



## **Vox Populi**

12 December 2024

The Third Sunday of Advent is Gaudete Sunday, a particular time of the year when the Church rejoices for the Christ who is to come.

Gaudete means joy, but in particular, it means expressed or exuberant joy.

This Sunday, we share our joy at the coming of Christ with Saint John the Baptist in the Gospel reading from Luke 3:10-18.

“I am baptising you with water, but one mightier than I is coming. I am not worthy to loosen the thongs of his sandals. He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fan is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

It is one of only two days in the liturgical calendar when rose vestments are worn. Rose symbolises joy and hope in a particular way. Rose vestments are also worn on Laetare Sunday during Lent. Laetare is also Latin for “rejoice”; however, it refers to a more internal or solemn joy.

Throughout the liturgy, in the readings and in the psalms, we are reminded of the joy we have in Jesus Christ, our Saviour.

We are urged not to fret about the things they are yet to do before Christmas but rather rejoice in all the good things that have been given to them.

While our minds may be distracted by the many celebrations, activities and preparations ahead of the Christmas Season, this Sunday is a reminder to always be people of joy, living an authentic witness to the Gospel, and carrying the love of Christ in our hearts always.

Our joy should shine forth from us and inspire others to share in that joy as we await the Birth of Our Saviour, Jesus Christ.