



**Sacred Heart Cathedral
Hamilton**



**St Joseph's
The Junction**



**St Mary, Star of the Sea
Newcastle**



**Immaculate Heart of Mary
Tighes Hill**



**St Laurence O'Toole
Broadmeadow**



**Christ the King
Mayfield West**



**St Peter-in-Chains
Stockton**

THE CATHOLIC PARISHES OF THE CITY PASTORAL REGION

**SUNDAY, 6TH DECEMBER 2020
SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT, YEAR B**

Incorporating the Parishes of St Benedict's, Inner Newcastle, St Columban's, Mayfield, and St Peter-in-Chains, Stockton, our mission is to proclaim Christ in the inner suburbs of the City of Newcastle.

Our Parishes incorporate suburbs located on the traditional country of the Awabakal and Worimi peoples. We acknowledge their cultural heritage, beliefs and continuing relationship with the land, pay respect to their Elders past and present, and commit ourselves to work together for reconciliation and justice.

Our Clergy

Fr Andrew Doohan
Fr James Odoh
Fr Peter Street

Fr Matthew Muller
Fr Peter Thoai
Deacon Lawrence Caelli

Regional Office—St Benedict's Centre

25 Farquhar Street, The Junction
PO Box 6, The Junction 2291
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E: newcparish@mn.catholic.org.au
W: www.newcastlecatholic.org.au
W: www.sacredhearthamilton.org.au

Our Staff

Margaret Cox (*Reception & Administration*)
Debbie Ryan (*Reception & Administration*)
Anne Warren (*Business Manager—Interim*)
Dr Anne Millard (*Director of Music, Liturgy & Sacramental Program*)

Other Contacts

Lingard Hospital Team Contact the Regional Office
Mercy Pastoral Team Sr Patricia Whitten rsm (02) 4979 1116
St Joseph's Pastoral Team Contact the Regional Centre

Regional Bulletin

The Bulletin is published weekly.

Prayer requests and items for the Bulletin should be received at the Regional Office by Noon on Wednesdays.

THE PARISH DIARY...(for the week ahead)

Second Week of Advent

Monday— 7th December

The Memorial of St Ambrose

8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral

Tuesday— 8th December

The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral

8:15am Rosary @ Stockton

8:30am Mass @ Stockton

9:15am Mass @ Broadmeadow

9:30am Mass @ The Junction

Wednesday—9th December

8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral

9:00am Mass @ Mayfield West

9:15am Mass @ Tighes Hill

9:30am Mass @ The Junction

Thursday—10th December

8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral

8:30am Mass @ Stockton

9:15am Mass @ Broadmeadow NO MASS

9:30am Mass @ The Junction

Friday—11th December

9:00am Mass @ Mayfield West (Parish Hall)

9:15am Mass @ Tighes Hill NO MASS

10:15am Mass @ The Junction

11am Exposition @ The Cathedral (until 12pm)

11am Reconciliation @ The Cathedral

12:05pm Mass @ The Cathedral

Saturday—12th December

5:30pm Vigil Mass @ The Cathedral

5:30pm Vigil Mass @ Broadmeadow

6:00pm Vigil Mass @ Mayfield West

Sunday— 13th December

Third Sunday of Advent

7:30am Mass @ St Mary's

8:00am Mass @ Tighes Hill

9:00am Mass @ The Junction

9:00am Mass @ Stockton

9:30am Mass @ The Cathedral

Live streamed via the Diocesan website:

www.mn.catholic.org.au/places/livestream/

10:15am Latin Mass @ St Mary's (2nd & 4th Sunday only)

10:30am Italian Mass @ Broadmeadow

11:30am Polish Mass @ The Cathedral

5:00pm Mass @ The Cathedral

5:30pm Vietnamese Mass @ Mayfield West

**PLEASE ENSURE THAT YOU ARE EXERCISING
SOCIAL DISTANCING
BEFORE, DURING AND AFTER MASS**

PARISH NOTICES

PHONE - A - FRIEND

As we lead into the Christmas season and especially now, with the easing of restrictions, it would be timely for each of us to consider making contact with someone we have not seen for a while.



A phone call, a note in the letter box, an email or even dropping in with a magazine, the parish Bulletin or just yourself; to say "Hi, how are you doing?"

Many people have been isolated for months since the initial lockdown and contact from someone from the Parish could make a big difference to their day.

So this Christmas along with our Advent liturgies, let's put our prayer to practical use by reaching out in these coming weeks.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF SURVIVORS OF ABUSE

We acknowledge the lifelong trauma of survivors and their families, the failures of the Catholic Church to protect, believe and respond justly to children and vulnerable adults, and the consequent breach of trust.

DoMN COVID-19 LITURGY REFLECTIONS SURVEY

Let your voice be heard! The DoMN COVID-19 Liturgy Reflections Survey is now live! This is an important opportunity to voice your liturgical insights and experiences during COVID-19.

If you do not have access to a computer, phone Sharon Murphy on 4979 1134 for a hard copy.

To take the survey please use this link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/mn-liturg>



With Christmas nearly upon us, we are launching our

annual Christmas Appeal as follows: Broadmeadow on 6th Dec; Sacred Heart Cathedral, Hamilton, and Immaculate Heart of Mary, Tighes Hill, on 12th and 13th December.



ST PETER-IN-CHAINS, STOCKTON: CHRISTMAS HAMPER

COLLECTION commenced on 29th November. Since it can only run for three Sundays - 29th November and 6th and 13th December, we will firstly focus on tinned goods and packet foods such as pasta and rice, followed by breakfast foods and finally sweets, treats and toiletries. However, any contribution on any Sunday will be very much appreciated.

PRAYING THE SUNDAY GOSPEL THROUGH

ADVENT: Parishioners in the City Pastoral Region and across the Diocese are invited to connect and pray with each other from your own home. God speaks to us through the words of the Gospel and through artists images of the Gospel message. Each Wednesday 5.00-5.45pm. You and your friends are welcome to join via the internet:

<https://mncatholic.zoom.us/j/92777151360>

Password: Prayer

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS REFLECTIONS: If you would like to take part in the Adore Advent and Christmas Daily Reflections, booklets are now available at a cost of \$5 from the Parish Office.

THE MISSION TO SEAFARERS



Please leave donations at the Parish Office.



CAROLS ACROSS THE HUNTER

Rhema FM presents a video stream featuring churches and groups from across the Hunter performing Christmas songs.

The event will be streaming on their Facebook page, Youtube channel and at www.CarolsAcrossTheHunter.com.au at **6pm on Saturday, December 19.**

The Sacred Heart Cathedral Choir will be performing as well as the newly formed **Sacred Heart Schola Cantorum. Don't miss it!!**

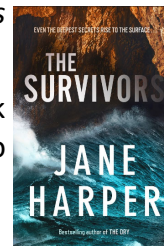


On November 22, the parish book club celebrated five years of fellowship through reading! We are continuing our 'Zoom' book club meetings. At 6.00pm this Sunday, 6 December, we will share

our thoughts on the book, *The Survivors* by Jane Harper.

If you would like to participate in book club meetings, please send an email to the Regional Office,

newcparish@mn.catholic.org.au



Reaching Beyond 2020



People of all trades and professions are being requested by communities abroad seeking to build the capacity of their organisations and the skills of their people.. COVID restrictions this

year have made communities' needs acute, but your assistance will help to develop self-reliance and sustainable solutions to poverty. Palms Australia will provide you with thorough preparation to ensure your readiness as travel resumes, and support on assignment.

See www.palms.org.au and talk to Roger on 0431 995 058, or email palms@palms.org.au

AdVent flection

Visit the Cathedral (www.sacredheartshamilton.org.au) or Parish (www.newcastlecatholic.org.au) and sign up at the bottom of the homepage to receive a daily 'Advent flection' straight to your email Inbox.

Every morning of Advent, Fr Andrew will post a fresh video reflection as part of the journey through Advent towards the celebration of Christmas.



PARISH OFFICE CHRISTMAS CLOSURE

Please note that the Parish Office will close at 5:00pm on 24 Dec and reopen at 9:00am on 4 Jan 2021.

We wish all a Happy, Holy and Safe Christmas and a

TODAY'S LITURGY

INTRODUCTORY RITE

Entrance Antiphon Cf. Is 30:19,30

O people of Sion, behold, the Lord will come to save the nations, and the Lord will make the glory of his voice heard in the joy of your heart.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading: Is 40:1-5. 9-11

Prepare the way for the Lord.

We pause for silent reflection.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 84:9-14. R. v.8

(R.) Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

1. I will hear what the Lord God has to say, a voice that speaks of peace, peace for his people. His help is near for those who fear him and his glory will dwell in our land. *(R.)*
2. Mercy and faithfulness have met; justice and peace have embraced. Faithfulness shall spring from the earth and justice look down from heaven. *(R.)*
3. The Lord will make us prosper and our earth shall yield its fruit. Justice shall march before him and peace shall follow his steps. *(R.)*

Second Reading: 2 Pt 3:8-14

We wait for new heavens and a new earth.

We pause for silent reflection.

Gospel Acclamation *(Please stand)*

Alleluia, alleluia!

Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths: all people shall see the salvation of God.

Alleluia!

Gospel: Mk 1:1-8

Make straight the paths of the Lord.

We pause for silent reflection.

Homily

The Nicene Creed

I believe in one God,
the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the Only Begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all ages.
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father;
through him all things were made.

For us men and for our salvation he came down
from heaven, and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of
the Virgin Mary, and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate,
he suffered death and was buried,
and rose again on the third day in accordance with
the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead
and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is adored and
glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.
I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins
and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God,
the Father Almighty,
Creator of Heaven and earth;
and in Jesus Christ, His only Son Our Lord,
Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, *(all bow)*
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into Hell;
on the third day He rose again from the dead;
He ascended into Heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of God, the Father
almighty; from there He shall come to judge the living
and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Catholic Church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the
resurrection of the body and life everlasting.

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Memorial Acclamation

We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection until you come again.

Communion Acclamation

Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the heights, and behold the joy which comes to you from God.

© The scriptural quotations are taken from the Jerusalem Bible, published and copyright 1966, 1967 and 1968 by Darton Longman and Todd Ltd and Doubleday & Co Inc, and used by permission of the publishers. The English translation of the Psalm Responses, the Alleluia and Gospel Verses, and the Lenten Gospel Acclamations, and the Titles, Summaries, and Conclusion of the Readings, from the Lectionary for Mass © 1997, 1981, 1968, International Committee on English in the Liturgy, Inc. All rights reserved. The prayers are from the English Translation of the Roman Missal © 2010 International Committee on English in the Liturgy Inc. (ICEL). All rights reserved.

REFLECTION BY GREG SUNTER

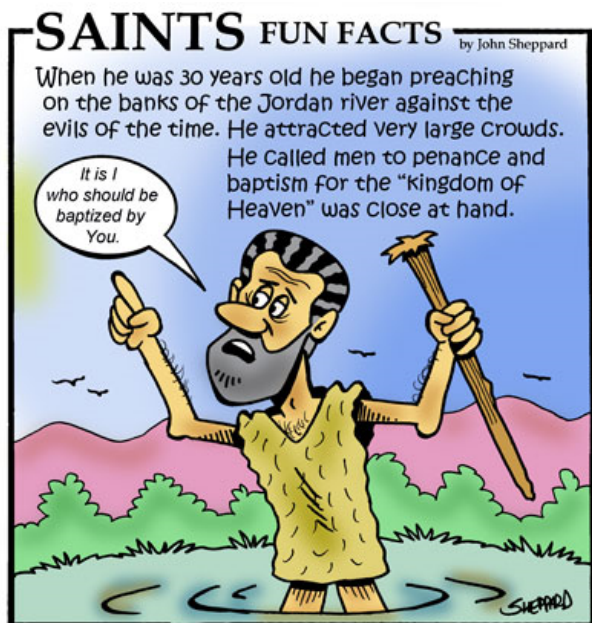
This week's gospel captures beautifully the spirit of preparation and waiting that characterises the liturgical season of Advent. John the Baptist is portrayed as fulfilling the prophecies of Isaiah and others as the one who comes before the Lord preparing the way. He is a messenger, sent by God to 'do the groundwork' preparing the people for the coming of the Christ. Although this passage is used during Advent as preparation for the celebration of the birth of Jesus, we know that John was a contemporary (indeed cousin) of Jesus and the time of preparation was immediately prior to Jesus' public ministry.

John appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism for forgiveness of sins. It may seem odd to think of going to the wilderness to try to influence people. Today we might think that the city centre or street corner might be the better venue to preach something. What is it about the wilderness? Reference is made to the wilderness several times in scripture. It is used as a place of preparation and encounter with God. The wilderness referred to was a vast expanse of emptiness on the eastern side of the Jordan River. It was not uncommon for wandering preachers like John and Jesus to go out into the wilderness as a way of making a break from their previous life and getting themselves ready in body and spirit to begin their ministry. The wilderness to the east of the Jordan was also the place in which many of the rebels based themselves. There was a sense that challenge and unrest came out of the wilderness. In many ways that is what Jesus – heralded by John – brought out of the wilderness as well.

Historical Context – A Baptism of Forgiveness

The understanding that we generally have of baptism today has not always been the case. At the time of John and Jesus, the Jewish tradition used baptism as a ritual bath to cleanse a person who had become ritually unclean and make them able to participate in religious rituals. What John was preaching was a baptism for the forgiveness of sins – a new interpretation at the time. He emphasised that repentance was essential for forgiveness and that there needed to be a conscious returning to God. John's baptism was a symbolic act to signify the willingness of the person to renounce their sins and make a more conscious return to God. © Greg Sunter

Greg Sunter has worked in Catholic Education (Brisbane) for many years, most recently as a member of the Religious Education team and Mission and Formation team. He has extensive experience of praying with young people and forming others to lead prayer with young people. He is the author of books on adolescent faith, is a regular speaker at youth and evangelisation conferences, and is a retreat and reflection facilitator and presenter. His areas of interest include religious education, theology, scripture, spirituality, Catholic ethos, prayer, and ministry with young people.



John the Baptist

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

3rd Sunday of Advent

Is 61:1-2, 10-11

1 Thess 5:16-24

Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

Weekday and Sunday readings can be found at www.usccb.org



Prayer Requests

RECENTLY DECEASED: Catherine Horner, Francis Sleishman, Doreen Fox

ANNIVERSARIES: Julia Kelly, Gladys Broad, Wallace Henry Humphries,

SICK: Baby Oliver Robens, Beth Wooden, Kate Newsome.

Names may be placed here by contacting the Regional Office. Please refer to the Policy Document on the Regional website—visit www.newcastlecatholic.org.au/downloads

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

The Celebration of the Nativity of the Lord (Christmas) is one of the highlights of the Christian year, and for very good reason.

Our celebrations in 2020, however, will look significantly different to what they have in the past because of the continuing presence of COVID-19 in our community. This presence requires the observing of a number of restrictions in the way we will celebrate Christmas, largely concerning the number of persons who will be able to attend, and the regrettable absence of the singing together of well known carols (at least according to the rules in place when this edition goes to print).

CHRISTMAS EVE 24 DECEMBER

5:00pm Vigil Sacred Heart Cathedral Hamilton
5:00pm Vigil St Joseph's The Junction
5:30pm Vigil St Mary's Star of the Sea Newcastle
5:30pm Vigil St Laurence O'Toole Broadmeadow
6:00pm Vigil Christ the King Mayfield West
7:00pm Vigil Sacred Heart Cathedral
7:00pm Vigil St Joseph's The Junction
7:30pm Vigil St Peter-in-Chains Stockton
7:30pm Vigil St Laurence O'Toole Broadmeadow
10:00pm Vigil Sacred Heart Cathedral (Polish)

CHRISTMAS DAY

12 Midnight Sacred Heart Cathedral Hamilton
12 Midnight St Joseph's The Junction
7:30am Sacred Heart Cathedral Hamilton
7:30am St Mary's Star of the Sea Newcastle
8:00am Immaculate Heart of Mary Tighes Hill
9:00am St Joseph's The Junction
9:00am St Peter-in-Chains Stockton
9:30am Sacred Heart Cathedral Hamilton
11:30am Sacred Heart Cathedral (Polish)
5:30pm Christ the King Mayfield West (Vietnamese)

ST STEPHEN'S DAY 26 DECEMBER

11:30am Sacred Heart Cathedral (Polish)

NEW YEAR'S DAY 1 JANUARY

11:30am Sacred Heart Cathedral (Polish)

Because of the restrictions on the number of persons who can be in our Churches, each of the Christmas Masses (apart from the two Polish language Masses) will need to be 'ticketed', i.e. you will need to register in advance in order to attend.

We regret the need to do this, but believe it is the only way to manage the situation efficiently and with

some equity.

Registration will be via the Eventbrite website as this permits both the addition of extra spaces if public health orders change, and will also permit the easier collection of contact details of those attending. For those without internet access, please contact the Parish Office on 4979 1101 and the staff will assist you.

We are giving our regular parishioners first option on registering. The event will not be placed on websites, or our various social media outlets until the beginning of December.

To register for Masses please use the following links:

Sacred Heart Cathedral

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/christmas-mass-sacred-heart-cathedral-hamilton-registration-127681140729>

St Joseph's

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/christmas-mass-st-josephs-the-junction-registration-128741349843>



St Mary's

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/christmas-mass-st-marys-the-hill-registration-128742725959>

For registration for Christ the King Mayfield West, St Peter-in-Chains Stockton, Immaculate Heart of Mary Tighes Hill and St Laurence O'Toole Broadmeadow, please use the normal Sunday Mass registration

COLUMBAN ART CALENDAR:

is an iconic Catholic Calendar, well-known for its traditional religious paintings and liturgical information and a major fundraiser for Columban Missionaries. 2021 marks the 99th edition. These calendars will be available through St Vincent de Paul for \$10 each. They can be purchased from St Joseph's



The Junction and St Mary's Star of the Sea Newcastle.

AID TO THE CHURCH IN NEED CHRISTMAS CARDS

are available for purchase. A pack of 12 cards costs \$10. Please place money on the second collection plate.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL CHRISTMAS CARDS are available for purchase. A pack of 10 cards costs \$7.

COVID-19-RELATED INFORMATION

Maximum Number of Persons in Churches

Under the current Public Health Order, the limit on the number of persons who can be present in a church is now calculated as the lesser of allowing 4 square metres per person within the building, or 300 persons. In our Region, those limits are:

Sacred Heart Cathedral	110
St Mary's, Newcastle	54
St Joseph's, The Junction	100
Mary Immaculate, Tighes Hill	55
St Laurence O'Toole, Broadmeadow	55
St Peter-in-Chains, Stockton	70
Christ the King, Mayfield West	70

The limit applies to all Masses and other liturgical celebrations, such as weddings and funerals.

The NSW government has made some announcements about further easing of restrictions from Monday, 7 December, but we cannot act on these until they are formalised in a Public Health Order.

Provision of Contact Details

The Public Health Order requires the collection of contact details for those who attend any liturgical celebration in a church (e.g. Mass, weddings, funerals, Baptisms, etc.). If a 'discrete' group attends, e.g. a family, a husband and wife, people from the same household etc., only one (adult) member of the group is required to provide their contact details.

The contact details that are required are defined as a) name, b) phone number or email address, and c) the time of arrival.

A Contact Details Form will be provided at the door to permit the collection of these details. The Cathedral also provides an 'online' version via SignIn.com.au which permits you to sign in via your mobile phone. If you have the Service NSW app on your phone, you can also use that to sign in at the Cathedral.

General Requirements

The requirements regarding cleaning, observing physical distancing, refraining from communal singing, etc. remain in place for the time being, as does the requirement to refrain from physical acts of devotion that involve touching or kissing icons or statues.

Liturgical rituals have been adapted, and will continue to be adapted, in order to ensure the health and safety of all parishioners and visitors to our churches. We ask those who are particularly at risk – the elderly, those with compromised health, those who

are sick – to refrain from returning to Mass for the sake of their own health. The dispensation from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass given by the Bishop remains in place in these circumstances.

Requirements for Attending Mass

Cathedral: There is no need to register in advance to attend Mass. If you wish to return to Mass, you are at liberty to do so, though capacity limits will need to be observed at all Masses.

St Mary's Newcastle & St Joseph's, The Junction: Registration in advance is required for Sunday Mass. To register, visit the Regional website, contact the Regional Office on 4979 1101, or email the Regional Office via newcparish@mn.catholic.org.au. **Please note that once you have registered you will only be contacted if you are UNABLE to attend Mass.**

Broadmeadow: Registration in advance is required. To register, please contact Gwen on 4967 5010, or Fr James on 0402 223415, or via email, jamesodoh768@yahoo.com.

Tighes Hill: Registration in advance is required. To register, please contact Fr James on 0402 223 415 or via email, jamesodoh768@yahoo.com.

IMPORTANT TO NOTE: If you reach voicemail when you call to register for Mass, **please leave your name and phone number and clearly identify which Mass you wish to attend.** We need to be able to contact you on Friday afternoon/evening to confirm your attendance. We remind you that if you are not registered, you are not able to attend Mass.

LIVE-STREAMING NOTICE – 9.30AM MASS FROM

SACRED HEART CATHEDRAL The 9.30am Mass from Sacred Heart Cathedral is live-streamed (and recorded) each week. The camera is located under the choir loft and faces towards the sanctuary, though it can be directed to various parts of the Cathedral if needed.

Parishioners should be aware that they may be filmed during the celebration of the 9.30am Mass. This filming will mostly capture their image from behind. We cannot guarantee, however, that their faces will not be featured on the live-stream or recording, particularly the case during the Communion Procession. The live-stream will make use of multiple camera angles to minimise the identification of individuals as much as possible, but this will not eliminate the possibility of being filmed.

Parishioners with concerns about being filmed or recorded should speak with the Cathedral Rector, Father Andrew Doohan, in the first instance.

JUNIOR WORDSEARCH

Clear a path for the Lord

Is 40:3-5
Ps 85:8-9, 10-11, R, v.8
Mk 1:1-8

X L I S T R A I G H T P T B A
I E H O L Y S P I R I T F B Z
M P O V O I C E I G M F A Z G
N S N H S J W T J R C R O W D
K S E F W F G X Z A F I H C O
X L E R E A K B G S R O A D T
P I G U U K F N F S T S X D M
E M P S O R R Y E H V R A M R
Z V P R E P A R E O T Y A N R
A C N D E S E R T P M R T M Q
B A P T I S T S M P J W M D G
J O R D A N B P N E O C P L G
F X H I O C T M A R D Z S F M
H U G Q V U I L S S Y B D Q B
B X J M O U N T A I N K F W Z

Try to find these words:

Baptist
crowd
desert
grasshoppers
Holy Spirit
Jordan
mountain
prepare
road
sorry
straight
voice

2nd Sunday of Advent, Year B

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SENIOR WORDSEARCH

Clear a path for the Lord

Is 40:3-5
Ps 85:8-9, 10-11, R, v.8
Mk 1:1-8

D R A A S L O A H D I H F H L P Z
O I A O K D O U H I W C X G F C L
G Y E B M G S G U K H O X Y R L E
V Q O O H X N A D R O J R O S O Y
N G M S O R R Y Q R H G H C Q G U
C C B D H Z W R G L T M C Z R J C
T R E S E D N O A I C L W A G J G
V X X T G Y P X R O P G S A I X V
T H G Z N E Q I I D R S T N E J Q
P M Z K B O P K X L H S Q D F X P
R H Q T L S U D U O H Z W F T E L
E G Q H Y I S P P S T R A I G H T
P B O L B R I P M O U N T A I N V
A Q O W X F E T S I T P A B P O D
R H U Z P R N B I D O K Z N I V A
E C I X S K X W S F P K I C L L O
Y A P H H L H T R O P Z E A N O R

Try to find these words:

Baptist
crowd
desert
grasshoppers
Holy Spirit
Jordan
mountain
prepare
road
sorry
straight
voice

2nd Sunday of Advent, Year B

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