

# 3rd Sunday of Advent

Faith Seeking Understanding

By

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The painting that I have included this week is one of my most favourites. Can you see the Joy on these two women's faces? The painting is telling the story of when the pregnant Mary, mother of Jesus, travelled to visit her cousin Elizabeth who was also pregnant with St John the Baptist, our Patron Saint. Our Gospel writers tell us that the baby in Elizabeth's womb leapt with joy at the sound of Mary's voice. From this moment Elizabeth recognised that the child Mary was carrying was something special. With great Joy she blessed Mary and her child and in response Mary started singing. The Hymn of praise that Mary sang is traditionally called the *Magnificat*. She was so filled with Joy at the thought of carrying the Christ child Jesus and so appreciative of all the wonderful things that God was doing in our world that she just couldn't help but sing praise to God. Perhaps, in this third week of Advent as we prepare for the coming of Jesus, we could stop for a moment and truly see and appreciate all the wondrous things God has provided for us in this world. And in seeing may we also become infected with the spirit of Joy like Mary and Elizabeth.

## The Third Sunday of Advent JOY



Painting by Corby Eisbacher

<http://corbysart.blogspot.com.au/p/faith-collection.html>

### Advent Prayer

Lord God of abundant mercy and generosity help us to recognise You in everything and everyone around us. May we be filled with an infectious spirit of joy so that those we meet may share in the wondrous anticipation of Your coming also.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen

### **Where there is Love you will find peace**

*Two newsletters ago I included a reflection Advent Calendar with the newsletter, did you see it? As I was chatting to one of my brothers about it on the weekend he asked me if I had realized that I had left out the word Peace which was supposed to start the second week of Advent. Instead of Peace I had written Love. Love is the theme for the fourth week of Advent so I had given us all a double serving of love! As I have been watching the news this week and seeing all the awful things that are happening in the world both here in our neighbourhood and overseas I can see that we could all do with more peace right now. This got me thinking that if we all loved each other and saw each other as Jesus sees us then this love would not allow us to hurt each other. We could all live in harmony along side each other and PEACE would indeed rule the world. So hopefully with a double serving of Love we will all find Peace!*