



Father Paul writes 14th of December 2025

Today we arrive at the third Sunday of Advent which is given the name 'Gaudete Sunday' meaning "Rejoice". In the middle of the Advent season, we are reminded that we are rejoicing because of the celebration of Christ's nativity is near, as we prepare for celebrate the Lord's coming in Bethlehem, when God took on human flesh and dwelt among us. Today, we light the rose candle of the Advent wreath. Rose is more of a joyful liturgical version of purple. It reminds us that we are joyful of the Lord's coming.

As we are joyful in anticipation of the Lord's coming, we hear in our Bible readings today of a time of hope, firstly for the people of Israel who have been crushed by misfortune in exile in Babylon. Isaiah uses the image of the desert, made fertile by rain, to portray the confident hope that God would restore his people. James in our New Testament reading uses nature to emphasize the patience and hope farmers have in waiting for the harvest, that is the Lord's second coming. And then in the Gospel reading, we have John the Baptist's image of the Messiah being a stern judge who would execute a fiery judgement. Jesus dispels these judgements by reiterating what Jesus is doing, in the blind receiving their sight, the lame walking, the lepers being cleansed, the deaf being able to hear, the dead being raised and the poor hearing the Good News of God.

The celebration of Christmas is nearly upon us. We begin the celebration of Christ's birth at Bethlehem with our service of Nine Lessons and Carols at St Saviour's on Sunday the 21st of December at 7 pm. This is a great time to begin our Christmas celebrations with the singing of carols and listening to the story of God's love for all of us through the birth of Jesus Christ. It will be followed by a Christmas Supper. Please take note of our Christmas Services in the pew sheet. Next Friday, the 19th of December, we are having a Christmas Craft Day between 9 am and 1 pm in the meeting room next to the church. This is welcome to all families and children. It is a great way to learn how to make Christmas decorations as part of our preparation for Christmas. The timing of the day is open ended, so you can come and go during that time. Lunch will be provided. The cost is just ten dollars per person. Please RSVP by Wednesday the 17th of December to saviours@adam.com.au or through me. May God bless you all this Advent and as you continue to prepare for Christmas. Fr Paul