

Getting Ready for Sunday!

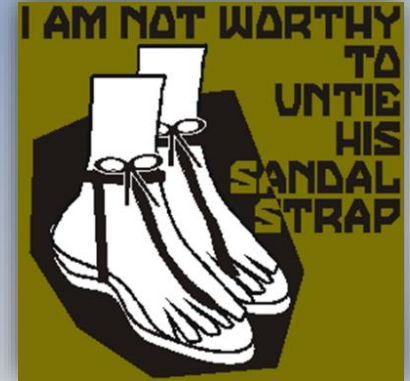
Sunday, 17 December 2023



The Third Sunday of Advent

Testimony of John the Baptist

John 1:6-8, 19-28



The Third purple candle will be lit this Sunday marking the beginning of the third week of preparing for Christmas.

The third Sunday of is called Gaudete Sunday, meaning Joyful Sunday.

We celebrate the facts that –

- we are coming closer to Christmas!
- we have made efforts to repent (change) and become closer in friendship with our loving Creator.
- We have an opportunity to make a fresh start.

The pink/rose candle on the Advent wreath is lit this week along with the two purple/violet candles.



There was a man sent from God, whose name was John.

He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him.

He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.



Each one of us has also been sent to show others where Jesus may be found!

God sent John the Baptist, to show the way to Jesus.

This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him: “Who are you?”

He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed,

I am not the Messiah.

We sometimes forget that we can depend on God, the source of all goodness and power.

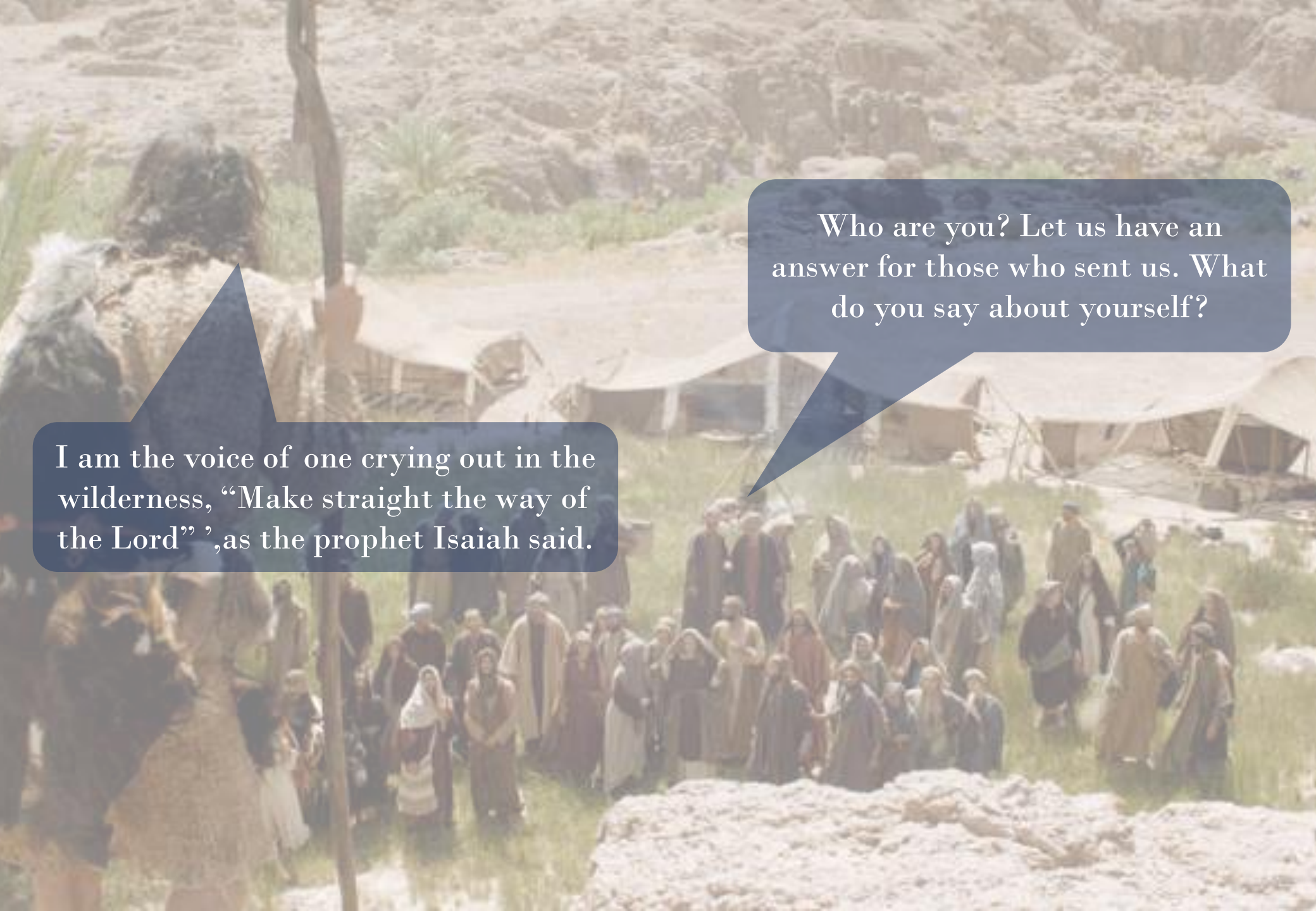


What then? Are you Elijah?

I am not.

Are you the prophet?

No.



I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, “Make straight the way of the Lord”’, as the prophet Isaiah said.

Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?

Now they had been sent from the Pharisees.

Why then are you baptising if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?

I baptise with water.

Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal.'



This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptising.

Sunday 14 December: Third Sunday of Advent

- We celebrate the third week of Advent in the spirit of Joy.
- This is marked by lighting the pink candle in the Advent wreath.
- We are past the halfway mark in our preparation for Christmas on the third Sunday!
- Draw a picture of a large pink candle.
- How are you going to share the gift of joy with your friends and family this week?
- Draw a picture/or write the names of the people with whom you will share the gift of Joy.



- Christ, in both His humility and greatness is right among us and in us today!
- Where is Jesus in your heart, your life, your neighbourhood?
- Do our actions and attitudes lead people to God or away from God?

Bible Search

**Read John 1:6-8, 19-28 in your family Bible - this is
the Gospel reading at Mass this Sunday.**



SEEING YOUR LIFE THROUGH THE LENS OF THE GOSPELS

John 1:6-8, 19-28

1. John the Baptist came to bear witness to Jesus. Who have been the people who have borne witness to you of the good news of the gospel that God loves you – a friend, a parent, a teacher, etc.? To whom have you borne that witness?
2. John appears in the story as one who had the courage to be himself in the face of loud and aggressive people. He was also a person who knew his own value, did not make exaggerated claims and was content with his mission. Can you recall times when you have been able to be yourself, even in the face of criticism from others?
3. John was ‘the voice of one crying out in the wilderness’ – announcing confidently to those in the wilderness that they must not despair because God’s grace may come to them at any moment. Have you had the experience of being in the wilderness, feeling lost? From whom did you hear a voice that gave you hope? Have you been able to give hope to other people when they were in the wilderness?

Consider



How can you share joy this week?

Praying to Jesus



*Pray for the grace to know joy in
the message of God's love for you!*

