

FROM THE PARISH PRIEST

John the Baptist was imprisoned and beheaded by Herod Antipas, one of the sons of Herod the Great. Antipas succeeded his father as king or tetrarch of Galilee. Keeping track of all the Herods can be pretty tough. Let's make a start then with **Herod the Great** who ruled as King of Judea from about 37BC and died when Jesus Christ was an infant/child hiding with His family in Egypt (Mt 2:19,20). We can read a lot about Herod the Great in the writings of Josephus in *the Jewish Wars* and *The Antiquities of the Jews*. Through politics, marriage, warfare and being on good terms with the Romans, including Marc Antony, he gained power and maintained it, even against threats from Cleopatra Queen of Egypt. (Continued inside)

Gospel Acclamation Isaiah 61:1 (Luke 4:18)

Alleluia, alleluia!
The Spirit of the Lord is upon me;
he sent me to bring Good News to the poor.
Alleluia!

Gospel Matthew 11:2-11

John in his prison had heard what Christ was doing and he sent his disciples to ask him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or have we got to wait for someone else?' Jesus answered, 'Go back and tell John what you hear and see; the blind see again, and the lame walk, 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 is the man who does not lose faith in me.'
As the messengers were leaving, Jesus began to talk to the people about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swaying in the breeze? No? Then what did you go out to see? A man wearing fine clothes? Oh no, those who wear fine clothes are to be found in palaces. Then what did you go out for? To see a prophet? Yes, I tell you, and much more than a prophet: he is the one of whom scripture says:
'Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way before you.
'I tell you solemnly, of all the children born of women, a greater than John the Baptist has never been seen; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he is.'

Communion Antiphon Cf. Is 35: 4

Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear. Behold, our God will come, and he will save us.



3RD SUNDAY ADVENT (YEAR A) 11TH DECEMBER 2022



Entrance Antiphon Phil 4: 4-5

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice.
Indeed, the Lord is near.

First reading Isaiah 35:1-6,10

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.

Responsorial Psalm Psalm 145(146):6-10

Lord, come and save us.

It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever,
who is just to those who are oppressed.
It is he who gives bread to the hungry,
the Lord, who sets prisoners free,

Lord, come and save us.

It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind,
who raises up those who are bowed down,
the Lord, who protects the stranger
and upholds the widow and orphan.

Lord, come and save us.

It is the Lord who loves the just
but thwarts the path of the wicked.
The Lord will reign for ever,
Zion's God, from age to age.

Lord, come and save us.

Second reading James 5:7-10

Be patient, brothers, until the Lord's coming.
Think of a farmer: how patiently he waits for
the precious fruit of the ground until it has had
the autumn rains and the spring rains! You too
have to be patient; do not lose heart, because
the Lord's coming will be soon. Do not make
complaints against one another, brothers, so
as not to be brought to judgement yourselves;
the Judge is already to be seen waiting at the
gates. For your example, brothers, in
submitting with patience, take the prophets
who spoke in the name of the Lord.

*(Readings continued
on the back page)*

Our Lady of Fatima

CATHOLIC CHURCH + ROSEBUD



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The region gained stability under his rule, despite his brutal means of keeping it. He was a great builder, renowned to this day. He began the building of the Temple that the Apostles marveled at and that was one of the great marvels of the ancient world. He was not interested in the strict observance of religion of course, but with power and glory. At one point he erected a golden eagle above the Temple gate. Some 40 zealous Jews cut it down believing it to be idolatry. Herod the Great had them burned alive. Herod the Great was consumed by zealotry for holding power. No better example is his attempt to assassinate the infant Jesus by murdering every child under 2 years of age in the area of Bethlehem. Herod put to death many of his family, including his wife, Mariame, and three of his sons. One son, Antipater (named after his grandfather), told Herod that his brothers Alexander and Aristobulus were plotting against him. Herod had them strangled to death. Antipater was later put to death. Emperor Augustus joked that it was safer to be Herod's pig than his son (as Jews abstain from eating pig). Herod the Great, descending into paranoia,

decayed in mind and body and died himself of a horrible disease. He divided the kingdom between his sons Herod Antipas, Philip and Archelaus. **Herod Antipas** divorced his wife for Herodias, his brother Philip's wife...not to mention his own niece, being the daughter of previously mentioned Aristobulus. Antipas has John the Baptist beheaded at the request of Herodias and Philip's daughter, who he was also enamored by after she danced for him. John the Baptist preached that the 'marriage' between Antipas and Herodias was unlawful which brought their ire towards John. A point of interest, Josephus says that at one point the Army of King Aretus of Arabia/Syria defeated the army of Antipas, and the common belief among the Jews was that this was a sign to Antipas of God's displeasure in his killing John the Baptist. (*The Antiquities of the Jews 18.5.116*) Jesus was sent by Pilot to Antipas, and when Jesus refused to speak to him, and after his soldiers mocked Him (Lk 23:11) sent Him back. Herodias later had ambitions for Herod Antipas and put him forward to the Emperor for promotion. This backfired however and Emperor

Caligula had Antipas exiled. To her credit Herodias went with him though she didn't have to. Herodias was the sister of **Herod Agrippa I**. Agrippa I (son of previously mentioned Aristobulus) persecuted Christians to gain the favour of the Jews. He killed James the Apostle and then imprisoned Peter who was then released by an angel. In Acts 12 it describes his death. After giving an oration he was pleased to be called a god, and so was struck down, died and was eaten by worms. (Acts 12) Josephus' version of the event is that the royal robes of Agrippa I were dazzling in the sunlight and so the people praised him as a god, at which point he was struck down by a painful illness in his stomach and soon died. His son **Herod Agrippa II** is mentioned in Acts when Paul comes before him on trial. Later he is



Our Lady of Perpetual Help

CATHOLIC CHURCH + DROMANA

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FUNERALS

Claire O'Neill

Tuesday 13th December
11.00am Requiem Mass
Our Lady of Fatima, Rosebud

John McSweeney

Wednesday 14th December
11:00am Funeral Prayers at Our
Lady of Fatima, Rosebud

FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK

Mon: Our Lady of Guadalupe
Tues: St Lucy
Wed: St John of the Cross

COLLECTIONS:

1st Collection/ Presbytery:

Supports our Parish Priest and the priests of the Archdiocese.

2nd Collection/ Church:

Supports our respective Parishes.

PHONES OFF

Please turn phones onto silent or off, and maintain prayerful quiet in the Church.

WORKING WITH CHILDREN

CARDS: For those parishioners who help out in the Parishes please ensure your card is up to date if it has been renewed please advise the Secretary your new details.

SPECIAL COLLECTION: Next weekend St Vincent de Paul Society Christmas Appeal.

THANK YOU

Thanks to all who helped at the Dromana working Bee last Saturday, a lot was accomplished, it was a great effort.

Thanks also to those both in Rosebud and Dromana Parishes who have organised the morning tea each month over the year.

DROMANA PARISH PRAYER:

Father, pour out your Spirit upon the people of this Parish so that, inspired by your Word, nourished at your table and graced by your empowering love, our lives may be devoted to the service of our brothers and sisters and the building of your Kingdom. May our Parish Community truly be, for this place and time, the Body of Christ your Son, through whom we make this prayer. AMEN.