

Children's Newsletter

St Mary's

Mark's Gospel 1:1-8

2nd Sunday
of Advent

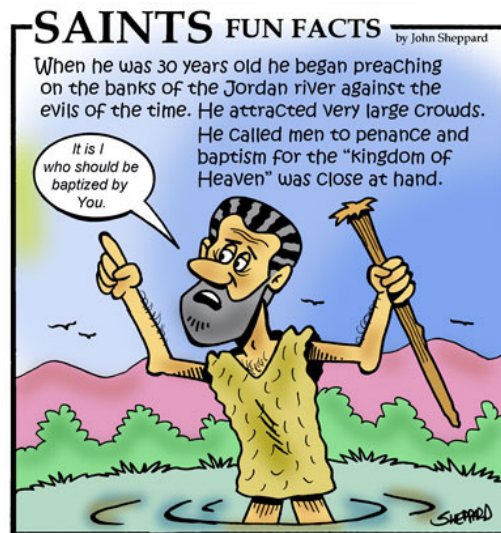
Today's Gospel tells us that God was sending a messenger to tell everyone that Jesus was coming. This messenger was John the Baptist. He told all those who would listen, that the one who was coming after him was more powerful than him and that while John could baptize with water, Jesus would baptize with the Holy Spirit.

John came to prepare the way for Jesus so that people would be waiting for him and would be ready to listen to him.

John the Baptist

John the Baptist was the cousin of Jesus. His parents were Zachary and Elizabeth. When the angel told Zachary he was going to be a father, Zachary didn't believe him and was unable to speak from that day on until the baby was born.

The angel Gabriel told Mary that her cousin, Elizabeth, was going to have a baby and Mary went to visit Elizabeth.



John the Baptist

Prophets

Isaiah is mentioned again today. Over 700 years before Jesus is born, Isaiah told the people that God would send his Son. He also told them that God would send a special messenger first, in order to prepare the way. He talked about him as a great voice crying in the wilderness.

Quiz

1. What does Advent mean?
2. Whose Gospel will we listen to this year?
3. What do we call someone sent by God to tell us something?
4. Who was the cousin of Jesus?
5. What were his parents' names?
6. How long is the River Jordan?
7. What countries are to the West of the River Jordan?
8. Why are candy canes shaped the way they are?

- Answers
1. Advent means 'coming'
 2. Mark
 3. A Prophet
 4. John the Baptist
 5. Zachary and Elizabeth
 6. 156 miles long
 7. Israel and Palestine
 8. It is a shepherd's crook as Jesus

The River Jordan

children's newsletter



The River Jordan is in West Asia and is 156 miles long. It flows into the Dead Sea.

To the West of the river lies Israel and Palestine while on the East is the country of Jordan.

The River Jordan is very important for both Jews and Christians. For the Jewish people it is the place where the Israelites crossed into the promised land.

For Christians it is also the place where John the Baptist baptized Jesus.



For You to Colour



Candy Canes

According to legend, a sweet maker wanted to make something to honour Christ's birth. It had to be hard candy to show that God's church was built on solid rock. Because Jesus is known as the 'Good Shepherd', it was formed in the shape of a shepherd's staff (and turning it upside down, it was also a "J" for Jesus).



The original three small red stripes were for marks of the whip that Jesus suffered on his way to the cross. The one large red stripe was the blood Jesus shed for our sins. The white stripes represented the birth of Jesus and showed how perfect he was.

