**Message by Parish Priest**

My dear Friends,

The third Sunday of Advent is traditionally called Gaudete Sunday. Gaudete is the Latin word meaning "rejoice." This Sunday is so named because "Rejoice" is the first word in the entrance antiphon for today's Mass taken from Philippians 4:4,5: "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice! The Lord is near." Some people mark this Sunday on their Advent wreath with a pink candle instead of a purple candle. This Sunday is a joyful reminder that our salvation is near.

This week's Gospel Reading continues our Advent reflection on the person and message of John the Baptist. Last week we heard John speak about his relationship to the coming Messiah, Jesus. This week, we hear Jesus' message to John the Baptist, now in prison, about the signs of the kingdom found in Jesus' ministry and Jesus' assessment of John's role in the Kingdom of God.

The Gospel of Matthew tells the story of John's arrest in chapter 14:3-12. In today's Gospel, John sends word to Jesus from prison, asking if Jesus is the Messiah for whom he has been waiting. Jesus responds by pointing to the miracles that he has worked and invites John and the other hearers to make their own determination. In his next breath, however, Jesus praises John for his role in preparing the way for Jesus. Then Jesus says that all of those who work for the Kingdom of God will be as great as John and even greater.

Jesus' message to John about the signs of the kingdom being performed recalls the salvation described by the prophet Isaiah. This passage is a reminder that the beginning of salvation is already mysteriously present to us, but also yet to be fulfilled. Salvation is already in our midst as manifest in the miraculous deeds of Jesus and in the Church. But salvation is also to be fulfilled in the coming reign of God. Even as we observe our world today, we can find glimpses of God's work among us. Even more, we help to prepare the way for God's kingdom by our words and our deeds. This message is indeed a cause for rejoicing.

May this week truly make us rejoicing people because we are assured that the Lord is coming.

**Parish Priest**

Fr. Lawrence PR

Asst. Parish Priests

Fr. John Britto

Fr. Shinil Jacob

Mass Timings**Saturdays**

6.00 pm (Eng)

Anticipated Mass

Sundays

6.30 am - English

7.30 am - Malayalam

9.00 am - English

10.15 am - Hindi

11.30 am - English

4.00 pm - Hindi

6.00 pm - English

Weekdays

6.30 am - English

1.00 pm - English

6.00 pm - English

Tuesday evening

Mass is in Hindi

* No mass at 1.00 pm
on Saturdays

Sunday Liturgy

22nd Dec 2019

English 9:00am

St. Francis of Assisi

SCC Unit

Hindi 10:15am

Velankanni Matha

SCC Unit

(((SUNDAY READINGS & REFLECTION)))

1st Reading: Isaiah 35:1-6a,10

Prophet Isaiah invites both the people and the land to rejoice because the Lord is coming to save them.

Response Ps: 145

Come, Lord, and save us.

2nd Reading: James 5:7-10

St James advises the Christians to wait patiently for the coming of the Lord as the farmer awaits the harvest without losing hope.

Gospel : Matthew 11:2-11

John the Baptist sends his disciples to Jesus who is on a preaching and healing mission to know whether he is the Christ.

Prayers of the Faithful:

Loving Father, hear our prayer.

पहला पाठ: इसायस का ग्रंथ 35:1-6,10

इस्त्राएलियों को सान्त्वना देते हुए नबी इसायस कहते हैं कि प्रभु के आगमन पर उनके सारे दुःखों, कष्टों एवं विलापों का अंत होगा और वे ईश्वर के कृपापात्र कहलायेंगे।

अनुवाक्य: स्तोत्र 145

हे प्रभु! आ कर हमें बचाने की कृपा कर।

दूसरा पाठ: याकूब के नाम पत्र 5:7-10

संत याकूब हम से अनुरोध करते हैं कि हम धैर्य तथा सहनशीलता के साथ प्रभु के आगमन की प्रतीक्षा करते रहें।

सुसमाचार: संत मती 11:2-11

नबी इसायस ने घोषणा की थी कि मुक्तिदाता समस्त मानव जाति को मुक्त करने आयेंगे। यह घोषणा येशु मसीह के जीवन, वचन और कर्मों में सार्थक रूप में पूरी हुई।

विश्वसियों के निवेदन

हे पिता, हमारी प्रार्थना सुन।

REFLECTION

Look, our God is coming to save us.

There is one pink candle on the Advent Wreath which is lit today because this is Gaudete Sunday. The word 'Gaudete' means joy or rejoice. The opening antiphon for today mass gives us the message of our liturgy; 'Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, The Lord is near.' (Phil 4:4-5)

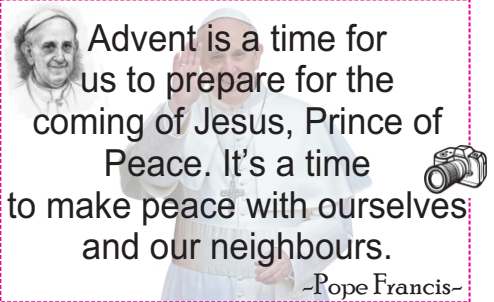
As we take another step closer to our Christmas celebrations, there are signs of this all around us. The shops and streets are filled with more people and we are busier as we have more to do in our homes. But we are also asked to notice and pay attention to the Advent signs and symbols around us. The Wreath in our church is getting brighter as another candle is lit, making it glow brighter. Perhaps there is now a crib or manger in our homes by now. All these wonderful life-giving signs and symbols point and lead us to great event of Christmas. This is the real source of our happiness, joy and celebrations. Today we are called to hear and really listen to the message from the Prophet Isaiah; they are as radical and relevant now as when they were first spoken; 'Be strong, fear not! Behold, your God will come with vengeance, with the recompense of God. He will come and save you.' On this third Sunday of Advent, let us take these words to heart; God is coming to save us.

In the remaining days before Christmas, we will be busy with full of activities. It can happen that when Christmas Day arrives, we are just so tired from all that we have done. Perhaps we could set a little time aside each day for a few minutes of prayer, stillness and silence – even ten minutes would be very beneficial to our health at all levels. This might help us to slow down and remember what we are actually getting ready to celebrate.

We may have busy now with shopping and buying for Christmas. The second reading from today's mass from St. James offers us another message to go along with all the shopping and buying; Be patient until the coming of the Lord. This is not easy for us at any time, but particularly at this time of the year when we feel pressured to buy so much, get so much done and leave nothing to chance. We just need to be careful that in the midst of all the activity we don't lose sight of what these Advent days are really all about.

READINGS OF THE WEEK

- 16 Mon:** Num 24:2-7,15-17/Ps 25 /Mt 21:23-27
17 Tue: Gen 49:2,8-10/Ps 72 / Mt 1:1-17
18 Wed: Jer 23:5-8/Ps 72/ Mt 1:18-25
19 Thu: Judg 13:2-7,24-25/Ps 71/ Lk 1:5-25
20 Fri: Isa 7:10-14/ Ps 24/ Lk 1:26-38
21 Sat: Song 2:8-14 or Zeph 3:14-18/
Ps 33/ Lk 1:39-45



PARISH NEWS

1. Today there will be SCC-wise Carol singing at 7:00 pm in front of the Cathedral.
2. Thanks to all who came to clean the Cathedral yesterday.
3. Next Friday and Saturday fathers will available for confessions from 5 pm to 7 pm.
4. On Christmas day for the Mass the entry will be from St. Columba's School gate.
5. Admissions forms to KG in Mater Dei, CJM, Columba's and Carmel Convent Schools are available online till 27th of December. Please make sure that all the necessary documents are submitted well in time in the proper office.
6. We are looking for some sponsors to come forward who would like to bear the cost of this year's Christmas crib, tent, light and sound and decorations. The estimated expense for the entire celebration is 5 lakhs. All those who would like to sponsor cake for the 'Christmas vigil service' and 'Christmas tree celebration' and for Christmas gifts for children, kindly do so by making your contribution at the help desk or in the box which is kept outside the church for this purpose.
7. Crib Competition will be held from 18th to 23rd December. This year we encourage everyone to prepare Crib at your homes. We will come and examine and select the best Crib. Please register your participation.
8. Kindly note, there will be no Catechism class on 22nd Dec, 2018 and 29th Dec-2019.
9. On 28th we celebrate the feast of the Holy Innocents. The 6 pm Holy Mass will be specially offered for the children of the parish, the parents are requested to bring all the children of our parish for this special Mass on that day.
10. The Christmas tree will be celebrated on the 29th of December. Lunch Coupons costing Rs.50/- are available at Help Desk.
11. On 29th we celebrate the Holy family Feast. This year we will be honoring all the couples who got married in the 1992 onwards. We also will celebrate the couples who have completed 40 years of their marriage. All the registered members of the parish are kindly requested to register your name along with the copy of your marriage certificate in the parish office.
12. All SCC units are requested to elect the representatives of the Parish Council by the end of December.
13. Thanks to St. Anthony and St Michael SCC units for animating the liturgy today.
14. Next Sunday, the Liturgy for 9.00 am Mass will be animated by St. Francis of Assisi SCC unit and 10:15 am mass will be animated by Vailankanni Matha SCC unit respectively.
15. Kindly pay your Church Support Fund regularly at the Help Desk.
16. Parish Calendars and stars are available in front of Maria Bhawan.

Fr. Lawrence PR
Parish Priest

Sacred Heart Cathedral

Ashok Place, New Delhi-110 001

CHRISTMAS PROGRAMMES 2019

DATE	DAY	TIME	EVENT	VENUE	REMARK
20/12/2019	Friday	5:00 pm to 7:00 pm	Sacrament of Reconciliation/ Confession	Cathedral	—
21/12/2019	Saturday	5:00 pm to 7:00 pm	Sacrament of Reconciliation/ Confession	Cathedral	—
24/12/2019	Tuesday	11:00 pm	Carol Singing by SHC Choir	St. Columba's School Ground	Entry through Church main gate/ School gate
24/12/2019	Tuesday	11:45 pm	Solemn Bilingual Christmas Vigil Mass (English & Hindi)		
25/12/2019	Wednesday	7:30 am	Malayalam (Syro-Malabar Mass)	St. Columba's School Ground	Entry through St. Columba's School gate only
		9:00 am	Solemn English Mass		
		10:30 am	Solemn Hindi Mass		
		11:30 am	Solemn English Mass		

Kindly Note:

★ Sacrament of Reconciliation /Confession on 20th & 21st at Cathedral from 5.00 pm to 7.00 pm.

★ On 25th December, there will not be any Mass in the Mass Centres. Except at 7.30 am Mass in Malayalam, 9.00 am Mass in English, 10:30 am Mass in Hindi and 11:30 am Mass in English at St. Columba's School grounds. Thereafter no Masses in the Cathedral (No mass at 4.00 pm and 6.00 pm).

Fr. Lawrence PR
Parish Priest