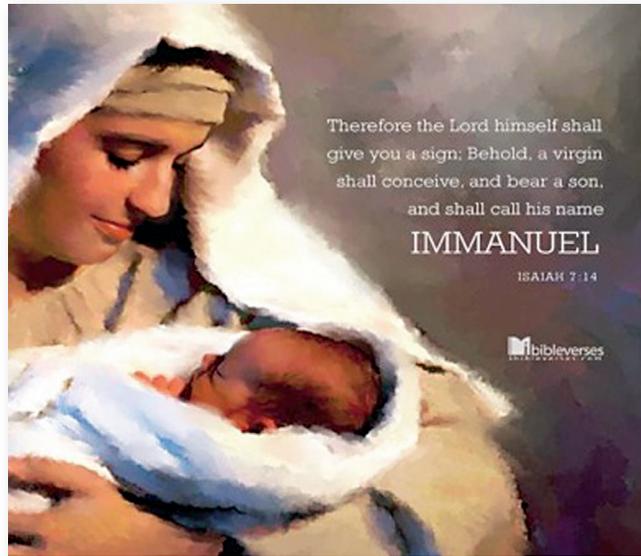


Once again Yahweh spoke to Ahaz and said, ‘Ask Yahweh your God for a sign for yourself coming either from the depths of Sheol or from the heights above’. ‘No,’ Ahaz answered ‘I will not put Yahweh to the test.’ Then he said: Listen now, House of David: are you not satisfied with trying the patience of men without trying the patience of my God, too? The Lord himself, therefore, will give you a sign. It is this: the maiden is with child and will soon give birth to a son whom she will call Immanuel.



God is with us.

Name the words/phrases that strike you?

How does the image speak to us?

What are the signs of God's presence in our world today?

Why do we sometimes prefer not to look for signs of God's presence?

How is God-with-us in our parish faith community?

How am I called at this time?

Further options for prayerful preparation during Advent are as follows;

1. **Advent at Glenstal Abbey** - a series of talks will take place on the first 3 Sundays of Advent at 4.30pm at Glenstal (December 1st, 9th & 16th). All are welcome.
2. **Follow the links;**
 - <https://stbeunosoutreach.wordpress.com/author/saintbeunosoutreach/>
 - <https://www.kandle.ie/hearing-happening-hoping-an-advent-scripture-resource/>

Listening to God's Word in Isaiah during Advent.

Welcome to our guided reflection. Take time to read the scripture text, pause and then read it again. Spend time with each question and listen to each other's responses. Conclude your reflection time with a prayer.

The vision of Isaiah son of Amoz, concerning Judah and Jerusalem. In the days to come the mountain of the Temple of Yahweh shall tower above the mountains and be lifted higher than the hills. All the nations will stream to it, peoples without number will come to it; and they will say: ‘Come, let us go up to the mountain of Yahweh, to



the Temple of the God of Jacob that he may teach us his ways so that we may walk in his paths; since the Law will go out from Zion, and the oracle of Yahweh from Jerusalem'. He will wield authority over the nations and adjudicate between many peoples; these will hammer their swords into ploughshares, their spears into sickles. Nation will not lift sword against nation, there will be no more training for war. House of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of Yahweh.

God gathers us.

Name the words/phrases that strike you?

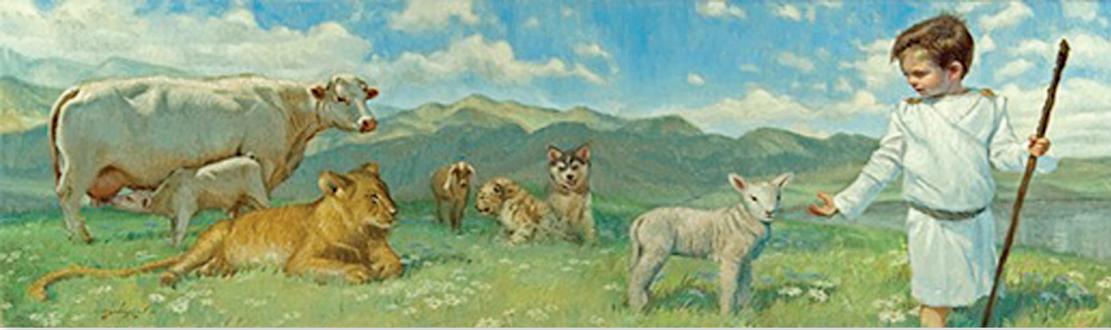
How does the image convey the sense of the scripture passage?

Where do we feel close to God?

How does God gather us as parish faith communities?

Why is God calling us closer as parish faith communities?

How am I called at this time?



Isaiah 11: 1-10 2nd Sunday of Advent Year A – 8th December 2019

A shoot springs from the stock of Jesse, a scion thrusts from his roots: on him the spirit of Yahweh rests, a spirit of wisdom and insight, a spirit of counsel and power, a spirit of knowledge and of the fear of Yahweh. (The fear of Yahweh is his breath.) He does not judge by appearances, he gives no verdict on hearsay, but judges the wretched with integrity, and with equity gives a verdict for the poor of the land. His word is a rod that strikes the ruthless, his sentences bring death to the wicked. Integrity is the loincloth round his waist, faithfulness the belt about his hips. The wolf lives with the lamb, the panther lies down with the kid, calf and lion cub feed together with a little boy to lead them. The cow and the bear make friends, their young lie down together. The lion eats straw like the ox. The infant plays over the cobra's hole; into the viper's



lair the young child puts his hand. They do no hurt, no harm, on all my holy mountain, for the country is filled with the knowledge of Yahweh as the waters swell the sea. That day, the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples. It will be sought out by the nations and its home will be glorious.

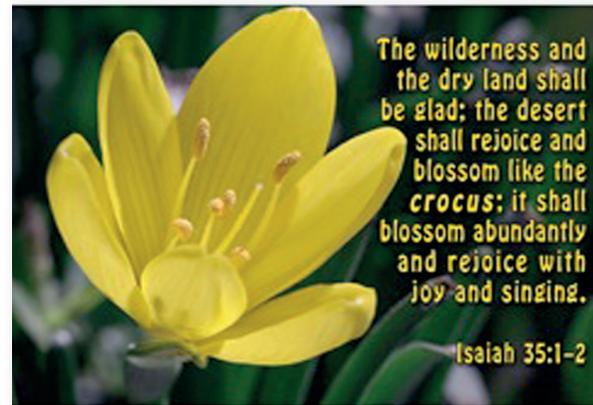
God is our wisdom and insight.

- Name the words/phrases that strike you?*
- How do the images convey the message of the reading?*
- How is the Spirit evident in this scripture passage?*
- What is Isaiah saying to us in placing the wolf with the lamb, the lion cub with the little boy?*
- How is the 'shoot of Jesse' revealed to us today?*
- How am I called at this time?*



Isaiah 35: 1-6, 10 3rd Sunday of Advent Year A – 15th December 2019

Let the wilderness and the dry-lands exult, let the wasteland rejoice and bloom, let it bring forth flowers like the jonquil, let it rejoice and sing for joy. The glory of Lebanon is bestowed on it, the splendour of Carmel and Sharon; they shall see the glory of Yahweh, the splendour of our God. Strengthen all weary hands, steady all trembling knees and say to all faint hearts, 'Courage! Do not be afraid. 'Look, your God is coming, vengeance is coming, the retribution of God; he is coming to save you.' Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, the ears of the deaf unsealed, then the lame shall leap like a deer and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy; for water gushes in the desert, streams in the wasteland, for those Yahweh has ransomed shall



return. They will come to Zion shouting for joy, everlasting joy on their faces; joy and gladness will go with them and sorrow and lament be ended.

God strengthens and encourages us.

- Name the words/phrases that strike you?*
- How do the images speak to us?*
- How am I afraid to give witness to my faith in my community today?*
- How does God strengthen and encourage us as a parish faith community?*
- What images of God are emerging for me?*
- How am I called at this time?*