

Advent Resource - Year A

Lead kindly light 3rd Sunday

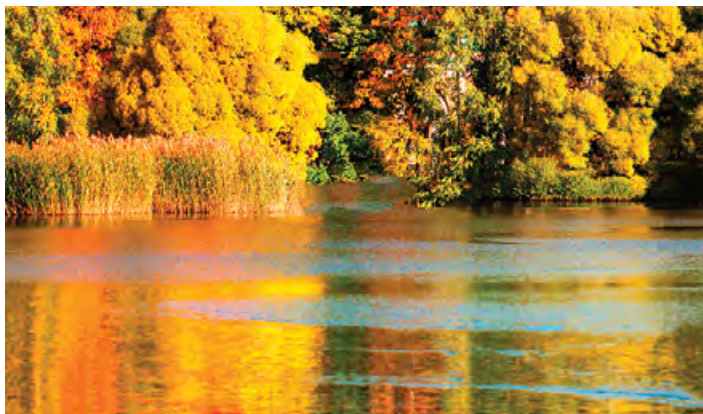
The Lord gives sight to the blind (Psalm 145)

Points for prayer - Sunday scripture

*Isaiah says 'let the dry-lands bloom'
Steady all trembling knees. Courage!
The eyes of the blind shall be opened
James says, 'patient until the Lord's coming'
Think of the farmer: how patient
The Judge is already at the gates
Matthew: 'Are you the one who has come?'
The blind see again and the lame walk
I am going to send my messenger before me
The least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than
the Baptist.*

Praise

Mary's Magnificat is a hymn of praise. St Thomas Aquinas wrote Eucharistic poems that have nourished Christian life for a millennium. Australians James McAuley and Richard Connolly's hymn *Cosmic Praise* puts God the Creator within our ecologically aware world, even naming the obscure algae diatoms resident of the ocean. Sing a new song they ask, a line totally at one with Thomas Berry's *New Story of Cosmic Salvation*.



Vision for a future

The *Australian Department of the Environment* designs and implements the Australian Government's policies and programmes. It helps to conserve the environment and promotes action on global warming. The department has four pillars: clean air, clean land, clean water and national heritage. Every few years it publishes *State of the Environment Australia* – an environmental reality score card for the nation. It also points to possible and hopeful future directions. It challenges both the media to report their findings and business boards to take its data into decision making.

"Saint Francis shows us just how inseparable is the bond between concern for nature, justice for the poor, commitment to society and interior peace." Pope Francis, Laudato Si' #10

Prayers of the faithful

1. Courage – God, you gave your Chosen People leaders and prophets. Strengthen our trembling knees to do what is right and comfort us in trials.
2. Wisdom – God of wisdom, heal our deafness to the warnings of global warming activists so we can speak with courage to our leaders.
3. Patience – God, you show patience with your People. Help us not to give up but be constant in our strivings for personal and national integrity.
4. Vision – Baptised into Christ we have been reborn. God of Life, open our minds and hearts to the vision of a better world that gives hope to all.
5. Joy – God, your People bloomed like desert flowers. Help us to recognise with joy your presence in all good things that blossom in our nation.

Profile

Blessed John Henry Cardinal Newman lived first as a committed Anglican lecturer at *Oxford University*. Knowing the limitations of theological language he valued story and analogy. He wrote the hymn "*Lead kindly light*" and the play *The Dream of Gerontius*. He lived his phrase: *To live is to change, and to be perfect is to have changed often*. He became a Catholic, was ordained and made a Cardinal for his contribution to growing the faith.

Missions wide embrace

Thanks solely to this encounter – or renewed encounter – with God's love, which blossoms into an enriching friendship, we are liberated from our narrowness and self-absorption. We become fully human when we become more than human. (Pope Francis Joy of the Gospel #8)

Action

- Meditate on the Weekday Scripture Readings 16-23rd December as a personal retreat.
- Learn how Climate Change is impacting poor Pacific Islanders.