

## **SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**Isaiah 40: 1-5, 9-11,    2 Peter 3:8-14   mark 1: 1-8**

### **HOMILY**

#### **Major celebrity**

From the Gospel we see that John the Baptist was an amazingly popular figure. We are told that everybody in Jerusalem and people from all over the Judean countryside followed him into the wilderness to listen to him preach. People flocked to him, not to be flattered but to be told the truth. The attraction of John the Baptist was certainly mysterious. People don't just leave their city comfort flocking to the wilderness for no reason at all.

It is clear that people didn't just listen but they also responded. They confessed their sins and that's why confession of our sins is an essential part of embracing the advent season. The people also responded by submitting themselves to baptism! Advent is a time for a definitive response.

Not only was John popular, he was also successful. For all his popularity and success, though, John was outstandingly different from so many of us today in the way he responded to popularity. Many people respond to popularity and success with a certain degree of pride and swagger.

But there are no traces of that in John.

#### **'Not about John'**

It is good to note that even if John the Baptist was popular the root of his message was not about him. He preached about "someone else", someone who would come after him whose sandal it says John did not consider himself worthy to tie.

- John wasn't interested to be in the limelight.
- He wasn't interested in the praise or admiration of others.
- ❖ He was only interested in preparing the way for someone else, and he didn't let personal ambition get in the way of doing his job well.

#### **A lesson in humility**

All this shows that this advent time John's activity is calling us to humility. His witness leads us to reflect on how often it is always about us whenever we engage in any activity

- whether in our community or
- at our place of work.

As disciples of Christ our engagement should always be about someone else other than ourselves.

Advent time is a season to drop all our airs of superiority and pride.

It is time to humble ourselves before the mighty hand of God.