo or Fr. Felipe or Kerry Katich or Diane Ritchie. A rehearsal/ setup will be held on Sunday 22nd December on the site at 7 p.m.

### Our Sick

Please keep those who are sick at home, and in nursing homes and in the general community in your prayers. Let us keep our parishioners in our prayers:

- Caty Jones,
- Phyllis Lee,
- Marion Sands,
- Maureen Kenny, Kevin Kenny,
- Tasha Scala

### Requiescat in Pace

Renato Supan Linsao & All souls in Purgatory  
 Eternal rest, grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May the souls of the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace. Amen.

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