

Homily. 3rd Sunday of Advent. Year.B. 12/13 December 2020.

John the Baptist wasn't the Light. He stated plainly that he wasn't the Christ, our promised and long awaited Saviour from God. Though you and I know that John was being too humble he also added that he wasn't Elijah either, the prophet who was expected to return to herald the coming of the Lord. John settled for the way of humility, saying only that he was as Isaiah prophesied; a voice crying out in the wilderness: Make a straight way for the Lord.

I'm not the Light, and neither are you. Let's not forget this as some people have, those who think that the sun shines out of them so puffed-up have they become with their own self-importance, intelligence, influence and perceived indispensability. I've often found that a trip to the cemetery with some quiet time in those places of the dead soon straightens out such arrogance and stupidity.

The Pharisees, along with the Jerusalem Temple Priests and Levites they sent to interrogate John, thought that they were the Light. They imagined themselves beyond reproach, better than everybody else, certain that they had God and God's ways all worked out, a type of secret special power and knowledge only they could access and approve. John stayed humble before them with both feet firmly planted on the ground. He said he was simply a witness to the Light, a voice crying for change and renewal. He pointed to what he was doing for the people while directing them towards the immanent coming of the One and only True Light. Like I said earlier, you're not the Light and neither am I. What's more, we're not asked to be, and what a relief that is for all of us. No one person

can ever be the Light except the Light Himself, Jesus Christ. We don't have to try to be or even pretend to be the Light, for that's not our burden or calling. Nor, I'll add, should we foolishly expect anyone else to be the Light for us; that's expecting way too much. What we have to do, all of us together, is listen and look with the eyes of our faith for the coming of the Real Light, the advent of Christ today, here and now, welcoming Him with joy and hope in our hearts and lives, our families and our community.

This is what John the Baptist humbly did. He heralded and gave His witness to the coming gift of a living person from the eternal light, God with us forever. Together, as a people and Church, and only after we've heeded John's example and message by preparing a straight way for the coming of the Lord, then and only then can we ever hope to faithfully reflect to others the Light God has offered to us.

This is what you and I pray for and seek during this Season. It's what the Spirit promises us, a good way free from evil, a way that that brings us peace, perfection and holiness. God is calling us to this preparing and welcoming way. It's God who is leading us further to reflect and pass on to others the grace and gift of the One Living Light, and as St. Paul said, in this mission God will not fail us.