

at a  
glance



### Today's Readings

The promised Saviour  
*Jer 33:14-16*

Increase in love  
*1 Thess 3:12-4:2*

Christ the liberator  
*Lk 21:25-28,34-36*

### Next Week

Salvation dawns  
*Bar 5:1-9*  
*Ps 125*  
*Phil 1:3-6,8-11*  
*Lk 3:1-6*



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By listening to the stories people tell of how the gospel illuminates their lives we become aware of the presence of Jesus within us and in those we meet.

peoplespeak focuses on seeing the light of the gospel in daily events.

Readers' contributions welcome.

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church below the rooftops

### Welcoming salvation

A young man came to the Cathedral and said to me, 'Father, I'm a goner!' He was full on drink, drugs and sex. 'What do you want?' I asked him. 'I want a bit of hope,' he replied. We worked together with his problems for some time. Then he joined Alcoholics Anonymous. Twelve years later – just recently, in fact – we met again and he said, 'Father, I'm really happy, and I've had no drink, no drugs and no women! God is LOVE, God is merciful, and I'm very happy!' (Terry)

*Father in heaven,  
our hearts desire the warmth of your love and our minds are searching for the light of your Word.  
Increase our longing for Christ our Saviour, and give us the strength to grow in love, that the dawn of his coming may find us rejoicing in his presence and welcoming the light of his truth.*  
*(Opening Prayer)*

## Join Us In Prayer

### Entrance antiphon

To you, my God, I lift my soul, I trust in you; let me never come to shame. Do not let my enemies laugh at me. No one who waits for you is ever put to shame.

### Response to the psalm

To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.

### Gospel acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! Lord, show us your mercy and love, and grant us your salvation. Alleluia!

### Communion antiphon

The Lord will shower his gifts, and our land will yield its fruit.

Sample issues

peoplespeak Pre-Printed  
pre-printed bulletins

# peoplespeak

gospel voices then and now



## First Sunday of Advent Year C

30 November 2003

## in a nutshell

**Our preparation for the coming of Christ is a life lived in him. Jesus is not a judge we wait for with anxiety, but the liberator to be welcomed. To those who 'live the life that God wants' Jesus says 'hold your heads high because your liberation is near at hand.' To a world 'coarsened with debauchery and drunkenness and the cares of life' their lives have brought beauty.**

## See your liberation

One day I was in my office, when the front door bell rang, and in came two cops with a young bloke. The sergeant was a man in his forties, and the constable looked to be in his early twenties. Craig, who was only seventeen, had done something that concerned them. They felt that he was troubled, so instead of charging him, they brought him along to the presbytery to see me.

All four of us sat in my office. I began by asking Craig: 'Tell me about yourself.' It turned out that he was in despair because 'Nobody cares about me.' After listening to his story, I talked with Craig while the cops listened. I started with the observation that far from 'nobody caring', several people cared about him: 'This sergeant here is probably about your Dad's age, and the constable is about the same age as your brother. They care about you. They were kind enough to bring you here to me when they could have charged you. Your parents seem to care about what happens to you. And I do too, that's why we're spending time with you now, trying to work out how we can help. Sometimes we just don't see that others care about us.'

Craig seemed more hopeful after our chat. Across the road from the church is a row of shops, and I arranged with one of the shopkeepers for Craig to get a job there. There is more to this story. But things began to change when unrecognised love and care were recognised. It made me wonder how things would be if I really knew God's love for me. (JH)