

**December 12<sup>th</sup> 2021 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent– Year C – Luke 3:10 – 18**

<sup>10</sup>And the crowds asked him, “What then should we do?” <sup>11</sup>In reply he said to them, “Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.” <sup>12</sup>Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, “Teacher, what should we do?” <sup>13</sup>He said to them, “Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.” <sup>14</sup>Soldiers also asked him, “And we, what should we do?” He said to them, “Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.” <sup>15</sup>As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, <sup>16</sup>John answered all of them by saying, “I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>17</sup>His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.” <sup>18</sup>So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Read and re-read</b> – out loud and slowly the Gospel.</li> <li>➤ <b>Meditate</b> - on reading as being spoken to you, an experience in your life</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Pray</b> - Thanksgiving – Repentance – Petition</li> <li>➤ <b>Action</b> – Attitude (Call to change / to act /to do)</li> </ul>
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This week’s gospel again sees John the Baptist on his mission to “speak for the light”. He was growing very impatient not allowing himself to be categorised and affirming his mission humbly but courageously. We see John the Baptist’s conviction that “the One who is to come after” is actually standing there even though the community does not recognise him. There is a lot of darkness around us at the moment and it can get us down. Have we become cynical and settled for mediocrity? Have we been overcome with apathy?

**Prayer:**

**We thank you Lord** that if we trust you someone always comes on the scene sent by you as a witness to speak for the light. They bear witness to us that somewhere in the dark a light always shines.

**Lord forgive us** when we do not act out of humility like John the Baptist.

**Help us Lord** to be your voice crying out to those in the wilderness telling them that you want to be present with them with your love and compassion if only they open themselves to you.

