

2nd Sunday of Christmas – 5th January 2025 ☐

Headings	Gospel (John 1:1 - 18)	1 st Reading (Ecclesiasticus 24:1 – 2, 8 - 12)	2 nd Reading (Ephesians 1:3 – 6, 15 - 18)
Context	This passage forms the introduction to John's gospel. It introduces the main themes of the gospel which will be developed in later chapters – life, light, darkness, testimony, faith, glory and truth. These images are held together around Jesus the Word – the Creator and Redeemer of all things.	There is a rich wisdom literature in the Old Testament. This book may be the last to be written. It teaches believers how to live a good life. It prepares the way for the coming of Jesus who is “the wisdom of God”.	Paul begins the Letter to the Ephesians with a prayer of blessing. He has organised this prayer around the work of the Trinity. The Father chooses us; the Son redeems us; the Holy Spirit seals us. Paul celebrates blessings usually linked with baptism, such as sonship, grace, forgiveness and sealing.
Key verse	“The Word was made flesh, he lived among us, and we saw his glory, the glory that is his as the only Son of the Father, full of grace and truth”.	“I have taken root in a privileged people in the Lord's own property, in his inheritance”.	Blessed be God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with all the spiritual blessings of heaven in Christ.
Key themes/ messages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The gospel begins with the same phrase as the book of Genesis (“In the beginning”). The universe which was created by the Word of God is now being renewed through that same Word (Jesus Christ). • John proclaims that Jesus gave the power to become children of God to all who accepted him. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The author situates wisdom at the origin of creation. • The author also identifies wisdom with the Torah, the Law that God gave to Israel on Mount Sinai. • The author situates Wisdom in Israel's sanctuary. After the people departed from Sinai, Wisdom needed a place to dwell. That place was the Tabernacle and later the Temple in Jerusalem. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • God has showered rich spiritual blessings on us. • Among the blessings we have received are our close union with Jesus and our adoption as children of God through grace. • Paul prays that the eyes of our mind may be enlightened so that we may understand the great destiny God has in store for us.
Questions/ application to our lives	<p>When did you first realise that you had become a child of God at baptism?</p> <p>It is by believing in Jesus that we receive the power to become children of God (v. 12). How do we get the faith to believe in Jesus?</p> <p>How is the Son making the Father known to you? How have you grown in your relationship with the Father?</p>	<p>Compare these verses with the opening of John's gospel.</p> <p>How is Wisdom like the Word, that was with God in the beginning?</p> <p>We call Mary ‘Seat of Wisdom’. What does this tell about Mary's role?</p> <p>How can we best seek God's wisdom?</p>	<p>How aware have you been of the great graces God has poured out on you in baptism? How can you respond to God's generosity?</p> <p>How can you grow in awareness of the blessings you have received?</p> <p>How can Christians be made more aware of their dignity as children of God?</p>
Further reading	Catechism 268, 291, 526, 1692, 2780, 2787	Catechism 721, 1303, 1381, 1950	Catechism 52, 158, 257, 492, 2627, 2632