



A Gift to you from your Catholic School Sharing Sunday's Gospel with Parents and Families



Dear Parents and Carers,

In this Sunday's Gospel, we hear about John the Baptist calling people to prepare themselves for Christ's arrival.

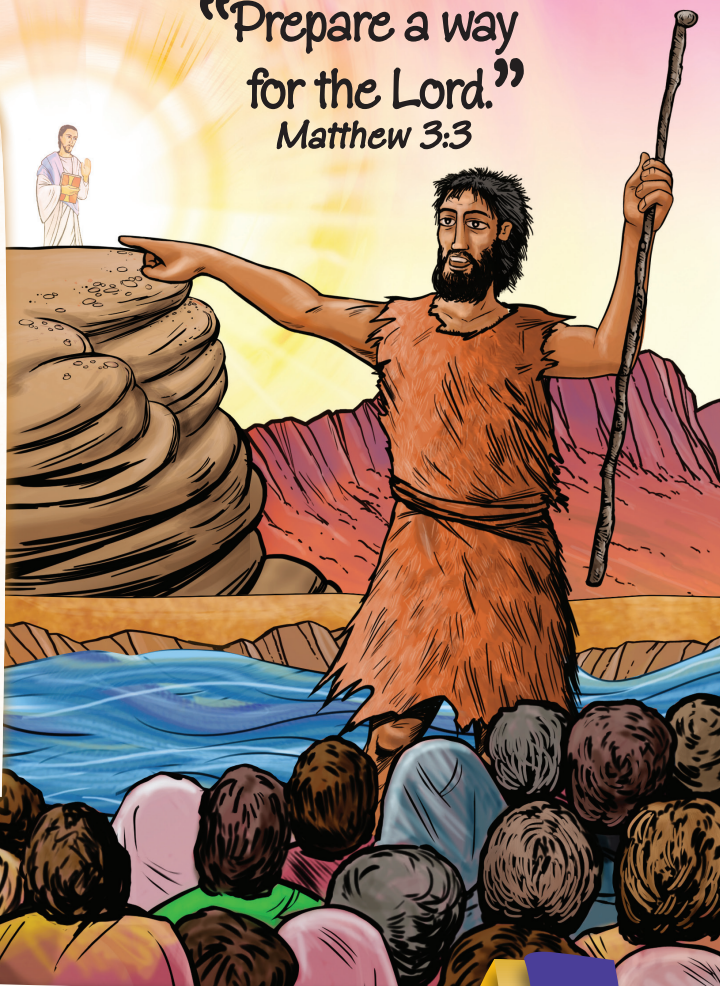
John alerted them of the need to change some of their ways and to the fact that Jesus was coming.

This Gospel can serve to remind us about the importance of preparing ourselves as Christmas approaches: to repent (to come back to God and to change some of our ways), and to be busy doing the things that Jesus told us to do: loving God and loving one another. In this way we prepare ourselves to be filled with a joy that lasts long after the Christmas festivities have passed. Let's not miss out!

Dom Henry Wansbrough

To see this week's Parish Version of The Wednesday Word please visit:
www.wednesdayword.org - Parents' Pages - Lectio Divina with Fr Henry.

"Prepare a way
for the Lord."
Matthew 3:3



Adapted from

THE GOSPEL IN CHURCH THIS SUNDAY - 8TH DECEMBER 2013

In due course John the Baptist appeared; he preached in the wilderness of Judea and this was his message: "Repent, change your ways; for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand." This was the man the prophet Isaiah spoke of when he said, 'A voice cries in the wilderness: prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight'. This man John wore a garment made of camel-hair with a leather belt round his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judea and the whole Jordan district made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. John said to the people, "I baptise you in water for repentance, but the one who follows me is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to carry his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire."

Taken from the Gospel of Sunday 8th December 2013 - Matthew 3:1-12 (the 2nd Sunday of Advent, Year A)

Everyone can learn more about this Gospel in Church ~ all are warmly invited.



Our Special 5 Minutes Together



HELPING YOUR CHILD TO PREPARE

1 Enjoy Reading this Sunday's Gospel Together

See the Gospel overleaf (or below for younger children)

John the Baptist was a prophet who lived in the desert. He wore clothes made of camel-hair and he ate locusts and wild honey. The people came to him to be baptised and confessed their sins. John said to the people, "Repent; change your ways; think about how you live and get ready to welcome the Lord. I baptise you with water, but someone is coming soon who is more powerful than I am, and he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit."

What did John tell the people to do? Which word or words stood out for you in this Sunday's Gospel, and why? Look at the Sunday Gospel Gallery below or overleaf and imagine you are there. What is it like?

GOOD NEWS FOR FAMILIES

Good preparation is always important in everything we do. John the Baptist came to help people to change their ways and so prepare themselves for Jesus' arrival. Prayerfully preparing ourselves for Christmas will help us to draw closer to Jesus and so experience more of God's love.



2 This Wednesday's Word

PREPARATION

"Prepare a way for the Lord."

Matthew 3:3

Ask your child what the word 'preparation' means to them. When did they last prepare for something particularly well or for something special? Perhaps you can share something about a time when you prepared particularly well for something. How is your child preparing at school or at home for the celebration of Jesus' birthday at Christmas?

3 Loving God & Each Other

If you haven't already started, what can the family do to prepare well for Christmas?

Perhaps we can: try to remember the real reason for Christmas and regularly give thanks to God; say a prayer together each time we open a window on our Advent calendar; display a crib in our home; make an extra effort to consider other people's needs during Advent; go to church together or (for Catholics) plan to go to the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession).

Dear Lord Jesus, please help me to **prepare** well for Christmas and show me how I can help others to do the same. Amen.

W J G T R E S E D W S S
P T E P N A L E L C I I
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Sunday Search™

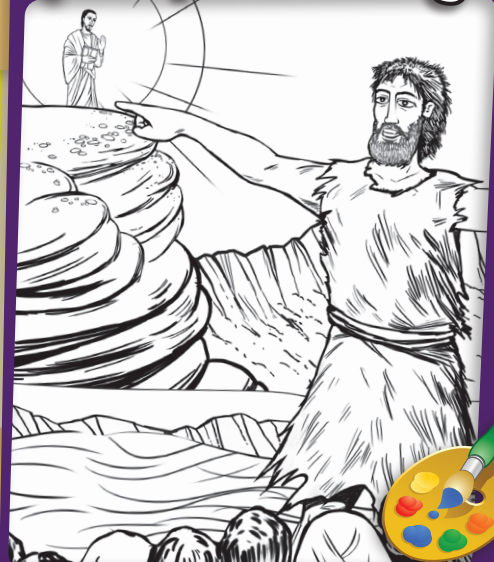
SEEK - FIND COLOUR - CREATE

Find the following words

- JOHN → PROPHET **A**
- LIVED → DESERT **B**
- BAPTISED → PEOPLE **C**
- CONFESSED → SINS **D**

SMART searchers: down or across
 SUPER searchers: backwards or diagonal

Gospel Gallery



BIBLE

 SUNDAY

This Sunday is Catholic Bible Sunday which provides everyone with an opportunity to reflect in their homes, schools and parishes about how we can celebrate the gift of the Bible. Another name for the Bible is 'God's word'. We can meet Jesus in a very special way when we read or hear the Bible. New free resources to support local celebrations are available from: www.catholicbiblesunday.org

MORE AT: WEDNESDAYWORD.ORG
 AND CATHOLICCHURCH.ORG.UK