

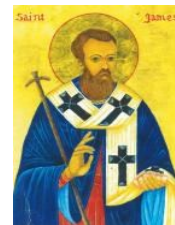
**2ND SUNDAY
ADVENT
YR B 2017
9 / 10
DECEMBER**

The Parish of St James

Coorparoo

An Augustinian Parish

Arch Diocese of Brisbane.



Moderator's Musings

Second Sunday of Advent

In the course of time, God allowed for a journey from ourselves to other people, from restriction to freedom, from a forgotten place to a promised land. And when the journey was hardest, and the way ahead unclear, and the temptation to turn back most alluring God said, -
"Let there be light"



"Let there be light".

So, remember your journey and how far you have travelled, and give thanks for the light. Preparation means to 'get ready'.
"Help us to be ready to welcome You, O God!"

Greetings in the Lord.

This period of the liturgical year brings into the limelight two figures who played pre-eminent roles in the preparation for the historic coming of the Lord Jesus: The Blessed Virgin Mary and St. John the Baptist. This Sunday's Gospel focuses on the character of St John the Baptist. John is presented as an ascetic figure: he was clothed in Camel Skin and his food was locusts and wild honey that he found in the Judean desert (Mk 1:6). The asceticism, moderation in food, drinking and clothing, the spirit of sacrifice and renunciation, the solitude or interiority where one finds oneself and God, are the concepts and challenges that John, the Baptist, offers us as we come to the second Sunday of Advent. The extravagance of the modern world, the easy going characteristics, amplified by the technological development where the modern human being depends on machineries for anything and everything, make it harder even to understand and undergo the slightest of pain and pressures of life, yielding easily to depression, suicidal tendencies and running away from life. Dear brothers and sisters, let us teach our children the reality of life with all its pain, hunger, poverty, sickness and suffering, to face them courageously and successfully overcome them with the grace of God. John the Baptist, who invites us for a true conversion of heart, be our inspiration in this advent season. Let our prayer be, "Lord, we ask, not to lessen our crosses, but instead, give us a strong shoulder to bear the burden of our sickness, sufferings and sins and enable us to understand others in their poverty, hunger, sickness, rejection and suffering and render a helping hand."

May I take this opportunity to sincerely thank our Arch Bishop, His Grace, Most Rev. Mark Coleridge, Very Rev Fr David Austin, Prior Provincial of the Order in Australia, The Augustinian fathers and brothers, the priests and Deacons from our Archdiocese, the family and friends of Dn Dang, Dignified Guests, dear parishioners and all who were instrumental in successfully putting forward a beautiful liturgy in the Church and joyful reception in the hall, making the Diaconate Ordination of Dn Dang a memorable event in the life of the Parish. May God keep us one in mind and heart and bring all our efforts to its fulfilment . Please keep Dn Dang in your prayers as he approaches the moment of Ordination to Priesthood.

Peace and Joy,
Fr. Jaison OSA.