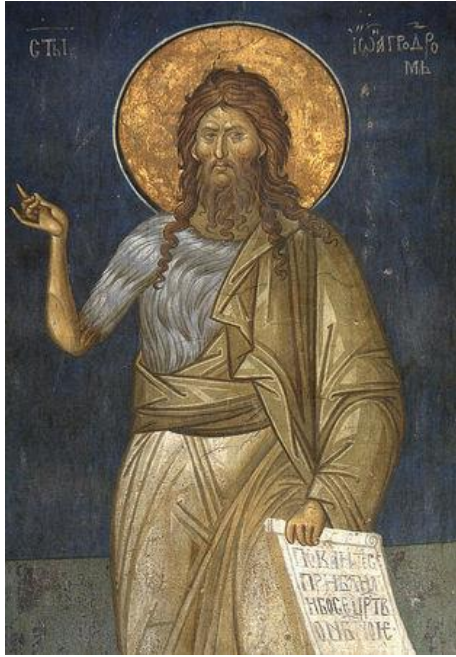


3rd Sunday in Advent A 2025

Matthew 11:2-11

Are you the one who is to come, or have we got to wait for someone else?

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 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.'

Reflection

This Sunday's Gospel gives us much comfort. John the Baptist is imprisoned, is in despair, questions himself and sends out a message to Jesus. So how does this offer us any comfort?

We see that such a dedicated follower of Jesus, such a man of huge faith, could have doubts and questions about life. John goes so far as to send out a message to Jesus questioning what was going on. In response, Jesus didn't send the messengers back to reassure John. Jesus asked John's friends to open their eyes and look around them, to see what he was doing and see the answers to John's questions.

When we are confused and questioning our faith, we must fill our hearts with the evidence of the life Jesus led. This will give us the strength to stay strong and continue to follow God our Saviour.

Prayer

Loving God, we ask for your reassuring love to wash over us as we rush through the hustle and bustle of Christmas. Help us to have eyes that really see and ears that really hear.

Gentle God, we thank you for all the wonderful people of faith in our lives, who support and share your love with us on a daily basis.

Merciful God, we pray for Pope Francis and his health. May he continue to be a strong voice for your love here on earth.

Lord, help us, like John the Baptist, to play our part in history, content in knowing that what we have worked hard and suffered to achieve, the least significant of the next generation will enjoy as a matter of course.

