



THE CATHOLIC PARISH OF  
**BOGNOR REGIS AND SLINDON**

We are followers of Jesus, on fire with his love,  
sharing that love with each other and with the world.

### Kids Church – Third Sunday of Advent

***Be Alert! The Messiah is coming. Turn to God and be saved. We must be vigilant or alert at all times because only God knows the hour of our last days on earth. Being alert, for us, means that we should not put off things we know we could do today, such as praying or showing compassion.***

***Rest assured of my prayers for your family and you this coming week!***

***Diane***

**Gospel:** John 1:6-8, 19-28

God sent his messenger, a man named John, who came to tell people about the light, so that all should hear the message and believe. He himself was not the light; he came to tell about the light.

The Jewish authorities in Jerusalem sent some priests and Levites to John to ask him, “Who are you?”

John did not refuse to answer, but spoke out openly and clearly, saying: “I am not the Messiah.”

“Who are you, then?” they asked. “Are you Elijah?”

“No, I am not,” John answered.

“Are you the Prophet?” they asked.

“No,” he replied.

“Then tell us who you are,” they said. “We have to take an answer back to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?”

John answered by quoting the prophet Isaiah:

“I am ‘the voice of someone shouting in the desert:  
Make a straight path for the Lord to travel!’”



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The messengers, who had been sent by the Pharisees, then asked John, “If you are not the Messiah nor Elijah nor the Prophet, why do you baptize?”

John answered, “I baptize with water, but among you stands the one you do not know. He is coming after me, but I am not good enough even to untie his sandals.”

All this happened in Bethany on the east side of the River Jordan, where John was baptizing.

***Some conversation pointers, when talking at home about this –***

What do you remember from today’s reading?

At the beginning it talks a lot about the light. The light is another name for someone very special. Can you think who that might be?

Jesus is the light of the world. This reading says that John the Baptist came to tell everyone Jesus was coming.

Why do you think Jesus is called the light of the world? - Jesus is the Son of God and he shows us how we should live – he is a shining light in the darkness for us to follow.

*Make the room as dark as possible and light a candle.*

See how much light one small candle gives out. This is like Jesus – shining his light for all to see.

*With older children you could perhaps give them candles and light them from the first candle and from each other (explain that they will be hot and not to touch the flame and make sure that all the candles have candle holders.)*

But if we share the light we can see so much more! If we share the light of Jesus we can light up the whole world.

How do you think we can share the light of Jesus with others?

We can be kind. We can be generous. We can share with others. We can be friendly. We can help people who are poor, or sick, or hungry.



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### Activities to remind us about this message about Jesus

Copy the prayer below on A4 paper in landscape (or ask older children to write their own prayer on a sheet of paper). They could decorate it as well if you have time. Roll it up and make a candle shape. Stick some tissue paper flames to the top to make a paper candle.

Make a paper lantern with the children. There is a template and instructions at [www.bognorcatholicparish.co.uk/kids-church](http://www.bognorcatholicparish.co.uk/kids-church)

### Prayer for the light of the world

God of light, shine brightly,  
show us how  
to bring hope to others.

God of mercy, help us  
to comfort people and  
to share in their joy.

God of hope,  
help us this Advent,  
to share your light with others.

Amen.