



# GO AND TELL

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Reflection and Prayer for Advent 2022 with Sunday readings and the Sandhurst Mission and Pastoral Council Preparation and Consultation Plan 2022-2023.

# SIGN OF THE CROSS.

Come, Lord Jesus! Rev. 22:20

## FROM THE READINGS

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**First Reading:** Let the wilderness and the dry-lands exult,  
let the wasteland rejoice and bloom,  
let it bring forth flowers like the jonquil,  
let it rejoice and sing for joy.

The glory of Lebanon is bestowed on it,  
the splendour of Carmel and Sharon;  
they shall see the glory of the Lord,  
the splendour of our God.

Strengthen all weary hands, steady all trembling knees  
and say, to all faint hearts, 'Courage! Do not be afraid'.

'Look, your God is coming, vengeance is coming,  
the retribution of God; he is coming to save you.'

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,  
the ears of the deaf unsealed, then the lame shall leap like a deer  
and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy, for those the Lord has ransomed  
shall return.

They will come to Zion shouting for joy, everlasting joy on their faces; joy and  
gladness will go with them and sorrow and lament be ended. *Isaiah 35:1-6,10*

## Gospel:

Jesus answered, "Go back and tell John what you hear and see: the blind see  
again, and lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, and the  
dead are raised to life, and the Good News is proclaimed to the poor; and  
happy those who do not lose faith in me." *Matthew 11:4-5*

## Prayer and Reflection I

- **Read** the scripture passages aloud or silently.
- **Reflect and pray**, stopping to ponder any 'stand out' words or phrases. *10 mins*
- **Respond** *10-15 mins*

Individuals: Write or sit quietly with your reflections.

Groups: Share your responses and listen to others (*2-3 mins each*).

- o What stands out for you?
- o What do you want to take with you?

## FROM THE SANDHURST MISSION AND PASTORAL COUNCIL PREPARATION AND CONSULTATION PLAN 2022 - 2023

- **A Sandhurst Diocesan Assembly (15 February 2023).** The Diocesan Assembly is part of a larger movement of synodality, being a church on the journey together. This will be the first time in living memory that the Catholic Diocese of Sandhurst has gathered as a whole community of parishes, schools, professed religious and chancery staff. It is the right time for our entire community, ordained and lay, to gather in one place at one time to celebrate, to pray, and to enter into the collective experience of listening and dialogue. At the Assembly a keynote address on Synodality will be delivered, the recommendations of the 5th Plenary Council of Australia noted, the synthesis from the diocesan consultation for the Synod on Synodality celebrated and feedback from the preparation and consultation meetings for the Sandhurst Mission and Pastoral Council will be considered. The Assembly will be held in Shepparton at the Riverlinks EastBank Centre on 15 February 2023. The date will be claimed, and invitations issued by the Bishop.

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## Prayer and Reflection II

- **Read** the paragraphs from the SMPC Preparation and Consultation Plan, aloud or silently.
- **Reflect and pray**, considering
  - o What stands out for you?
  - o Any Advent scripture insights that shine additional light on these words.
  - o Ways in which your insights may relate to
    - a) your parish
    - b) our Diocese?
- **Express a hope for the future.**

# PRAYER

FOR THE SANDHURST MISSION AND PASTORAL COUNCIL

**In this time of Advent, we turn to Mary,**  
our Mother of Good Counsel  
and patroness of our Diocese,  
as we seek to become a more missionary and pastoral Church:  
people of faith, hope and love for our world.

**May we be led**  
by the same wisdom and courage sent by the Holy Spirit  
to guide her along unfamiliar paths  
and through challenging decisions.  
We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Our Lady of Good Counsel, pray for us. Amen.**

*Sandhurst Mission and Pastoral Council (SMPC) Preparation and Consultation Plan, page 6.*



Prepared for Advent Year A 2022. Catholic Diocese of Sandhurst, PO Box 201 Bendigo, Vic, 3552 Email: [adultfaith@sandhurst.catholic.org.au](mailto:adultfaith@sandhurst.catholic.org.au) **Acknowledgements:** Go to: [www.sandhurst.catholic.org.au/](http://www.sandhurst.catholic.org.au/) Click on banner 'A Year of Preparation and Consultation for a Sandhurst Mission and Pastoral Council', scroll down for prayer card and 'Preparation and Consultation Plan'. For SMPC updates and more diocesan news register to receive the Sandhurst eNews: [www.sandhurst.catholic.org.au](http://www.sandhurst.catholic.org.au) OR access digital code.

