

**Sunday 6 December 2026**  
*Second Sunday of Advent (Year B)*

**First Reading - Isaiah 40.1-5a**

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

Comfort my people,  
and speak tenderly to Jerusalem.  
Let her know  
that she has served her sentence.  
Her penalty is paid.  
She has already received,  
from the Lord's hand,  
double  
for all her transgressions.  
And now,  
a voice cries out:  
'In the wilderness,  
prepare the way of the Lord.  
Fill the valleys,  
level the hills,  
straighten the paths,  
and make the rough ways  
smooth.  
And the glory of the Lord  
will be revealed.'  
This is the word of the Lord.

**Second Reading - 2 Peter 3.8-15a**

A reading from the second letter of Peter.

Some have said,  
from a human perspective,  
that the promises of the Lord  
are slow  
in coming to fulfilment.  
But with the Lord, a day  
is like  
a thousand years,  
and a thousand years  
are like  
a day.  
So we  
do not say  
that the fulfilment  
of the Lord's promise  
is delayed.  
Instead,  
we understand  
that the Lord  
is being patient,  
allowing time  
for all to repent;  
for the Lord prefers  
that none  
should perish.  
For the day of the Lord  
will come  
like a thief in the night.  
With thunder and fire,  
the heavens will pass away.  
And the earth,  
and everything upon it,  
will be destroyed.

And there will be new heavens,  
and a new earth,  
where everything  
will be made perfect  
in the presence of God,  
in fulfilment  
of God's promises.  
As we await that day,  
let us live holy and godly lives,  
at peace with God.  
And let us remember  
that the patience  
of our Lord  
is our gracious opportunity  
for salvation.  
This is the word of the Lord.

**Gospel - Mark 1.1-8**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ  
according to Mark.

Here begins  
the good news,  
the gospel of Jesus Christ,  
the Son of God.  
God spoke  
through the prophet Isaiah,  
saying, 'I am sending  
my messenger  
ahead of you,  
to prepare the way,  
a voice to cry out  
in the wilderness,  
"Prepare the way of the Lord."  
And so  
indeed  
it came about  
that John the Baptist  
appeared in the wilderness,  
proclaiming a baptism  
of repentance  
for the forgiveness of sins.  
And all the people  
of Judea and Jerusalem  
were going out to him.  
And they were baptised by him,  
in the river Jordan,  
confessing their sins.  
His clothing  
was made from camel's hair,  
with a belt of leather;  
and for food,  
he ate locusts,  
and wild honey.  
And in his preaching, he said:  
'I baptise you with water,  
but after me  
comes one who is more powerful.  
I am not worthy  
even to be his servant.  
And he will baptise you  
with the Holy Spirit.'  
This is the Gospel of the Lord.