

# Integral Faith

"Homily helps and liturgy resources highlighting care for our common home."



## Homily Resources and Petitions for the Solemnity of the Birth of John the Baptist, Cycle B (24 June 2018)

### Homily Helps

#### † Scripture passages to note:

**Isaiah 49:** The LORD called me from birth, from my mother's womb he gave me my name. You are my servant, he said to me, Israel, through whom I show my glory... For now, the LORD has spoken: It is too little, he says, for you to be my servant, to raise up the tribes of Jacob, and restore the survivors of Israel. I will make you a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth.

**Acts 13:** John heralded his coming by proclaiming a baptism of repentance to all the people of Israel.

**Luke 1:** The child grew and became strong in spirit...

#### † Passages from *Laudato Si'* to note:

24. If present trends continue, this century may well witness extraordinary climate change and an unprecedented destruction of ecosystems, with serious consequences for all of us. A rise in the sea level, for example, can create extremely serious situations, if we consider that a quarter of the world's population lives on the coast or nearby, and that the majority of our megacities are situated in coastal areas.

26. There is an urgent need to develop policies so that, in the next few years, the emission of carbon dioxide and other highly polluting gases can be drastically reduced, for example, substituting for fossil fuels and developing sources of renewable energy.

52. We need to strengthen the conviction that we are one single human family. There are no frontiers or barriers, political or social, behind which we can hide, still less is there room for the globalization of indifference.

#### † Comment for the day:

Today's Solemnity of the Nativity of John the Baptist invites us to reflect on his purpose-driven life and calls on us to consider our own call to greatness. Despite the unusual circumstances of his

birth, John was destined to play a pivotal role in God’s plan of salvation. The reading from the prophet Isaiah speaks about the people of Israeli being chosen by God. However, their call to greatness had nothing to do with self-aggrandizement, rather it was an invitation to help usher in the kingdom of righteousness, justice, and peace.

A note of caution for fellow homilists: don’t get lost in a lengthy Biblical exegesis or lofty theological discourse. Focus on helping the listener to relate to John’s own story and his higher calling. Pose to people a question about their deeper purpose in life. How well do our individual purposes align with God’s own desires? The Bible is clear that among God’s desires are: justice, peace, truth, beauty, reconciliation, and harmony between peoples. As a homilist, you may wish to incorporate one or two quotes below from Pope Francis. Today, the divine call to greatness can be found in our response to the challenge of “ecological conversion”. Recovering the biblical teaching focused on care for creation and integrating into the Faith Formation of our parishes, stemming the tide of environmental destruction and supporting efforts to transition to clean, renewable sources of energy – these are some of the elements our contemporary call to greatness, which is no less important than that of John the Baptist.

### Related Prayers of the Faithful

**Option 1:** For children and youth of our parish that, with the help of the help of their parents, catechists and our priest/s, they may be well evangelized and prepared to seek justice for the poor and protect our common home, let us pray to the Lord....

**Option 2:** That those in a position of power redouble their efforts to decisively and fully replace dirty fossil fuels with clean, renewable energy. May we assume our prophetic role and speak against torture, the possession and use of nuclear weapons, and the public policies that harm the most vulnerable, let us pray to the Lord....

### Further Resources

Feedback: [Info@CatholicClimateCovenant.org](mailto:Info@CatholicClimateCovenant.org)

Webpage: [www.catholicclimatecovenant.org/resource/english-homily-help](http://www.catholicclimatecovenant.org/resource/english-homily-help)

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