

## HOLY CROSS AND ALL SAINTS MONDAY MISSION

### THIS WEEK'S WORD:

Matthew 11:2-11

'When John the Baptist heard in prison about the things that Christ was doing, he sent some of his disciples to him. "Tell us," they asked Jesus, "are you the one John said was going to come, or should we expect someone else?" Jesus answered, "Go back and tell John what you are hearing and seeing: the blind can see, the lame can walk, those who suffer from dreaded skin diseases are made clean,[a] the deaf hear, the dead are brought back to life, and the Good News is preached to the poor. How happy are those who have no doubts about me!" While John's disciples were leaving, Jesus spoke about him to the crowds: "When you went out to John in the desert, what did you expect to see? A blade of grass bending in the wind? What did you go out to see? A man dressed up in fancy clothes? People who dress like that live in palaces! Tell me, what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes indeed, but you saw much more than a prophet. For John is the one of whom the scripture says: 'God said, I will send my messenger ahead of you to open the way for you.' I assure you that John the Baptist is greater than anyone who has ever lived. But the one who is least in the Kingdom of heaven is greater than John.



### REFLECT

The third Sunday in Advent used to be called "Gaudete Sunday". Gaudete means 'Rejoice!' As a symbol of this, the purple of the vestments are softened to a pink or rose colour.

All the readings this week are full of joy! We are happy because we are soon going to welcome God into the world! The Gospel tells us how Jesus brings healing and wholeness – not just physically but spiritually and emotionally too. Jesus will mend our broken hearts and fill us with love.

John the Baptist has caused too much of a stir and is in prison. It is interesting to note that even John the Baptist needs to check that Jesus really is the Messiah. Doubts are a normal part of faith. John has lived his life in faith, giving God's message for the world. Now he can see that God's promise has been made real – the Messiah is here! Jesus is bringing the Good News of God's love to everyone, and in very practical ways.

This Advent we are called prepare the way for Jesus to come into our hearts. We are opening our hearts to receive God's love – and want to share the joy of that love with others. How will we share joy with the people we meet today? Can we show love in practical ways, so that they experience the peace and justice that living in God's kingdom brings? Being loved is cause for real celebration – let's celebrate with joy today.

### LET US PRAY

Heavenly Father,  
I am singing with joy for all the many gifts you give me.

Thank you for being with me even when I feel sad and alone.

Thank you for bringing my joy each day!

Amen

### MISSION

This week, we are asked to prepare our hearts for Jesus by:

- Opening our hearts to God's love
- Sharing joy with others
- Showing love in kind and practical ways

#### ★ Our Mission This Week ★

- Be a Joy Bringer!
- Smile and be kind to everyone you meet 😊
- Help someone who is feeling sad or left out
- Use kind words and gentle actions
- Share God's love through what you say and do
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When we spread joy, we help others feel God's peace, love, and happiness.