

*First Reading*      **Isaiah 35: 1 – 10**

<sup>1</sup> The wilderness and the solitary place shall be glad for them; and the desert shall rejoice, and blossom as the rose. <sup>2</sup> It shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice even with joy and singing: the glory of Lebanon shall be given unto it, the excellency of Carmel and Sharon, they shall see the glory of the Lord, and the excellency of our God. <sup>3</sup> Strengthen ye the weak hands, and confirm the feeble knees. <sup>4</sup> Say to them that are of a fearful heart, Be strong, fear not: behold, your God will come with vengeance, even God with a recompence; he will come and save you. <sup>5</sup> Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. <sup>6</sup> Then shall the lame man leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing: for in the wilderness shall waters break out, and streams in the desert. <sup>7</sup> And the parched ground shall become a pool, and the thirsty land springs of water: in the habitation of dragons, where each lay, shall be grass with reeds and rushes. <sup>8</sup> And an highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called The way of holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it; but it shall be for those: the wayfaring men, though fools, shall not err therein. <sup>9</sup> No lion shall be there, nor any ravenous beast shall go up thereon, it shall not be found there; but the redeemed shall walk there: <sup>10</sup> And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with songs and everlasting joy upon their heads: they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

*Second Reading*      **Luke 1: 57 – 66**

<sup>57</sup> Now Elisabeth's full time came that she should be delivered; and she brought forth a son. <sup>58</sup> And her neighbours and her cousins heard how the Lord had shewed great mercy upon her; and they rejoiced with her. <sup>59</sup> And it came to pass, that on the eighth day they came to circumcise the child; and they called him Zacharias, after the name of his father. <sup>60</sup> And his mother answered and said, Not so; but he shall be called John. <sup>61</sup> And they said unto her, There is none of thy kindred that is called by this name. <sup>62</sup> And they made signs to his father, how he would have him called. <sup>63</sup> And he asked for a writing table, and wrote, saying, His name is John. And they marvelled all. <sup>64</sup> And his mouth was opened immediately, and his tongue loosed, and he spake, and praised God. <sup>65</sup> And fear came on all that dwelt round about them: and all these sayings were noised abroad throughout all the hill country of Judaea. <sup>66</sup> And all they that heard them laid them up in their hearts, saying, What manner of child shall this be! And the hand of the Lord was with him.

**Refreshments**

Refreshments are now being served at St. Mary's after the 10am services. It has been suggested, in order to be more environmentally friendly, as well as saving the Church some money (and some washing up), we are inviting you to bring your own reusable coffee cups or drinking vessels. You will, probably, also have a larger cuppa by doing so!

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