

Third Sunday of Advent

Jesus is the promised one

INTRODUCTION

King Herod had John the Baptist put in prison. Now John knew that Jesus was the 'Promised One', sent by God, but some of his friends were still unsure. So, from behind his prison bars, John sent his followers to ask Jesus a very important question.

SIGN OF THE CROSS

LIGHT THE CANDLES

As we light the candles, we say together:
Fill our hearts with the light of Jesus.

SORRY

John the Baptist knew that Jesus was the Saviour promised by God. As we prepare to celebrate his birth, we ask our Saviour to forgive us if we have done wrong.

Choose a sorry colour.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

To welcome today's Gospel sing the Advent Song.

GOSPEL (cf Matthew 11:2-11)

While John the Baptist was in prison, he heard about the things that Jesus was doing, and sent some of his followers to find Jesus. 'Tell us, are you the one sent by God, that John has told us about?' they asked.

Jesus said 'Go and tell John what you have seen and heard: the blind can see, the lame can walk, lepers are cured, the deaf hear, and the dead are brought back to life. The Good News is being shared so that everyone can believe in me.' As John's friends hurried away to tell him what they had heard, Jesus said to the crowds, 'God sent John to prepare for my coming. He is a truly great man, and will be remembered for all time.'

DISCUSSION

How many candles will be lit on the Advent wreath today? – Three.

Today is called the third Sunday of Advent, but in past times it was called 'Gaudete Sunday'. Can anyone remember what 'Gaudete' means, and why our candle is pink today? – Gaudete means 'joy', and our candle is pink as a symbol of rejoicing as we await the birth of our Saviour and Lord.

As Christmas gets closer, the light is getting brighter, and the feeling of excitement is growing.

John the Baptist was excited to learn of the

marvellous things that Jesus was doing. Why did he send his followers to Jesus? – He sent his followers to find out if Jesus really was the promised one.

When they found Jesus, what did they see and hear? – Many marvellous miracles which Jesus was performing, showing that he truly was the promised one of God.

How do you think they felt on seeing these miracles? – They were probably amazed to see all these things and filled with joy as they realised that they had met God's chosen one.

The 'light' of the world was already filling the lives of those he met with love, life and hope!

ACTIVITY

'Light' the third candle on the Advent wreath decoration.

Photocopy the picture for the children to colour in or draw a picture of John's face onto a large sheet of paper. Cut out some bars to 'imprison' him. Add the figure of Jesus preaching to the scene.

CREED

CLOSING PRAYER

God our Father,
as we look forward to Christmas
the excitement is growing.
Just as the light from the Advent wreath
grows brighter,
we pray that the light of Jesus
will grow brighter in our lives too.

