

## Readings and Talk, from Tim Lee of CMS about the Jigsaw project in the philippines that the parish supports, for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent, 6<sup>th</sup> December 2020

### Collect

O Lord, raise up, we pray, your power  
and come among us,  
and with great might succour us;  
that whereas, through our sins and wickedness  
we are grievously hindered  
in running the race that is set before us,  
your bountiful grace and mercy  
may speedily help and deliver us;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
to whom with you and the Holy Spirit,  
be honour and glory, now and for ever.  
**Amen.**

### Isaiah 40:1-11

40 Comfort, O comfort my people,  
says your God.  
2 Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,  
and cry to her  
that she has served her term,  
that her penalty is paid,  
that she has received from the Lord's hand  
double for all her sins.

3 A voice cries out:  
'In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord,  
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.  
4 Every valley shall be lifted up,  
and every mountain and hill be made low;  
the uneven ground shall become level,  
and the rough places a plain.  
5 Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,  
and all people shall see it together,  
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.'

6 A voice says, 'Cry out!'  
And I said, 'What shall I cry?'  
All people are grass,  
their constancy is like the flower of the field.  
7 The grass withers, the flower fades,  
when the breath of the Lord blows upon it;  
surely the people are grass.

<sup>8</sup> The grass withers, the flower fades;  
but the word of our God will stand for ever.

<sup>9</sup> Get you up to a high mountain,  
O Zion, herald of good tidings;—

lift up your voice with strength,  
O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,—  
lift it up, do not fear;

say to the cities of Judah,  
‘Here is your God!’

<sup>10</sup> See, the Lord God comes with might,  
and his arm rules for him;  
his reward is with him,  
and his recompense before him.

<sup>11</sup> He will feed his flock like a shepherd;  
he will gather the lambs in his arms,  
and carry them in his bosom,  
and gently lead the mother sheep.

## 2 Peter 3:8-15a

But do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed.

Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.

Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation. So also our beloved brother Paul wrote to you according to the wisdom given to him,

## Mark 1:1-8

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,  
‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,  
who will prepare your way;

the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

“Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make his paths straight” ’,

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, ‘The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.’

## The Lord is our light, our Strength and our Help

Greetings and Love to everyone and all the churches in Graffoe Parish in Jesus name from everyone in Jigsaw kids' ministry in Manila, Philippines.

*We are 'One body' in Christ, called to be one in His work, His mission and His ministry and we thank you all so much for your faith, commitment and partnership with the ministry of Jigsaw through your prayers, love and gifts.*

*We especially thank you all for your faithful and life changing commitment to the mission of Jigsaw and your prayers and support for our family as mission partners with CMS. We bring thanks to the PCC, the parish and each of you for your continued prayers financial support for our family as CMS mission partners and for your gifts to support the work of Jigsaw including the monthly gifts and school sponsorship. Your faithful love and support is empowering an amazing work of God to bring his love to children and families in poverty in such a powerful and significant way. Thank you so much.*



We are a CMS mission family who were called back to Asia to help nurture Jigsaw Kids Ministry to become an independent and sustainable Filipino children's ministry

Jigsaw's Vision is, 'Life in all fullness for ALL children living in poverty in the 10 communities

### Mark 1 vs 4 to 6: John prepares the way for Jesus

John wore clothing made of camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. <sup>7</sup> And this was his message:

"After me comes the one more powerful than I, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie.

Like most of the world the Philippines and Jigsaw were hit terribly by Covid 19 in March 2020. The impact was devastating for children and families living in the slums and on the streets as they could no longer continue their begging or scrounging through rubbish, or daily wage labouring jobs to get the resources to survive and so starvation and suffering set in. Yet in the midst of these terrible times we have seen God working incredibly each day bringing comfort, compassion and life to these most needy children and families. In today's reading in Mark 1, John announces his purpose for his ministry which is 'to prepare the way for Jesus', and it is in Jesus our Lord that we see hope shining in the darkness of Manila. Jigsaw has been strengthened by the scriptures in many difficult times in 2020 and one passage that has been particularly strengthening is Psalm 121, a psalm of ascent. It opens with the verses'

### **Psalm 121**

I lit up my eyes to the mountains— where does my help come from?  
 My help comes from the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth.

Verses and truths that we have learnt to be true throughout the year. Times are difficult for all of us, in the UK, the Philippines and across the world and especially for those most poor and vulnerable. Yet the amazing and good news this advent is that each of us can know the Lord that John prepared the way for and find help as

we look to the mountains; 'My help comes from the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth. What good news that is this advent season. Amen.

## Jigsaw 2020:



From March to June Jigsaw provided 1500 lifesaving emergency food packets, on three occasions



Jigsaw's infant and baby nutrition programme has given out hundreds of packets of milk powder, nutritious biscuits and hygiene kits.



Jigsaw's emergency health program has provided emergency health and wellbeing response for hundreds of children and families in 2020



Each week Jigsaw provides food and health response for street families and communities.



'Jigsaw at home' is an initiative that provides bible activities, educational packs, craft activities, literacy, ladies sewing packs, disability therapy packs, food packs and more for more than 2000 children and families each week.

**Even in these very difficult times God's Mission of love and restoring lives is alive and strong**



Thank you so much to everyone at Graffoe Parish for your love and prayers and faithful commitment to God's mission in Jigsaw; it is empowering the lives of children, young people and families living in extreme poverty in Faith, Hope and Love each day. Thank you.