

Readings for The Birth of St John the Baptist Patronal Festival - 24th June

Isaiah 40.1-11

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

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

⁹ 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!'

¹⁰ See, the Lord God comes with
might,

and his arm rules for him;
his reward is with him,
and his recompense before him.

¹¹ 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.

Psalm 85.7-13

*R The Lord will indeed grant
prosperity,
and our land will yield its increase.*

⁷ Show us your mercy, O Lord,
and grant us your salvation.

⁸ I will listen to what the Lord God is
saying,
for he is speaking peace to his
faithful people
and to those who turn their hearts to
him. **R**

⁹ Truly, his salvation is very near to
those who fear him,
that his glory may dwell in our land.

¹⁰ Mercy and truth have met
together;
righteousness and peace have
kissed each other.

¹¹ Truth shall spring up from the
earth,
and righteousness shall look down
from heaven. **R**

¹² The Lord will indeed grant
prosperity,
and our land will yield its increase.

¹³ Righteousness shall go before
him,
and peace shall be a pathway for his
feet. **R**

Galatians 3.23-end

*A reading from the letter of Paul to
the Galatians.*

²³ Before faith came, we were
imprisoned and guarded under the
law until faith would be revealed.

²⁴ Therefore the law was our

disciplinarian until Christ came, so
that we might be justified by faith.

²⁵ But now that faith has come, we
are no longer subject to a
disciplinarian, ²⁶ for in Christ Jesus
you are all children of God through
faith. ²⁷ As many of you as were
baptized into Christ have clothed
yourselves with Christ. ²⁸ There is no
longer Jew or Greek, there is no
longer slave or free, there is no
longer male and female; for all of
you are one in Christ Jesus. ²⁹ And if
you belong to Christ, then you are
Abraham's offspring, heirs according
to the promise.

GOSPEL: Luke 1.57-66, 80

⁵⁷ The time came for Elizabeth to
give birth, and she bore a son. ⁵⁸ Her
neighbours and relatives heard that
the Lord had shown his great mercy
to her, and they rejoiced with her.
⁵⁹ On the eighth day they came to
circumcise the child, and they were
going to name him Zechariah after
his father. ⁶⁰ But his mother said, 'No;
he is to be called John.' ⁶¹ They said
to her, 'None of your relatives has
this name.' ⁶² Then they began
motioning to his father to find out
what name he wanted to give him.
⁶³ He asked for a writing-tablet and
wrote, 'His name is John.' And all of
them were amazed. ⁶⁴ Immediately
his mouth was opened and his
tongue freed, and he began to
speak, praising God. ⁶⁵ Fear came
over all their neighbours, and all
these things were talked about
throughout the entire hill country of
Judea. ⁶⁶ All who heard them
pondered them and said, 'What then
will this child become?' For, indeed,
the hand of the Lord was with him.
⁸⁰ The child grew and became
strong in spirit, and he was in the
wilderness until the day he appeared
publicly to Israel.