

THE SAVING WORD

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT / A

14 DECEMBER 2025

FIRST READING

Isa 35:1-6, 10

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

God himself will come and save us.

Let the wilderness and the dry-lands exult,
let the wasteland rejoice and bloom,
let it bring forth flowers like the jonquil,
let it rejoice and sing for joy.

The glory of Lebanon is bestowed on it,
the splendour of Carmel and Sharon;
they shall see the glory of the Lord,
the splendour of our God.

Strengthen all weary hands,
steady all trembling knees
and say to all faint hearts,
'Courage! Do not be afraid.

'Look your God is coming,
vengeance is coming,
the retribution of God;
he is coming to save you.'

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
the ears of the deaf unsealed,
then the lame shall leap like a deer
and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy,
for those the Lord has ransomed shall return.

They will come to Zion shouting for joy,
everlasting joy in their faces;
joy and gladness will go with them
and sorrow and lament be ended.

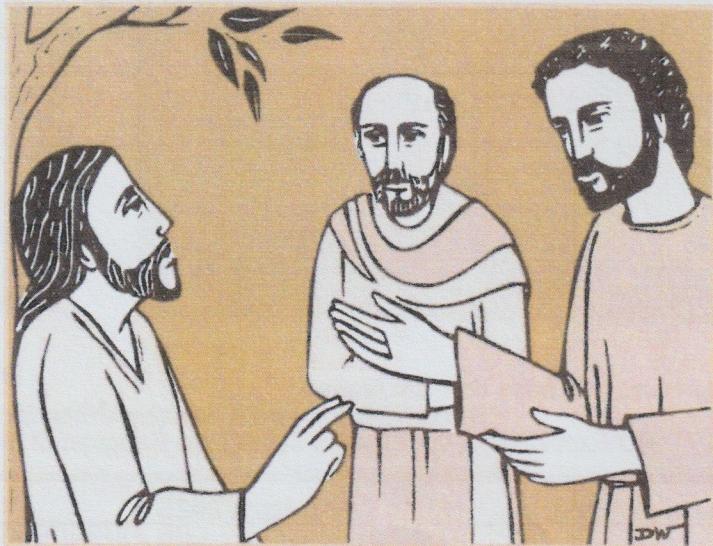
■ The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 145:6-10. R. cf. Isa 35:4

R. Lord, come and save us. (or Alleluia!)

1. It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever, /
who is just to those who are oppressed. / It is
he who gives bread to the hungry, / the Lord,
who sets prisoners free. **R.**

2. It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind, /
who raises up those who are bowed down, /
the Lord, who protects the stranger / and
upholds the widow and orphan. **R.**



3. It is the Lord who loves the just / but
thwarts the path of the wicked. / The Lord
will reign for ever, / Zion's God, from age to
age. **R.**

SECOND READING

James 5:7-10

A reading from the letter of St James

*You also must be patient; do not lose heart, the
Lord's coming will be soon.*

Be patient, brothers, until the Lord's coming.
Think of a farmer: how patiently he waits for
the precious fruit of the ground until it has had
the autumn rains and the spring rains! You too
have to be patient; do not lose heart, because
the Lord's coming will be soon. Do not make
complaints against one another, brothers, so as
not to be brought to judgement yourselves; the
Judge is already to be seen waiting at the gates.
For your example, brothers, in submitting with
patience, take the prophets who spoke in the
name of the Lord.

■ The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Isa 61:1; Lk 4:18

Alleluia, alleluia!

**The spirit of the Lord is upon me;
he sent me to bring Good News to the poor.
Alleluia!**



The Parishes Of St Mary's Merredin and St Joseph's Kellerberrin

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THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

A/2

14 DECEMBER 2025

Merredin celebrations during the week:

Monday:	No Mass
Tuesday:	9.00am Mass
Wednesday:	9.00am Mass
Thursday:	9.00 am Mass
Friday:	9.00 am Mass
Saturday:	6.30pm
Sunday:	10.30am

Kellerberrin: Sunday 8:00 am Mass

Sat. Holy Half Hour-Rosary
6:00 to 6:30 pm

Reconciliation : 6pm Saturday

Reconciliation and Anointing of the Sick available on request

NO Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Friday at St Mary's Church, Merredin from 2.30pm to 3.30pm.

CHURCH ROSTER:

13/14 DECEMBER 2025

20/21 DECEMBER 2025

Saturday 6.30pm Sunday 10.30 am

Readers:	C. Meagher	P. Jackson
Collection:		
Offertory:	Volunteers	Volunteers
Church Cleaners:		
Sacristy	L. Discenza	
Altar Servers:	C. Joseph	Volunteers

Saturday 6:30pm Sunday 10:30 am

G. Riethmuller	Z. O'Malley
Volunteers	Volunteers
V. Musca	
C. Joseph	Volunteers

Special Ministers: T. Cutri; T. Glass, Y. Gray; P. Jackson; J. Jefferys; L. Jefferys; D. Pettit; P. Riethmuller.

Combined Services 2025 - 26

Sunday 28th December - Uniting Church 10.00am

Saturday 3rd January - Seventh-day Adventist 11.00am

Sunday 11th January - St Mary's Catholic 10.30am

Sunday 18th January - Church of Christ 10.00am

Sunday 25th January - All Saints Anglican TBC

Schools Prayer Walk Sunday 1st February 5.00pm

Meet at Merredin College in Cunningham St Carpark

TOGETHER in CHRIST!



Merredin Churches Fraternal

2025 Candle light memorial

Sunday 14th December 2025.

Merredin town centre

opposite post office

6-8pm

The Compassionate Friends Merredin (TCF)
warmly invites everyone to join us
for the TCF Worldwide Candlelight Service.
To honour the lives of our children, brothers & sisters,
& grandchildren, who have passed too soon,
at any age and from any cause.
Please bring a framed photograph or a keepsake
of your loved one to place on the remembrance table.

Bring your own chair or blanket to sit on at the event.
All families and friends are very welcome to come together in love
and remembrance at our community event.
TCF - We need not walk alone.

Registration is essential
RSVP: 12 pm Tuesday 9th December 2025
Anne Mottershead 0429440307
email: annemottershead69@gmail.com

RECONCILIATION: Saturday 6:00pm – 6:20 pm
or on request prior to Sunday mass
Saturday - 6:00pm Angelus then the Rosary

PARISH NOTICES

Feast days for the week

Thu 18 St Flannan
Sat 20 St Fachanan of Kilfenora

Third Sunday of Advent - Joy Candle

On the Third Sunday of Advent, a pink candle is lit. The third Advent Candle symbolises joy. It is often referred to the "Shepherd's Candle." This candle encapsulates the jubilant anticipation of the shepherds who received the joyous news of the Saviour's birth. As it is lit on the third Sunday of Advent, it radiates the infectious joy that permeates the hearts of believers, inspiring a spirit of celebration and exultation as Christmas draws near.



Christmas Mass times

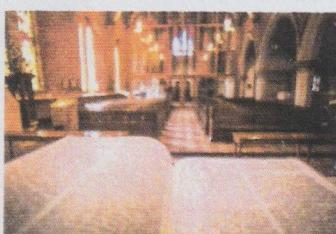
24 Dec	Christmas Eve	Merredin	6.30pm
25 Dec	Christmas Day	Kellerberrin	8.00am
25 Dec	Christmas Day	Merredin	10.30am

Please invite your family, neighbours and friends to our Christmas celebrations. Help them to know the joy of our Saviour's birth and all that means for the world. We invite all children to dress as angels, shepherds and kings.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available on Saturday 20th December from 11.00am-12noon in addition to the normal times or when needed.

Readers, Cleaners and Sacristy Roster



Would you like to be added to our wonderful list of volunteers for any of these roles in our St Mary's community?

The new Roster for 2026 is going to print shortly - please contact Heather on 0429 441 020 with your preference for Saturday night Mass or Sunday morning Reading or if you have a particular month you would like to clean the Church or undertake the Sacristy duties. If you are happy with the status quo - thank you we will roster you as we have for 2025.

COLUMBAN CALENDARS are on sale in the foyer at \$11 each.

CHRISTMAS HAMPER DONATIONS

Thank you for your generous support help for those in need in our community this Christmas. All hampers were distributed last Wednesday.

36th Annual Flame Congress: "Making Disciples of Nations"

Welcome to ***Evangelise - Making Disciples of Nations*** The 36th Annual Flame Congress. **Dates:** 23rd-25th January 2026, **Venue:** John XXIII College, Mount Claremont, **Speakers:** Rev Fr Jason Yeap, Adam Phillips (director, CYM), Jamie O'Brien (Manager, Communications & Editor, The Record), Kaye Rollings (FMI Senior Director, Retired). And Cyrus D'Souza (FMI Senior Director), **Contact:** fmi@flameministries.org. **More information:** see poster on notice board.

Please Note: Planned Giving Direct Debit - CDF/NAB Parish Account details for anyone wanting to support the parish through Direct Debit are as follows:

1st Collection (Fr Philip) – BSB 086 006 Acc. 73115 8848 The Roman Catholic Archbishop of Perth
2nd Collection Merredin Parish Contribution – BSB 086 006 Acc. 84040 9343 The Roman Catholic Archbishop of Perth CDF St Mary's Parish
2nd Collection Kellerberrin Parish Contribution – BSB 086 006 Acc. 75189 3225 The Roman Catholic Archbishop of Perth CDF St Joseph's Parish

(Please include your name on direct debit deposits—eg 2nd Coll-Smith) Thank you for your generosity and support.

GOSPEL

Mt 11:2-11

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Are you the one who is to come, or must we wait for someone else?

John in his prison had heard what Christ was doing and he sent his disciples to ask him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or have we got to wait for someone else?' Jesus answered, 'Go back and tell John what you hear and see; the blind see again, and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised to life and the Good News is proclaimed to the poor; and happy is the man who does not lose faith in me.'

As the messengers were leaving, Jesus began to talk to the people about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swaying in the breeze? No? Then what did you go out to see? A man wearing fine clothes? Oh no, those who wear fine clothes are to be found in palaces. Then what did you go out for? To see a prophet? Yes, I tell you, and much more than a prophet: he is the one of whom scripture says: Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way before you. I tell you solemnly, of all the children born of women, a greater than John the Baptist has never been seen; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he is.'

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL



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Breaking Open the Word

THE ONE WHO IS TO COME

Today's Gospel focus continues with John the Baptist, introduced to us last Sunday. From prison he sends his followers to Jesus to find out if he is the 'one who is to come or have we to wait for someone else?' This question picks up an early memory that some thought John might have been the Messiah. Jesus explicates his Messianic credentials to John's enquirers: the blind see, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear and the dead raised to life. In other words, Jesus affirms that he is the one who brings restoration, community and healing. Jesus' self-identification further affirms the blessedness of those who remain faithful to him.

In the biblical world, 'faith' was another way of affirming fidelity and commitment to another. This leads Jesus to attest, in this spirit of fidelity and commitment, John's prophetic mission of desert ascetism and preparation for the coming of the Messiah. As we come into these final days before Christmas, our role becomes like John: we align ourselves in fidelity and faith to the one who is to be born, who will bring healing and hope to our world that struggles to know this.

But we also hear Jesus' affirming words – the final sentence in today's Gospel passage addressed to us. Despite John's greatness as the one who prepares for the coming of Jesus, 'yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he'. The Gospel's audience, including us, are affirmed. We have unique status in the eyes of God. This divine promise accompanies us in the days ahead.

Fr Michael Trainor