



# Second Sunday of Advent

## Luke 3:1 a, 2-6

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the wilderness. And he went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet,

The voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall become straight and the rough places shall become level ways, and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'

## Some things to think about...

John the Baptist calls on us to prepare our hearts and minds for the coming of Jesus. As Christians we strive to recognise Christ in everyone we meet. One of the ways we can prepare for the coming of Christ at Christmas is to make a special effort to show our love and care for those around us.

## Activity

If you haven't done so already, print off a copy of the Mini Vinnies' Reverse Advent Calendar from the website and plan how this could be used in your school/parish. Why not share with your school community what you intend to do with the calendar and the items collected? Write a prayer that you can use in a Celebration of the Word, remembering those less fortunate in your school community.

## Teacher's notes:

Luke's Gospel tells us about the opening of Jesus' ministry as foretold by John the Baptist. John calls on us to prepare our hearts and lives for the coming of the Lord. - (Spiritual Reflection Guide Oct-Dec 2006)

We begin this second week of Advent by celebrating the great news that God so loves us that He sent His son Jesus to tell us how to live in His love. This is good news because sometimes we get caught up in the mistakes and wrong ways of living. Jesus came to save us from that by showing us what is really important, which is to try and share God's love with others through acts of kindness and compassion. It is a hard lesson to learn and needs to be prepared for so that it can be understood.

Sunday's Gospel tells us about John the Baptist, who came to prepare people for Jesus and His message of love. A message which will straighten out our crooked ways of thinking, enabling us to recognise the wrong things we do and take Jesus and His message to our hearts. We reflect on what He told us, the example He set for us, all He did for others, His suffering, dying and rising from the dead. Love of God is intrinsically connected to love of neighbour. Subsequently, our readiness to encounter and love our neighbour makes us open to God as well. This is one way we can prepare ourselves for the coming of Jesus at Christmas.

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