

**Third Sunday of Advent**

December 16th 2018

The readings we hear today are mostly about witness, and particularly about John. In the Gospel of John he is portrayed as the primary witness to Jesus. In today’s world it can become increasingly difficult for young people to become a living witness to the Gospel.

With only 9 days until Christmas Day, when we hand out gifts to our loved ones, it’s a really joyous occasion united in love. Typically when we hand out gifts it’s on two occasions Christmas and a loved one’s birthday for example. We have all heard of the phrase “it’s the thought that counts” and it’s true that’s what really matters - it’s not the actual physical gift; it’s the gift of thoughtfulness and kindness. If we take these two gifts of thoughtfulness and kindness into our daily lives, it can go some way into being a living witness of the Gospel.

I often question my outlook on life, whether my outlook is inward on myself, or my outlook outward. When I feel my outlook is inward and selfish I address it, and if need be seek the sacrament of reconciliation. This enables me to then look outwardly so I can help loved ones and strangers without counting the cost.

The small changes in our lives enable us to become Christ centred, and soon will can be a living witness to the Gospel. Nobody said it would be easy as first we have to work on our faith journey, so we can help and encourage others along the way too.

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