



Dear Parents and Carers,

In this Sunday's Gospel, we hear about John the Baptist calling people to prepare themselves for Christ's arrival. John alerted the people of the need to change some of their ways and to the fact that Jesus was coming.

This Gospel can serve to remind us about the importance of preparing ourselves as Christmas approaches: to repent (to look into our hearts and see if there are any ways that we could make a change for the better), and to be busy doing the things that Jesus told us to do, loving God and

Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2024

loving one another through our words and through our deeds. In these ways we prepare our hearts to be filled with a joy that lasts long after the Christmas festivities have passed.

Enjoy a very special time together hearing your child's thoughts about this Sunday's Gospel and this Wednesday's word, which is **PREPARATION**.

*Dom Henry Wansbrough*



A Word from Pope Francis

*"In this second week of Advent, we ask for the grace to prepare ourselves with faith to celebrate Christmas."*

## THE GOSPEL IN CHURCH Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> December 2024



At the time when Pontius Pilate was the Roman governor of Judaea, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah, who was living in the desert. John 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 people will see the saving power of God.'

*Adapted from Luke 3:1-6  
The 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent, Year C*

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

2024 Preparing for Christmas: Family Time Overleaf ▶

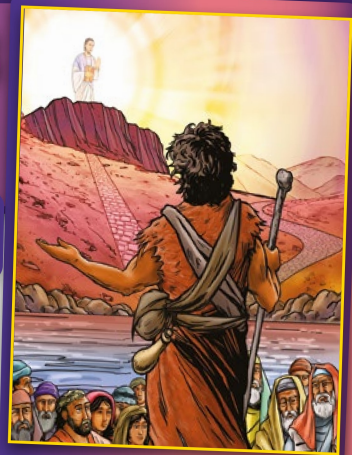
Having Hope  
in our Families

John the Baptist encouraged people to change their hearts. His message is for us too. Good preparation is always important in everything we do. Preparing ourselves well for Christmas will help us to draw closer to Jesus, and so experience and share more of God's love.



# Good News for Families

## 10 MINUTES TOGETHER TIME



### 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?

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

At the time when Pontius Pilate was the Roman governor of Judaea, there was a man named John, a prophet, who was living in the desert. God spoke to him and told him to preach to the people. So John went out to baptise and to prepare the people for the coming of Jesus. He told them to change their lives and to turn back to God.

#### Who was John preparing the people for?

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.

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

"Whoever has peace in his heart 'prepares a place' for the Lord." *St Theoliptos of Philadelphia*

## PREPARATION



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?



As a family, how can you prepare well for Christmas? Perhaps you can: slow down and try to remember Jesus - the real reason for Christmas; read *The Wednesday Word* together; read the Bible's Christmas story together; make an extra effort to consider other people's needs throughout this Season of Advent; sing favourite Christmas carols together. What other ways can you think of to prepare for celebrating Jesus' birth?

3 Dear Lord Jesus, please help us to **prepare** our hearts to receive and to share more of your love as Christmas approaches. Amen.



**WEDNESDAY WORDSEARCH**

SMARTSEARCHERS FIND THESE EIGHT WORDS EITHER **ACROSS** OR **DOWN**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>JOHN</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>PROPHET</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>LIVED</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>DESERT</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>PREACH</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>PEOPLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>PREPARE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>JESUS</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>

SUPERSEARCHERS FIND THE WORDS **BACKWARDS** OR **DIAGONALLY**

Cross out the letters **ifm** in the jumbled words below to find 4 real words.

**pemopilet Jothinm Jetsumsi piretparem**

"\_\_\_\_\_ went out to baptise and to \_\_\_\_\_  
the \_\_\_\_\_ for the coming of \_\_\_\_\_."



Advent is traditionally a time to do more good works. For more ideas about how you can bring God's love to others, see Mission Together's 2024 Advent Calendar: [missiontogether.org.uk/digital-advent-calendar/](http://missiontogether.org.uk/digital-advent-calendar/)



This week I will try my best to...

.....



Write a promise & draw a big smile on Smiley

Find and draw 5 differences, then colour the picture

