



#### LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

**All: Loving God, You sent John the Baptist as a voice crying out in the desert. Open our ears to hear his message and shape our lives so that they will become a straight path to you.**

**We light this pink candle in joy, the joy that we have in Jesus, our Saviour the one who is anointed by God to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and release to the prisoners. Let us prepare, then, the way of the Lord. We ask this through Christ our Lord, Amen**

#### LITURGY OF THE WORD:

##### **First Reading: Isaiah 61:1-2,10-11**

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me,  
for the Lord has anointed me.  
He has sent me to bring good news to the poor,  
to bind up hearts that are broken;  
to proclaim liberty to captives,  
freedom to those in prison;  
to proclaim a year of favour from the Lord.  
'I exult for joy in the Lord,  
my soul rejoices in my God,  
for he has clothed me in the garments of salvation,  
he has wrapped me in the cloak of integrity,  
like a bridegroom wearing his wreath,  
like a bride adorned in her jewels.  
'For as the earth makes fresh things grow,  
as a garden makes seeds spring up,  
so will the Lord make both integrity and praise  
spring up in the sight of the nations.'

#### RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

**Response: *My soul rejoices in my God.***

My soul glorifies the Lord,  
my spirit rejoices in God, my Saviour.  
He looks on his servant in her nothingness;  
henceforth all ages will call me blessed. R

The Almighty works marvels for me.  
Holy his name!  
His mercy is from age to age,  
on those who fear him. R

He fills the starving with good things,  
sends the rich away empty.  
He protects Israel, his servant,  
remembering his mercy. R

#### ***Second Reading: 1 Thes 5:16-24***

Be happy at all times; pray constantly; and for all things give thanks to God, because this is what God expects you to do in Christ Jesus.  
Never try to suppress the Spirit or treat the gift of prophecy with contempt; think before you do anything – hold on to what is good and avoid every form of evil.  
May the God of peace make you perfect and holy; and may you all be kept safe and blameless, spirit, soul and body, for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. God has called you and he will not fail you.

#### **Gospel Acclamation:**

Alleluia, alleluia! The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; he sent me to bring Good News to the poor.  
Alleluia!

#### ***Gospel: John 1:6-8,19-28***

A man came, sent by God.  
His name was John.  
He came as a witness,  
as a witness to speak for the light,  
so that everyone might believe through him.  
He was not the light,  
only a witness to speak for the light.  
This is how John appeared as a witness. When the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' he not only declared, but he declared quite openly, 'I am not the Christ.' 'Well then,' they asked 'are you Elijah?' 'I am not' he said. 'Are you the Prophet?' He answered, 'No.' So they said to him, 'Who are you? We must take back an answer to those who sent us. What have you to say about yourself?' So John said, 'I am, as Isaiah prophesied:  
a voice that cries in the wilderness:  
Make a straight way for the Lord.'  
Now these men had been sent by the Pharisees, and they put this further question to him, 'Why are you baptising if you are not the Christ, and not Elijah, and not the prophet?' John replied, 'I baptise with water; but there stands among you – unknown to you – the one who is coming after me; and I am not fit to undo his sandal-strap.' This happened at Bethany, on the far side of the Jordan, where John was baptising.

Welcomę

**Parish of Cororooke –**  
*St Brendan's Coragulac &  
St Joseph's Pirron Yallock*

727 Corangamite Lake Road

Coragulac, VIC 3249 Email:  
cororooke@ballarat.catholic.org.au

**Moderator: Maureen Finn 0428329231**  
**Supervising Priest: Fr Michael O'Toole**  
**School Principal: Leanne Eastman**  
**Parish Sec: Gracesyn Perrett 52331464**  
**Child Safety Officer: Leanne Eastman**  
**St Brendan's: 9.30am Sunday/  
5pm 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday**  
**St Joseph's: 10:30am Lay-led /  
Mass 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday**

**St Brendan's: 24th Dec Mass @ 6.00pm**

**Minister:**

**Commentator: M Allan**

**Reader: Dani Allan**

**ALTAR & SACRISTY DUTIES:**

***St Brendan's: Dec: M & D McCarthy***

***St Joseph's: Dec: D Melville***

**Counters: 17<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> Dec: L Darcy**

**RECENT DEATHS:**

**ANNIVERSARIES: Ann Paatsch,**

**Coad McCarthy, Lee Monaghan,**

**Edith Monaghan**

**Those seeking our prayers for**

**healing and well being:**

*Kathleen O'Donnell Leah Spokes, Goldie Elsum,*

**Pope's Intention for December:**

**For persons with disabilities:** We pray that people living with disabilities may be at the centre of attention in society, and that institutions may offer inclusive programs which value their active participation.

## **CHRISTMAS 2023**

Please note...

No Lay Led assembly at St Brendan's or St Joseph's on Sunday morning Dec 24th

*St Brendan's Christmas Vigil...*

*Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> @ 6.00pm with Fr Val*

*St Joseph's Christmas Day @10.30am*

Invitation.....

New Years Eve – beginning with a service at St Andrews, Alvie, followed by a BBQ at Red Rock. All Welcome

More details next week!

***Laudato Si': Everything is connected***  
***"Love Natural Resources"***

*Did you know? Bees help pollinate flowers and food crops, which helps them grow. Bees are the MPVs of our ecosystem. Taking care of the plants and flowers in your garden helps the bees do their job.*

### **REFLECTION ON THE PSALM:**

This psalm is among the most powerful scriptures we have. So what is it doing mixed in with all the readings about joy on Gaudete Sunday? Could it be that it is a roadmap toward building a world where joy can be shared by all, equally?

The Magnificat is a rare example in the Bible when we are given direct access not just to a woman's words, but to her thoughts, beliefs, even dreams. Mary's dream of the future and her skillful interpretation of what God is creating is full of joy, even amid the uncertainty of a changing world, even amid the strain of waiting for something new. She recognizes God's goodness within the disruption of the status quo, in the promise of justice and a better life. She envisions the world that Jesus's birth is meant to begin—a world of broken rules, radical generosity, and unabashed equity—and she finds it joyful to behold.

Let Mary's joy be our joy. Feed the hungry. Exalt the humble. Turn every hierarchy on its head. Do what Jesus and Mary both realized they were born to do, and what each of us was baptized to take on. Find joy in the disruptive work of birthing the Kingdom of God.

