

Thought for the week
2nd Sunday of Advent (C)
9th December 2018

Today we hear the great Advent voice of John, the Baptist, the cousin of Jesus. He went into the desert, as a place of quiet and calm, to find the strength to survive hardship. He hears God calling him to announce the coming of the Messiah, for whom every Jew in the ancient world was waiting. We know that He came in the form of Jesus Christ as foretold by John; and He has promised a second coming when He will lead us all home to be with Him for eternity.

John's message was strong: *"Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths"* in other words turn your lives around.

Our paths are crooked with dark places to hide. John is saying if we straighten our paths (and therefore our lives) God will have a clear road straight to our hearts and lives. Advent is a time to seek calm and quiet to hear God's voice.

Christmas should also be a time of giving to others - not just gifts but love and happy memories. Growing up like many of our family and friends - we did not have much money, but I know my parents sacrificed themselves at Christmas to make sure we had a magical and holy time. Present giving was ALWAYS connected to the love of Christ and knowing that without Him we would have nothing. They taught us to love as Jesus loves and as God loves. This was their inheritance to us and it is Jesus promise to us. If we love Him and love others, wait for Him on a straight road, then we will be with Him on the last day.

Let us pray that we can give the gift of Christmas, which is love, as Jesus, the babe of Bethlehem did and find our path to God, with not too many diversions along the way. After all we *"do not know the day nor the hour"* when we will be called.

A Parishioner