



St. Bede's Catholic School &  
Byron Sixth Form College

Monday 11<sup>th</sup> December

**Faith ~ Excellence ~ Determination**

Prepare a way for the Lord



St. Bede's Catholic School &  
Byron Sixth Form College



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# Mission Statement

With the Lord's help, we are united in **faith**, we strive for success and **excellence**, we are **determined** to be the best that we can be.

**Faith ~ Excellence ~ Determination**



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We take a few moments of stillness to ready our hearts and minds.

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen



St. Bede's Catholic School &  
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# Opening Prayer

As we gather this morning, we ask the Lord to be with us as we begin a new week.

God our Father, as we light our second Advent candle, Help us to wait patiently for the birth of your Son, Jesus, Show us ways we can share Christ's light during Advent, So that the world might know the hope and love that your Son brings. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord.

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Amen.



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This weeks theme is Prepare a way for the Lord. We will listen to readings from scripture that remind us of ways that we can prepare ourselves for Christmas and ways that we can prepare ourselves to be ready to have Christ in our lives.



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## A reading from the Gospel of Mark **Glory to you O Lord**

This is the Good News about Jesus Christ, the Son of God. It began as the prophet Isaiah had written: 'God said, "I will send my messenger ahead of you to open the way for you.' Someone is shouting in the desert, 'Get the road ready for the Lord, make a straight path for him to travel!"' So John appeared in the desert, baptizing and preaching. 'Turn away from your sins and be baptized,' he told the people, 'and God will forgive your sins.' Many people from the province of Judea and the city of Jerusalem went out to hear John. They confessed their sins, and he baptized them in the Jordan River. John wore clothes made of camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. He announced to the people, 'The man who will come after me is much greater than I am. I am not good enough even to bend down and untie his sandals. I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.'

The Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ**

## Reflection

The reading tells us that John asked the people to prepare for Jesus by being sorry for bad choices, by wanting to change for the better, and by choosing to be baptised as a sign that they were children of God who wanted to live lives of faith and love. It seems that John was very good at this, as the reading we heard told us - many people went out to hear John speak and be baptised. Even though he knew that he was the greatest prophet, he remained humble because he knew in his heart that God and God's love for us was greater than anyone and anything.



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In the name of the Father and  
of the Son and of the Holy  
Spirit. Amen



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Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December

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Waiting



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In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen



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# Opening Prayer

As we gather this morning, we ask the Lord to be with us as we begin a new day.

**Hail Mary, full of grace, The Lord is with thee;  
Blessed art thou amongst women and blessed is  
the fruit of thy womb Jesus.**

**Holy Mary, Mother of God, Pray for us sinners,  
now and at the hour of our death.**

Amen



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## Reading: Matthew 3: 13-17 - A reading from Matthew

At that time, Jesus arrived from Galilee and came to Jordan to be baptised by him. But John tried to prevent him, and said, "I need to be baptised by you, and yet you come to me!" But Jesus answered him, "Let it be like that for now. We must do justice to God's plan." Then John agreed. **for now. We must do justice to God's plan.**" Then John agreed.

As soon as he was baptised, Jesus came up from the water. Then the heavens were opened and he saw the Spirit of God come down like a dove, and rest upon him. At the same time a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."

The Word of the Lord  
Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

## Reflection:

. Baptism reminds us that God saved us and washed our sins away. During our lives, it is only natural that sometimes we do things that we shouldn't but God will always forgive is especially when we say sorry for doing things that we should not. Jesus was also baptised and it is here that John realises how important Jesus is to us all.



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In the name of the Father and  
of the Son and of the Holy  
Spirit. Amen



St. Bede's Catholic School &  
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Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December

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Prepare a way for the Lord



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Let us put ourselves in the presence of God as we make the sign of the cross.

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen





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# Opening Prayer

As we gather this morning, let us pray together the prayer Our Father taught us:

**Our Father, who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy name;  
Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done, On earth as it is  
in Heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our  
trespasses.**

**As we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead  
us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil**

**Amen**



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## Reading: Luke 3 : 4-6 - A reading from Luke

As it has been written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet, saying: "The voice of one shouting in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord; make straight His paths. Every valley will be filled and every mountain and hill will be made low; the crooked will be made straight, and the rough into smooth paths; and all flesh will see the salvation of God.'

**The Word of the Lord**

**Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ**



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## Reflection:

In today's scripture story, we hear John the Baptist tell the Israelites to get ready for someone (that person would be Jesus) who will fill every valley and lower every mountain. That same person would make the crooked and rough roads into straight and smooth roads.

Those words might not make that much sense to us. So here's another way to understand those words. John the Baptist is saying, "You might think paying attention to God is all twisted like a maze but there is someone who can show us how to pay attention to God in a straight and simple way.

Jesus went on to do exactly what John the Baptist said Jesus was going to do! Jesus made paying attention to God straight and simple by saying "Follow me."



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In the name of the Father and  
of the Son and of the Holy  
Spirit. Amen



St. Bede's Catholic School &  
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Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2023

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**Prepare a way for the Lord**



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We take a few moments of stillness to ready our hearts and minds.

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen



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Heavenly Father, you chose the prophets to share the message of your love and mercy with the world. Help us to share this message too through our words and actions today.

Lord in your mercy

**Hear our prayer**

Heavenly Father, you chose the prophets to prepare the people for the arrival of your Son, Jesus. Help us to get ready for the birth of Jesus by being sorry for bad choices, by asking for forgiveness, and by trying to make good choices in the future

Lord in your mercy

**Hear our prayer**

Heavenly Father, we pray for children around the world who are also waiting to celebrate your Son's birth on Christmas Day. Help us all to use our Advent time wisely, praying for our brothers and sisters everywhere, and doing what we can to share your light and hope with everyone.

Lord in your mercy

**Hear our prayer**



St. Bede's Catholic School &  
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Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December 2023

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Prepare a way for the Lord



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In the name of the Father and of  
the Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
Amen



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Let us begin our day together in the presence of the Lord.

In the name of the Father and of the Son  
and of the Holy Spirit. Amen



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## Opening Prayer

Help us to keep our focus first on Christ this season. Forgive us for giving too much time and attention to other things. Help us to reflect again on what Christmas is truly all about. Thank you that you came to give life, peace, hope, and joy. Thank you that your power is made perfect in our weakness. Help us to remember that the gift of Christ, is our greatest treasure, not just at Christmas, but for the whole year through.

## Amen



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This week you have listened to scripture and reflections which all focused on preparing ourselves for the coming of Christ.

For a moment, think about the messages that you have been given and think about the following:

What have you done to prepare yourself this Advent?

Have you prayed more? Have you attended Mass? Have you donated items to charity? Have you done something for someone else without the expectation of a reward?

If not what can you do to share God's light with others?



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## Closing prayer

Thank you Lord, for your goodness and mercy. We cling to you today and ask you to shine in us, through us, over us, so that the power of your light and hope are evident to the whole world.

In Jesus' Name,

Amen.

St Bede,

Pray for us



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In the name of the Father and of  
the Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
Amen