

## Children's Activity Sheet

The Cathedral Church of St Marie  
welcomes

.....  
to Mass today.

### Preparing The Way

#### **2nd Sunday of Advent. Year A.**

"Are you ready for Christmas?" You will hear that question many times over the next few weeks. What do people mean by that? Well, they usually mean is your Christmas tree up and your house decorated? Or have you finished your Christmas shopping? Or have you sent out your Christmas cards? But there is more important question we should be asking ourselves today... It is "Are you ready for *Jesus*, this Christmas?"

Many years ago, a man called John the Baptist preached about what it means to be ready for Jesus. John the Baptist was a different kind of man. He wore clothes made of camel's hair with a belt around the waist, and he ate a diet of locusts and wild honey. John the Baptist travelled throughout the wilderness of Judea. His message to the people was, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near." People came to John the Baptist from all over the entire area. They confessed their sins to God and were baptised by John in the Jordan River. After John baptised the people, he told them, "I baptise you with water for repentance. But there is one coming who is more powerful than I. He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit." He was talking about Jesus. John the Baptist wanted the people to repent of their sins so that they would be ready for Jesus.

During this special season of the year, as we get ready for Christmas, you and I need to make sure that we are ready too for the coming of Jesus - the *Christ* in 'Christmas'. We need to look into our hearts and ask God to make us clean so that we can walk with Jesus each day of our life!



### JOHN THE BAPTIST

*Matthew 3:3, Mark 1:3, Luke 3:4*

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# Decoder Puzzle



This puzzle is based on Matthew 3:1-12.

Each number represents a letter of the alphabet. Substitute the correct letter for the numbers to reveal the coded words:

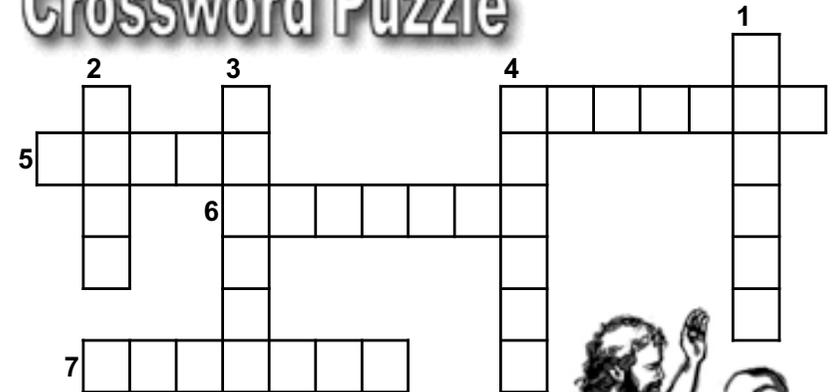
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13

N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26

- 22-15-9-3-5 \_\_\_\_\_
- 4-5-19-5-18-20 \_\_\_\_\_
- 16-18-5-16-1-18-5 \_\_\_\_\_
- 8-15-14-5-25 \_\_\_\_\_
- 19-1-14-4-1-12-19 \_\_\_\_\_
- 16-1-20-8-19 \_\_\_\_\_
- 16-15-23-5-18-6-21-12 \_\_\_\_\_
- 2-1-16-20-9-19-5 \_\_\_\_\_
- 18-5-16-5-14-20 \_\_\_\_\_
- 19-20-18-1-9-7-8-20 \_\_\_\_\_

Baptise	Prepare	Voice	Straight	Sandals
Paths	Desert	Repent	Honey	Powerful

# Crossword Puzzle



## ACROSS

- One who speaks for God, or tells what will happen in the future
- The sounds that are made when people speak or sing
- To get ready for something that is going to happen
- What John did to people in the Jordan River

## DOWN

- An area where there is little rain and not many plants
- The man who preached that Jesus was coming
- To be sorry for something bad you have done and make a change
- To deliver a sermon

Voice	Prepare	John	Prophet
Repent	Desert	Preach	Baptise

# Children's Prayer

Dear heavenly Father. Every day we do things for which we need your forgiveness. We ask you to forgive us and make our hearts clean so that we will be ready to welcome the coming King this Christmas. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

