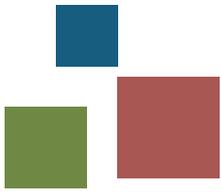


Towards Plenary Council 2020 -2021
Second Sunday of Advent 2018

“Prepare a way for the Lord...”





Second Sunday of Advent

From the Readings

First Reading 1 Baruch 5:7. For God has decreed the flattening of each high mountain, of the everlasting hills, the filling of the valleys to make level ground ...

Second Reading 2 Philippians 1:9-10. My prayer is that your love for each other may increase more and more and never stop improving your knowledge and deepening your perception so that you can always recognise what is best.

Gospel Luke 3:3-6. John went through the whole Jordan district proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah: A voice cries in the wilderness: Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley will be filled in, winding ways will be straightened and rough roads made smooth. And all humankind shall see the salvation of God.”

Reflections

How am I to know the will of God? Even where there is no other more explicit claim on my obedience, such as a legitimate command, the very nature of each situation usually bears written into itself some indication of God’s will. For whatever is demanded by truth, by justice, by mercy, or by love must surely be taken to be willed by God.

(Thomas Merton, From ‘New Seeds of Contemplation’ in Bridges, p 76)

Along with listening, we invoke openness towards a sincere, open and fraternal discussion, which leads us to carry with pastoral responsibility the questions that this epochal change brings with it.

(Pope Francis, during the Meeting on the Family, Rome, 4 Oct 2014).

The holy people of God shares also in Christ’s prophetic office...

(Vatican II, Lumen Gentium, 12)

Towards Plenary Council 2020 -2021

So You Think That

So you think that
because of her weaknesses,
Christ will forsake her?
The worse his church and ours
is marred by our failures,
the steadier he will support her
with his tender care.
He could not deny
his own body.

(Dom Helder Camara in 'Essential Writings', 110)

For Thinking & Talking

1. Imagine

John's voice in the wilderness, calling for repentance, forgiveness and the making of a new way for God.

2. Translate to life:

What advice can you give to a person, or group, who has a deep desire to find God's way, or God's will, for their lives?

3. Express the heart:

Find words or an image for

- Insights gained from these readings and reflections
- A hope or intention for the future.

Prayer

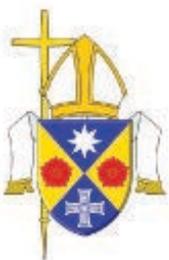
God, still come to us.
Emmanuel, come to us,
and touch our lives and change our plans.
Everlasting Father, come to us
and hold us in your loving arms.
Wonderful Counsellor, come to us,
and walk along our path.
Prince of Peace, come to us,
and reconcile our differences.
Almighty God, come to us,
and see and save our world. God, still come to us. Amen.

(Adapted from 'Come to Us, Emmanuel' by Frances Ballantyne, in *600 Blessings and Prayers*, 137)



DREAM OF ST. JOSEPH C. 1605-1610 - FRANCISCO RIBALTA

THE CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF SANDHURST



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