

PARISH OF MILFORD
St Paul's-by-the-Sea, Milford
Sunday 13th December - Third Sunday in Advent



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Sentence - Bind up the broken-hearted, proclaim liberty to the captives and release to the prisoners, proclaim the year of our Lord's favour, the day of vengeance of our God. Isaiah 61: 1-2

Collect - Eternal God, you sent us John the Baptist to prepare the way for the coming of your Son: grant us wisdom to see your purpose and openness to hear your will, that we too may prepare the way for Christ who is coming in power and glory to establish his rule of peace and justice; through Jesus Christ our Judge and our Redeemer, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen

Introit 357 O come, all ye faithful
Gradual 432 Christ is the world's true light
Offertory 435 Hark the glad sound! – the Saviour comes
Dismissal 338 O come, O come, Emmanuel

8.00am and 9.30am - Advent Liturgy

Readings for today Sunday 13th December
Third Sunday in Advent

1st Reading - Isaiah 61: 1-4, 8-11
Epistle - 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24
Gospel - John 1: 6-8, 19-28
Readers 8.00am - To be advised

Isaiah 61: 1-4, 8-11

The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the broken hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the LORD's favour, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion—to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, to display his glory. They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations. For I the LORD love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. Their descendants shall be known among the nations, and their offspring among the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the LORD has blessed. I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil. May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept

sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

John 1: 6-8, 19-28

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,'" as the prophet Isaiah said. Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, "Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal." This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

We remember in our prayers - Bob, Ray, Barrie, Lesley, Lorna, Shobha, Jessica, Pat, Hazel, Shelley, Cynthia, Logan, Kelvin, Bob and Gabriel. And residents and parishioners in Dodson Avenue, Fenwick Avenue, Frater Avenue, Frieston Road, Gordon Avenue.

Tonight Sunday 13th combined Carol Service at St. Peters Takapuna 7.00pm. All are welcome to attend.

This Week

Tuesday 15th December - Selwyn Centre 9.30 – 12.00.

Cost \$4.00. Today will be our final get together for 2020. We will resume Tuesday 9th February 2021.

Wednesday 16th December -10.00am Holy Communion. Followed by morning tea. Our final Wednesday service for 2020 will be Wednesday 23rd December. We will resume on Wednesday 3rd February.

Thursday 17th December - Mainly Music resumes February 11th 2021.

Sunday 20th December - Holy Communion 8.00am and 9.30am.

Sunday 27th of December and Sunday 3rd January 2021 there will be only **one** service on these two Sundays at 9.30am.

Christmas services at St Paul's



**Nine lessons and carols Sunday 20th December at 9.30am
(No 8am service)**

Thursday 24th December – Christmas Eve 2020

5.00 pm Christingle and Family Communion

11.00 pm Carols, Candles and Communion

Friday 25th 2020 – Christmas Day

8.00 am and 9.30 am Holy Communion and Carols