

### Homily 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday Advent Year A 2022

What do the Devil, the Matrix film and the Media have in common? ..... They are all great deceivers! Like the Matrix, the media have built up an image of the world full of corruption, injustice, abuse, war, killings, political intrigue – which is what the Devil wants us to believe to snuff out our hope. Although all these terrible evils happen, they shrink considerably in size when compared to all the good that is being lived with so much love all around us. Being called to rejoice this Sunday is not just a future hope but a living reality that will lead us to a more joyful Christmas. We are so precious and so loved by God that God sent his Son Jesus to us because nothing less would do.

When Jesus met the questioning disciples of John the Baptist, he could have decried the injustice of John being imprisoned and railed against Herod. Instead, he took the opportunity to thank and praise John for preparing the way and paid him the highest of compliments by calling him the greatest of all who had been born.

The Media has trained us to look on the dark side of everything, that we miss seeing the wealth of good happening around us. No wonder a major theme of Advent is *light*, a light that grows brighter by the minute. The circle of light on the Advent wreath is almost complete and once complete evil may never enter. This light helps us see only what is good. All the healing Jesus did: restoring sight and speech, helping the deaf hear and restoring physical well-being, is happening throughout the world at this very moment as it has done since the birth of Christ.

Recent programmes about economising on heating and utilities usage remind us of the days it was normal to only heat one room in the house, to give only one good Christmas present and celebrate family. Life was simpler, healthier and more joyful. This year we have the extra joy of seeking to help others who might be alone or of joining another group for Christmas to cut down on costs. This too will help us rediscover the lost joys of the past and feel the better for it.

**St Oscar Romero wrote in** December 1978

*God comes, and his ways are near to us.*

*God saves in history.*

*Each person's life, each one's history,  
is the meeting place that God comes to.*

*How satisfying to know*

*one need not go to the desert to meet him,*

*need not go to some particular spot in the world.*

*For God is in your own heart.*

**St Pope John Paul II** said "The liturgy of Advent...helps us understand fully the value and meaning of the mystery of Christmas. We do not just commemorate a historical event, which occurred some 2,000 years ago in Judea but are reminded that the whole of our life is an '*advent*,' a vigilant awaiting of the final coming of Christ. To predispose our mind to welcome the Lord who, as the Creed states will one day come to judge the living and the dead, we must learn to recognize him as present in the events of daily life. Therefore, Advent is, so to speak, an intense training that directs us decisively toward him who already came, who will come, and who comes continuously."

**What did the religious salad say to the fruit?** Lettuce rejoice and be grateful!!

**Chap goes to the post office** to buy self-sealing stamps for his cards but they only have one you have to lick.

He says. "*What! Do I have to stick these on myself?*"

Assistant. *"You can do sir! But I suggest you stick them on the envelope!!!"*