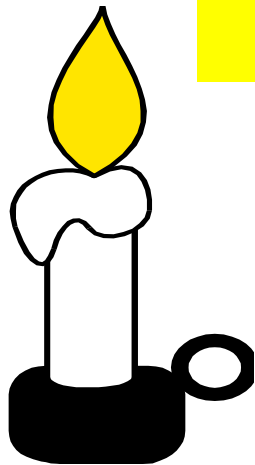


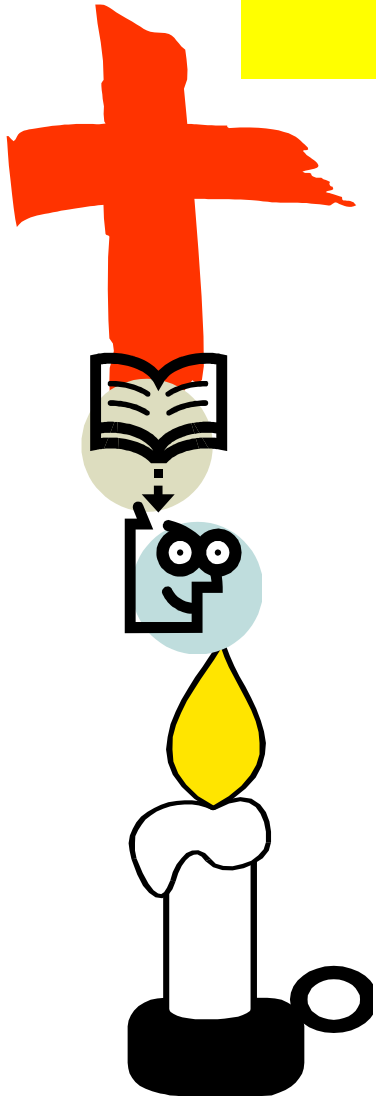


**Bearers of Hope**  
**Figures from the Advent Liturgy**  
**2. John the Baptist**

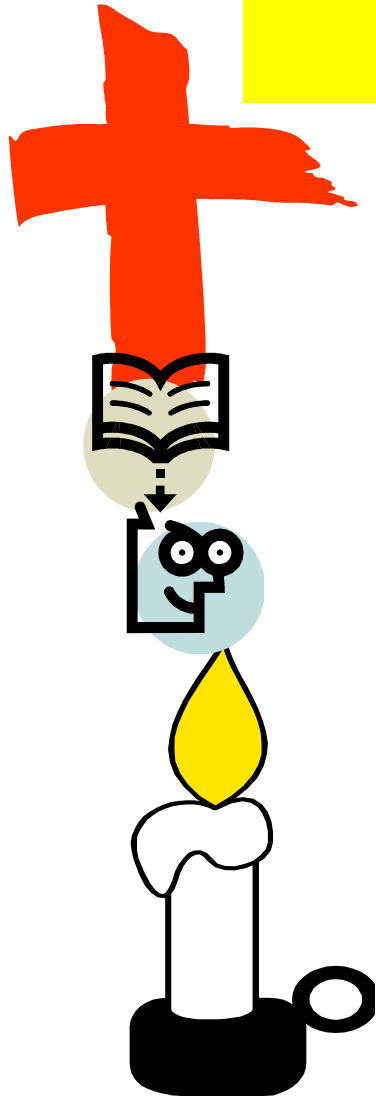


December 2020

# John – in all four Gospels

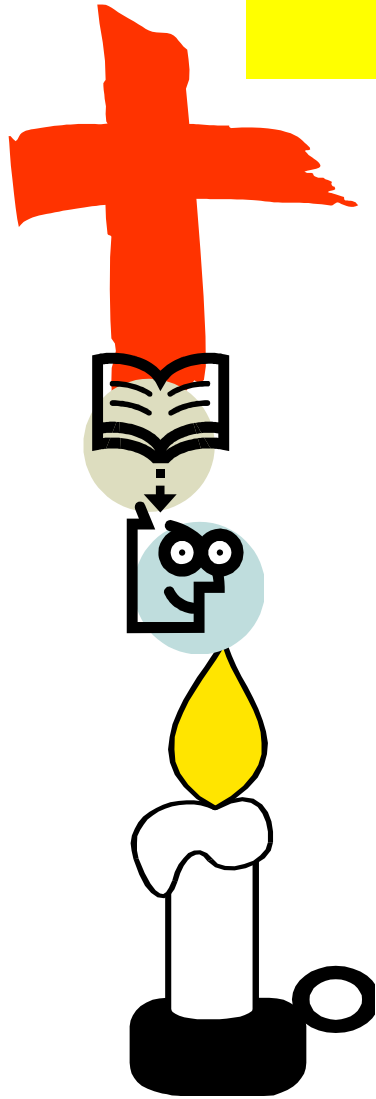


# Year of Mark



The beginning of the good news about Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God, <sup>2</sup>as it is written in **Isaiah the prophet**: "I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way"- <sup>3</sup>"a voice of one calling in the wilderness, 'Prepare the way for the LORD, make straight paths for him.'" <sup>4</sup>And so John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, **preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins**. <sup>5</sup>The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River.

# John the Baptist/Baptiser



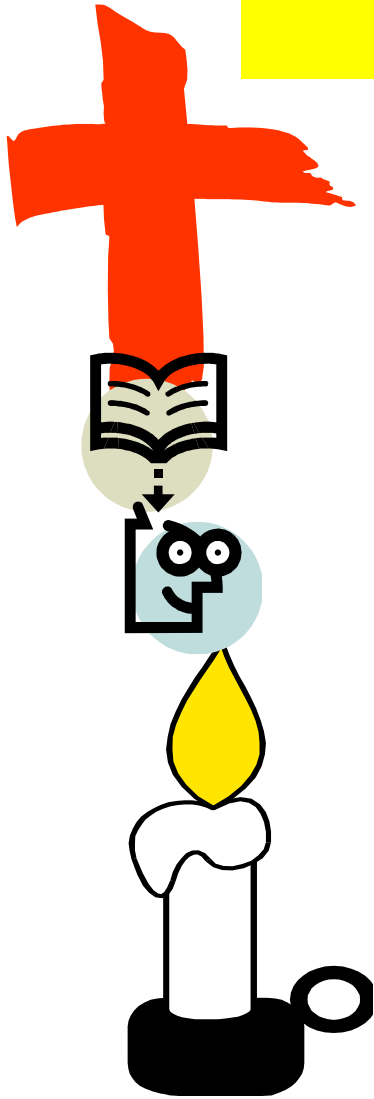
Mk (and Jn) - John B appears from nowhere

- No stories about Elizabeth/ Visitation
- All Gospels agree
- He has a job to do
  - In the wilderness, prepare the way for the Lord (Mt, Mk, Lk, Jn)
- Fulfilling what Isaiah had said

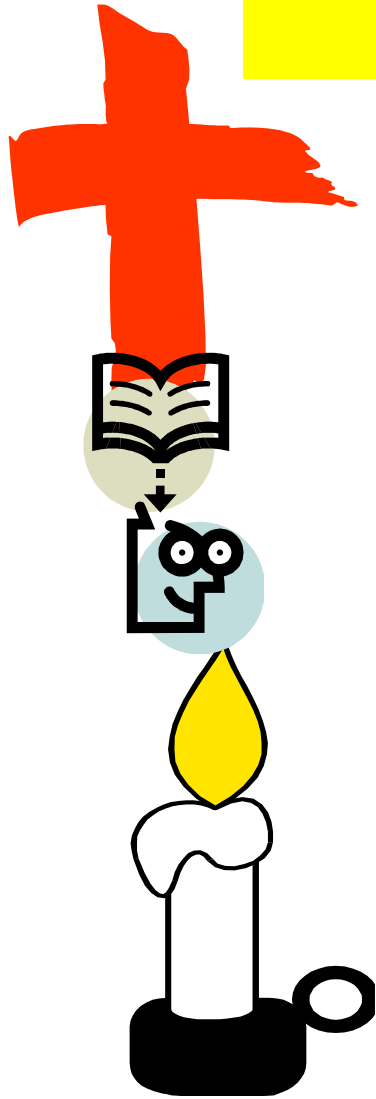
# And how?

## 1. By his lifestyle

- Alone and poor
- In a very barren place
- Where wild animals lived
- Locusts and wild honey
- Far from the Temple, the religious centre



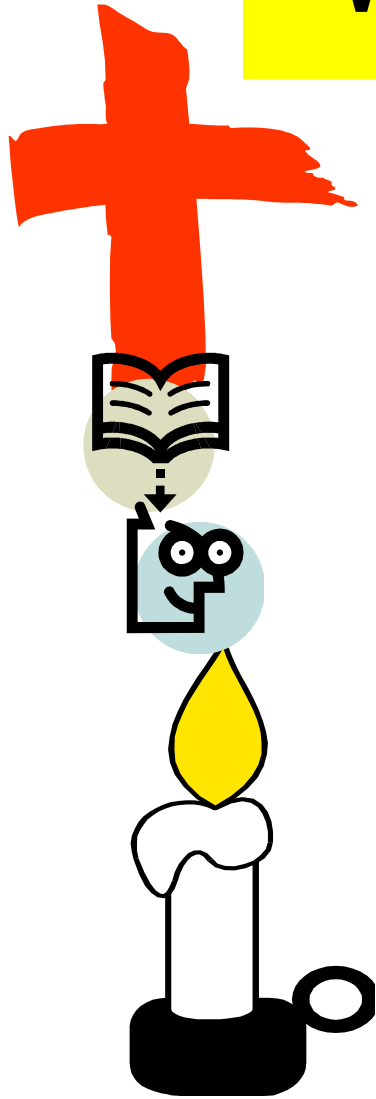
# And...



- 2. By his words
- *One is coming after me.....*
  - *Everyone should repent and prepare*
  - *Be baptised in the Jordan*
- *Especially hard words for Pharisees and Sadducees*
  - *You brood of vipers!*

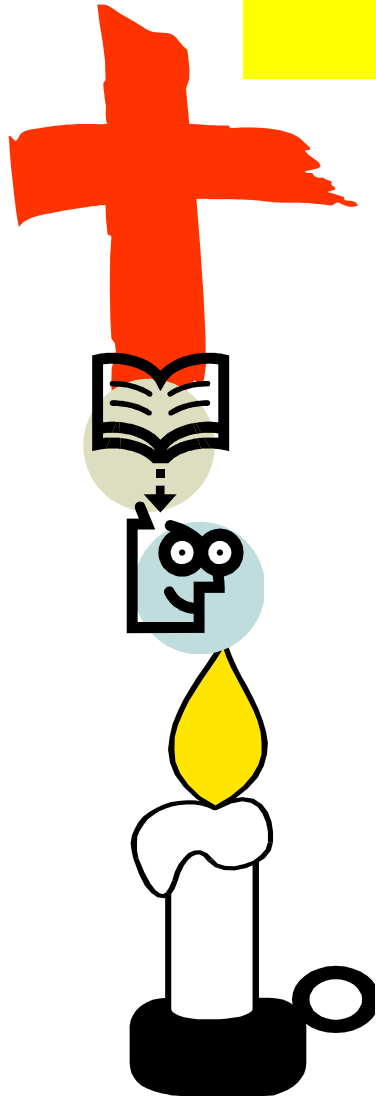
*Baptises Jesus at Jesus' request*

# What does Jesus say? Mt 11



- **Gaudete Sunday:** <sup>11</sup> Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he... <sup>13</sup> For all the prophets and the law prophesied until John came; <sup>14</sup> and if you are willing to accept it, he is Elijah who is to come. <sup>15</sup> Let anyone with ears listen!

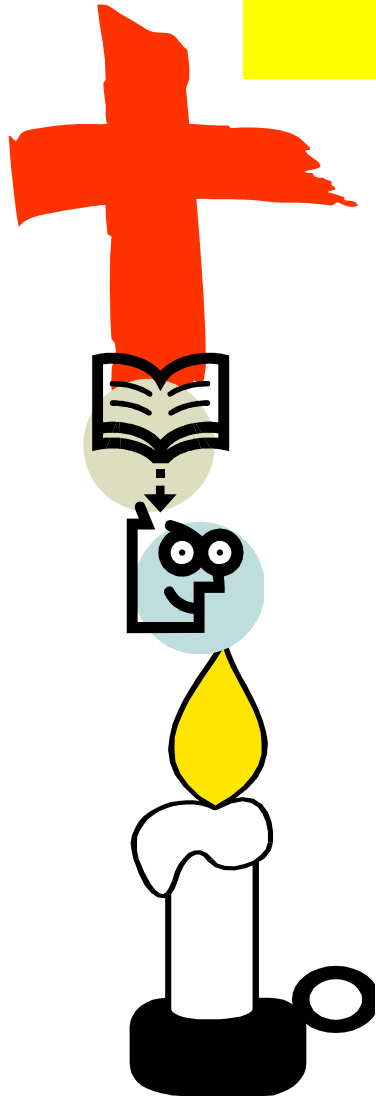
# Similarities with Jesus



- Similarities in birth, message, death
- Poverty
- Outsider
- Call to repentance because the Kingdom is near
- Prepared to antagonise the powerful and risk death
- Promise of 'water and the Holy Spirit'

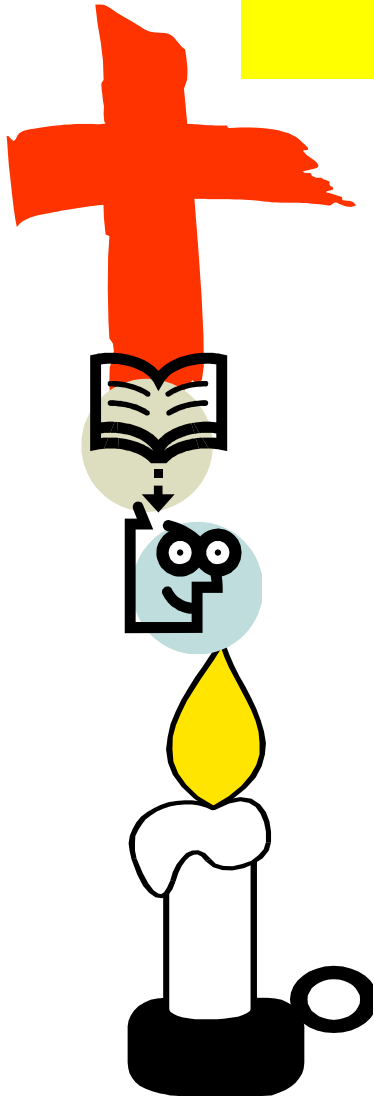


# Role in Advent



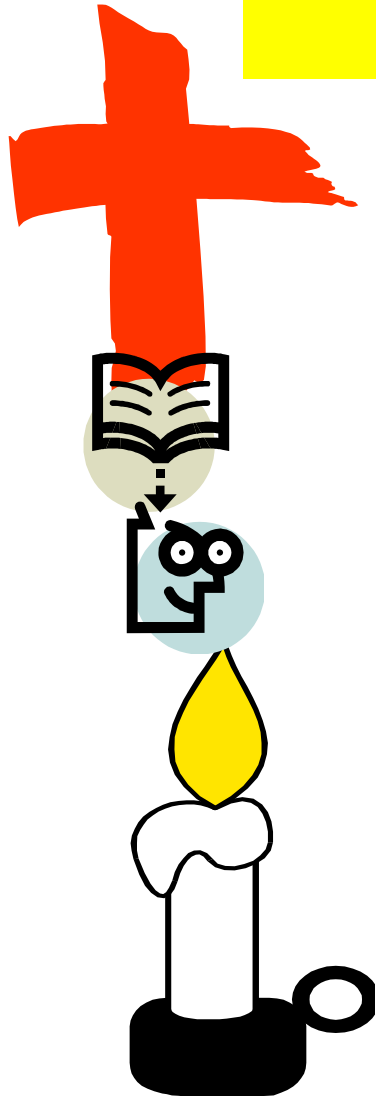
- Last of the OT prophets
- Preparing the way for First Coming
- And preparing us for the Second Coming in its fulness.
- Pointing to
  - taking up the Cross to follow Jesus.
  - the little ones will recognise Jesus
    - Shepherds, foreigners

# Preface



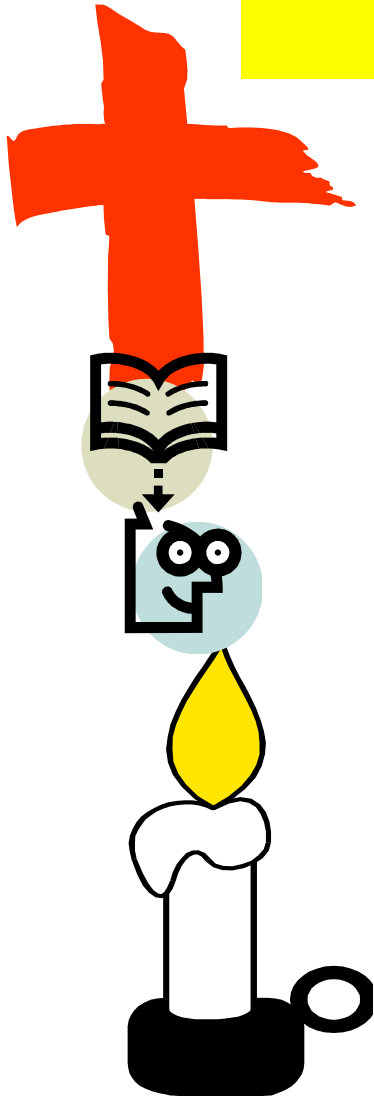
- His birth brought great rejoicing; even in the womb he leapt for joy at the coming of human salvation...
- And to make holy the flowing waters, he baptised the very author of baptism and was privileged to bear him supreme witness by the shedding of his blood.

# Homework!



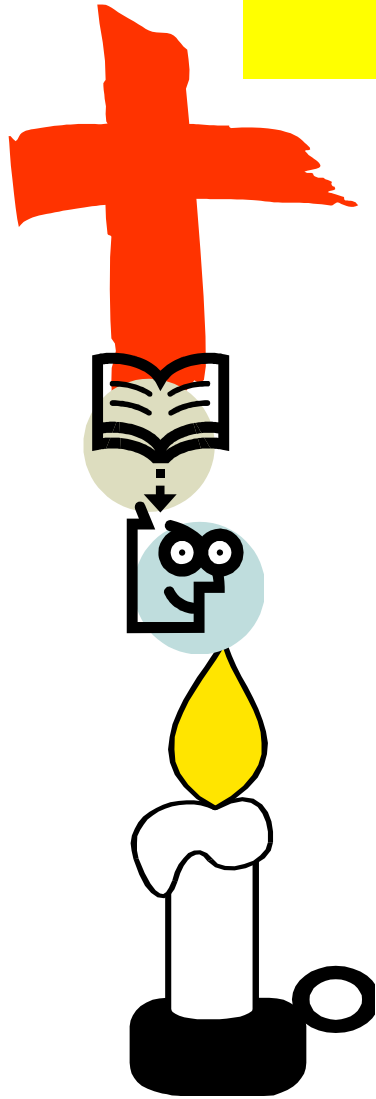
- Read the JB stories
  - Mt 3:1-17
  - Mk 1:1-11
  - Lk 3:1-18
  - Jn 1:19-34
- Where are the modern wildernesses?
- What is the modern message to be proclaimed there?

# Resources



- [www.derrydiocese.org](http://www.derrydiocese.org)
- [www.shalomworld.org/show/the-nativity-trail](http://www.shalomworld.org/show/the-nativity-trail)
- [www.catholicbishops.ie/readings/](http://www.catholicbishops.ie/readings/)
- [www.universalis.com](http://www.universalis.com)

# Next Sunday's Collect



- O God who see how your people faithfully await the feast of the Lord's nativity,
- enable us, we pray, to attain the joys of so great a salvation
- and to celebrate them always with solemn worship and glad rejoicing.
- Through