

Weekend Masses: YANCHEP: 6 p.m. Saturday Vigil, Yanchep Community Centre, 7 Lagoon Drive. GUILDERTON: 8 a.m. Sunday, Guilderton Community Hall, Wedge Street. LANCELIN: 9.45 a.m. Sunday, 33 Gingin Road, Lancelin.

Confessions: before Mass on request

Weekday Masses: Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 9 a.m. at the presbytery, Wednesdays 3 p.m. at Bethanie Beachside Aged Care.

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CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

... are the same as our usual Mass times (see above).

We pray for the sick of our community, especially:

Pat Murphy, Ken and Toni Meek, Delores Servais, Michael Ford, Jim Walsh, Paula Cope, Pat Barone, Josephine del Bene, Len Sims and Margaret Johnson.

Communion Antiphon † Cf. Isaiah 35:4

Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear. Behold, our God will come, and he will save us.

(continued from previous page)

We need to keep reminding ourselves that the Good News is not a plan for temporal comfort in this life, because it is our tendency to revert to thinking that it is. And when we look around and see that things are not comfortable, even after 2000 years, we mistakenly think the Good News has not worked.

The Good News is about eternal life with God through Jesus Christ, which starts now, but won't be directly seen until the life in the world to come. The Good News really is about heaven, and what lies beyond the grave. Temporal comfort is not the answer to our deepest needs. Even if Jesus were to give everyone who believes in him total economic and political stability for the duration of our temporal life, it would not satisfy the longing of the human heart, which is made for so much more.

People sometimes warn of "being too heavenly minded to be any earthly good." That is not biblical. On the contrary, one has to be "heavenly minded" to be any "earthly good," because only the "heavenly minded" have the joy and courage to endure the sacrifices necessary to make substantial contributions to the "earthly good." The exhortation to rejoice in the first two readings and psalm are not based on some external reality, but on an interior and eternal reality: that Christ has come, and taken up residence in our hearts, giving us communion with God even now, and in the life to come. This is truly Good News! (Continue reading at

<http://www.thesacredpage.com/2015/12/gaudete-sunday.html>.)

Shout
for
Joy,
Daughter
of
Zion!



Entrance Antiphon † Phil. 4: 4-5

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice.
Indeed, the Lord is near.

*Smiling Virgin Mary, Cathedral
of Santa Maria de Toledo,
Spain.*

First Reading † Zephaniah 3:14-18

With gladness the Lord will rejoice over you.

Shout for joy, daughter of Zion,
Israel, shout aloud!

Rejoice, exult with all your heart,
daughter of Jerusalem!

The Lord has repealed your sentence;
he has driven your enemies away.

The Lord, the king of Israel, is in your midst;
you have no more evil to fear.

When that day comes,

word will come to Jerusalem:

Zion, have no fear,

do not let your hands fall limp.

The Lord your God is in your midst,

a victorious warrior.
He will exult with joy over you,
he will renew you by his love;
he will dance with shouts of joy for you
as on a day of festival.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm † Isaiah 12:2-6

**R. Cry out with joy and gladness:
for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel.**

Truly, God is my salvation,
I trust, I shall not fear.
For the Lord is my strength, my song,
he became my saviour.
With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. **R.**

Give thanks to the Lord, give praise to his name!
make his mighty deeds known to the peoples!
Declare the greatness of his name. **R.**

Sing a psalm to the Lord for he has done glorious deeds,
make them known to all the earth!
People of Zion, sing
and shout for joy for great in your midst
is the Holy One of Israel. **R.**

Second Reading † Philippians 4: 4-7

The Lord is near.

I want you to be happy, always happy in the Lord; I repeat, what I want is your happiness. Let your tolerance be evident to everyone: the Lord is very near. There is no need to worry; but if there is anything you need, pray for it, asking God for it with prayer and thanksgiving, and that peace of God, which is so much greater than we can understand, will guard your hearts and your thoughts, in Christ Jesus.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation † Isaiah 61:1 (Luke 4:18)

Alleluia, alleluia!

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

Alleluia!

Gospel † Luke 3:10-18

What, then, must we do?

When all the people asked John, 'What must we do?' he answered, 'If anyone has two tunics he must share with the man who has none, and the one with something to eat must do the same.'

There were tax collectors too who came for baptism, and these said to him, 'Master, what must we do?' He said to them, 'Exact no more than your rate.' Some soldiers asked him in their turn, 'What about us? What must we do?' He said to them, 'No intimidation! No extortion! Be content with your pay!'

A feeling of expectancy had grown among the people, who were beginning to think that John might be the Christ, so John declared before them all, 'I baptise you with water, but someone is coming, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to undo the strap of his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fan is in his hand to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go out.'

As well as this, there were many other things he said to exhort the people and to announce the Good News to them.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Reflection on the readings by Dr John Bergsma at

<http://www.thesacredpage.com/2015/12/gaudete-sunday.html>.

This Sunday marks the last time in Advent when our attention is going to be focused on the figure of John the Baptist, the one who announced the coming of Jesus. In this reading, we see a shift from his teaching to his prophecy of the one who was to come after him, Jesus.

It's now time to ask the questions, how can we really rejoice this Sunday, and how does this Gospel relate to the theme of rejoicing?

For many of us pondering the readings for this Sunday, the call to rejoice may seem a little hollow. We are facing so many challenges on a personal and public level. There are financial stresses, health problems, deadlines at work, dysfunctional relationships with family members. On a culture-wide perspective, there are widespread terrorist attacks, political setbacks, various forms of persecution from the annoying to the lethal, general hostility to religion and particularly Catholicism, and a worldwide contracting economy. So in the midst of this, how do we rejoice?

It's healthy to remind ourselves that the Good News is not that Jesus came to give us an upper-class lifestyle with a two-stall garage, three kids, and a house in the suburbs for the duration of our lifetime. One cannot find any such articulation of the Gospel in the New Testament. Instead, one finds expressions like, "if anyone would come after me, let him deny himself, take up his cross daily, and follow me." Or "Blessed are those persecuted for righteousness sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." Or "In this world you will have trouble; but take heart, I have overcome the world!"