

## ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

To you, I lift my soul, O my God.

In you, I have trusted; let me not be put to shame.

Nor let my enemies exult over me;

and let none who hope in you be put to shame.

## COLLECT

Grant your faithful, we pray, almighty God, the resolve to run forth to meet your Christ with righteous deeds at his coming, so that, gathered at his right hand, they may be worthy to possess the heavenly Kingdom. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

## FIRST READING 63:16-17; 64:1.3-8

*A reading from the prophet Isaiah*

You, Lord, yourself are our Father, Our Redeemer is your ancient name.

Why, Lord, leave us to stray from you ways and harden our hearts against fearing you?

Return, for the sake of your servants, the tribes of your inheritance.

Oh, that you would tear the heavens open and come down

– at your Presence the mountains would melt.

No ear has heard,

no eye has seen

any god but you act like this

for those who trust him.

You guide those who act with integrity and keep your ways in mind.

You were angry when we were sinners;

we had long been rebels against you.

We were all like men unclean,

all that integrity of ours like filthy clothing.

We have all withered like leaves

and our sins blew us away like the wind.

No one invoked your name

or roused himself to catch hold of you.

For you hid your face from us

and gave us up to the power of our sins.

And yet, Lord, you are our Father;

we the clay, you the potter,

we are all the work of your hand.

*The word of the Lord.*

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps79

**Response:**

**God of hosts, bring us back;**

**let your face shine on us and we shall be saved.**

1O shepherd of Israel, hear us,

shine forth from your cherubim throne.

O Lord, rouse up your might,

O Lord, come to our help. (R.)

2.God of hosts, turn again, we implore,

look down from heaven and see.

Visit this vine and protect it,

the vine your right hand has planted. (R.)

3.May your hand be on the man you have chosen,

the man you have given your strength.

And we shall never forsake you again:

give us life that we may call upon your name. (R.)

## SECOND READING

1:3-9

*A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians.*

May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send you grace and peace.

I never stop thanking God for all the graces you have received through Jesus Christ. I thank him that you have been enriched in so many ways, especially in your teachers and preachers; the witness to Christ has indeed been strong among you so that you will not be without any of the gifts of the Spirit while you are waiting for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed; and he will keep you steady and without blame until the last day, the day of our Lord Jesus Christ, because God by calling you has joined you to his son, Jesus Christ; and God is faithful.

*The word of the Lord.*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

**Let us see, O Lord, your mercy and give us your saving help.**

**Alleluia!**

## GOSPEL

13:33-37

*A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark*

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Be on your guard, stay awake, because you never know when the time will come. It is like a man travelling abroad: he has gone from home, and left his servants in charge, each with his own task; and he has told the doorkeeper to stay awake. So stay awake, because you do not know when the master of the house is coming, evening, midnight, cockcrow, dawn; if he comes unexpectedly, he must not find you asleep. And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake!'

*The Gospel of the Lord.*

## PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Accept, we pray, O Lord, these offerings we make, gathered from among your gifts to us, and may what you grant us to celebrate devoutly here below, gain for us the prize of eternal redemption. Through Christ our Lord.

## COMMUNION ANTIPHON

**The Lord will bestow his bounty, and our earth shall yield its increase**

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**May these mysteries, O Lord, in which we have participated, profit us, we pray,**

**for even now, as we walk amid passing things, you teach us by them to love the things of heaven and hold fast to what endures. Through Christ our Lord.**

## GOSPEL REFLECTION



Are you bothered by the sense of pending judgment in this reading? Why or why not? Why do you think people in general seem bothered by the promise of the second coming?

Do you feel that you bear total responsibility for living out the gospel message? Do Christians have a responsibility to one another to be good examples of how to live a faith-filled life? Should we offer each other encouragement in living gospel values?

*What are the characteristics of faith-filled people? Of a faith-filled community? How do faith-filled people reach out to others?*

Is it easier to live a good Christian life when you are in the company of other good Christians? Do you seek people out who you identify as being people of faith?

How can you become more attentive to living a faith-filled life?

Do you read religious publications? Which ones? What kind of values do you find in popular literature? In Christian literature?

From where do you draw faith examples? Who are people who have had a positive influence in your faith life? Do you feel you have had a positive effect on another person's faith life? When and how?

## GOSPEL ACTION

*Make a positive attempt this week to influence another person's faith life. Consider this question: this year, how will you make the Advent season a time of spiritual preparation for Christmas?*

## Readings – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent Year B

**First Reading:** Isaiah 40:1-5.9-11

**Second Reading:** Peter 3:8-14

**Gospel:** Mark 1:1-8

## Homily

29<sup>th</sup> November 2020 – 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent, Year B

Dear friends, today is the first Sunday of Advent when we begin a new Church year and our preparations for welcoming the Lord into our hearts and lives this Christmas. Many people already I notice have put up their Christmas trees and decorations in readiness and this week we have heard the arrangements and the detail of how we are going to be able to spend time together with our loved ones over the Christmas days.

Advent is a time of watchfulness, a time of waiting, to ensure our readiness to meet the Lord at any moment and the season of Advent prepares us for Christmas. The Church and the liturgy is stark and bare, we wear purple and we don't have a Gloria, our great hymn of praise until Christmas. We light the candles of our Advent wreath as slowly but surely each week the light increases, until we are ready to welcome the Light of the World, once again at Christmas.

Advent for me is a time for getting ready, there is a feel of excitement and expectation about what we will celebrate in just a few weeks' time. However, having said that I think it is one of the times in the year that we are given to take stock of our lives and to ask whether we are ready to receive the Lord.

During Advent we prepare for Christmas and in order to understand the message of Christmas we have to start at the beginning – with the history of salvation. The Advent liturgy relives in a very small way the history of Israel, viewing it through the eyes of Christian faith. It shows that history was pointing and leading towards Jesus, because he was the one who fulfilled the messianic prophecies.

In the first reading today we hear that beautiful image of the Lord, our Father, as the potter, we are the clay the work of his hand. We are moulded by the Father who forms us into the people that we are; we are asked to be open to that moulding and shaping of the Lord in our lives.

The second reading and the Gospel talk about the final coming of Christ, something that the early Christians believed was imminent. For the faithful, the Lord's coming is not something to fear, we are urged on this first Sunday of Advent to live in such a way as to be always ready to meet the Lord, and these words are a reminder to us and are addressed to us again today. Three times in the Gospel we hear the Advent invitation from Jesus to **'stay awake'** because we do not know the time when the master is coming.

## Homily

**29<sup>th</sup> November 2020 – 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent, Year B**

Maybe the purpose of Advent is to give us a jolt, a wake-up call. It provides us with a chance to start again. We are creatures of habit and it is easy to fall into the habit of being a Christian and going through the motions, but perhaps not actually living it out in all aspects of our lives.

Advent issues a great wake up call to let Christ come alive in our hearts afresh. On this final Sunday of Lockdown 2.0 I know how much we are looking forward to Christmas and hopefully being able to spend time with our loved ones that we have been denied this year, albeit in a different and more restricted way. As we prepare for Christmas let's remember what it is that we celebrate, the birth of Our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

One of the things that we can do at home this year is focus on the Crib and I'll say a little more about that next weekend, I think we can take the Crib as a real focus of prayer this Advent and Christmas in this year of St Joseph. I have also included an Advent prayer from Sr Jo that we can use over these next weeks.

The really good news is that with Lockdown coming to an end in a couple of days we have been given permission to begin celebrating Mass once again in public; so from Wednesday this week Mass will be celebrated in Church at the normal Mass times and I look forward to seeing you then.

Take care, with love and prayers to you all, God bless, **Fr Phil x**

## Mary of our Advent Days

Mary in times of waiting, teach us to trust.  
In times of expectation, help us to discover hope.  
In times of uncertainty, show us patience.  
In our pilgrimage along life's journey, intercede for us,  
that we may understand that true discipleship rests in our courage  
to surrender ourselves to the work of the Spirit within us;  
so that we may bring Christ to the world  
and experience his birth in many hearts.  
We ask this in his name, Amen.

## **Bidding Prayers and Spiritual Communion**

### **29<sup>th</sup> November 2020 – 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent, Year B**

In the Gospel we hear the Advent invitation to 'stay awake' as we offer our prayers to the Father:

For the Church and for Christians everywhere: may they stay awake and be ready to welcome the Lord this Christmas time.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For political and community leaders; may they make wise and prudent decisions and always bear in mind the needs of those who are the poorest and most vulnerable. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For all victims and survivors of abuse: may we as a Church listen attentively to them and help them find healing and peace in their lives.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For those who are sick, especially those affected by the coronavirus; may they know the grace and healing of Jesus.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For those who are hungry and the poor in our world; may we put our faith into action and be generous in sharing what we have with others this Advent.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For peace and an end to war, violence and hatred everywhere.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For all the faithful departed especially **Marion McKean, James Rathbone, Albert Maguire** and all those named on our November Lists : **"Eternal rest grant upon them..."**

For those who mourn the loss of loved ones; may Christ's message of hope in eternal life bring them comfort and consolation.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We ask Our Lady and all the Saints to join their prayers with ours as we say: **"Hail Mary..."**

God our loving Father,

We ask you to hear the prayers that we offer through Jesus Christ our Lord,

**Amen.**

**Bidding Prayers and Spiritual Communion**  
**29<sup>th</sup> November 2020 – 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent, Year B**

**Spiritual Communion**

*Prayer of St Alphonsus*

My Jesus,  
I believe that you are present in this Holy Sacrament of the altar.  
I love you above all things and  
I passionately desire to receive you into my soul.  
Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally,  
come spiritually into my soul  
so that I may unite myself wholly to you now and forever.  
Amen.