

OUR SUNDAY CELEBRATION

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT / B

29 NOVEMBER 2020

COME, LORD JESUS. The prophet Isaiah implored God to tear the heavens open and come down to save the people. God, however, did not come among us in such a dramatic way but in the humble form of Jesus of Nazareth. God continues to enter our lives in unexpected ways. If we are watchful for the presence of Christ in each day, we will recognise him when he comes in glory.

INTRODUCTORY RITES

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON Cf. Ps 24:1-3

To you, I lift up 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.

GREETING

P. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

R. Amen.

P. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

R. And with your spirit.

PENITENTIAL ACT

P. Brethren (brothers and sisters), let us acknowledge our sins, and so prepare ourselves to celebrate the sacred mysteries.

All: I confess to almighty God and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have greatly sinned, in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done and in what I have failed to do, through my fault, through my fault, (striking the breast) through my most grievous fault; therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin, all the Angels and Saints, and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord our God.

P. May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.

R. Amen.

V. Lord, have mercy.

R. Lord, have mercy.

V. Christ, have mercy.

R. Christ, have mercy.

V. Lord, have mercy.

R. Lord, have mercy.

The Gloria is not said during Advent.

COLLECT

P. 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, God, for ever and ever.

R. Amen.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING Isa 63:16-17; 64:1, 3-8

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

Oh, that you would tear the heavens apart and come down.

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

Why, Lord, leave us to stray from your 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.

R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 79:2-3, 15-19

R. Lord, make us turn to you, let us see your face and we shall be saved.

1. O 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 Cor 1:3-9

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

The revelation we looked for, Christ Jesus our Lord.

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.

R. Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Ps 84:8

Alleluia, alleluia!

Lord, show us your mercy and love, and grant us your salvation. Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Mk 13:33-37

P. The Lord be with you.

R. And with your spirit

P. A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark.

R. Glory to you, O Lord.

Stay awake! You never know when the Lord will come.

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;

ST MARTHA'S PARISH STRATHFIELD



Parish Administrator: Fr Jacek (Jack) Cichy

Administration Coordinator: Nicolle Mazzaferro (Mon-Thurs) admin@stmarthas.org.au

Administration Support: Larissa Argiro (Fridays) office@stmarthas.org.au

Sacramental Coordinator: Patricia Saad (Fridays) sc@stmarthas.org.au

Safeguarding Officer: Dianne Dawson safeguarding@stmarthas.org.au

Parish Ministries Coordinator: Helen Williamson

Music Ministry: Marcella Ayoub & Agnes Lee

Children's Liturgy Coordinator: Rachel Suriano

Plenary Council 2020 Ambassador: Helena O'Neill

Youth Ministry: Jessica Gereis youth@stmarthas.org.au



'Stay awake! You never know when the Lord will come' ... Mark 13

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Parish Office: Mon- Fri 9.00am-3.00pm



St Martha's School: 9764 1184

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Principal: Judy Gastin

Assistant Principal: Leanne Meehan

REC: Attilia Kazacos

THE PARISH OF ST MARTHA'S ACKNOWLEDGES THE WANGUL PEOPLE AS THE TRADITIONAL CUSTODIANS OF THE LAND ON WHICH THE CHURCH IS BUILT

Vision:

**Welcoming
Eucharistic
Transformed by the Word
Full of Grace
Proclaiming Good News**



*Please
continue
to support the
St Vincent De Paul Society
through the Church
Poor Boxes.*

Mission:

**Alive with the Spirit
Inspired by St Martha
We Celebrate & Witness
God's love
Using our Gifts & Talents**



MASS TIMES

Tuesday: 7.30am

Wednesday: 9.10am

Thursday: 9.10am

Friday: 9.10am

Saturday: 9.10am, 5pm Vigil Mass

Sunday: 8.00am; 10.00am & 6.00pm



1st Saturday of every month:

8-9am Adoration, 9am Benediction, 9.10am Healing Mass and
Anointing of the Sick,
followed by reconciliation

RECONCILIATION:

Saturday after 9.10am Mass or by appointment.

BAPTISM:

2nd & 4th Sundays of the month at 11.00am
by appointment only.
(One months' notice is required).



Next Preparation Session:

6th December 2020 in the Parish Hall
Contact the Parish office for more information.

MARRIAGES: By appointment only.
(6 months' notice is required).



ROSARY: Tuesday & Saturday after morning Mass, Wednesday, Thursday
& Friday 8.30am and 7.30pm on Fridays in conjunction with Marian
Movement of Priests Cenacle and Divine Mercy Chaplet.

PRAYER GROUP / ADORATION AT

ST MARTHA'S CHURCH:

Mondays 10.30am – 11.30am

(School term only)

**Please support our Catholic Press
Copies of the Catholic Weekly \$2
& Catholic Leader \$2.50
are available at the Church Entrances.**



SAFE GUARDING



A reminder to parents that the Notice-Board located at the side
entrance contains various resources for children regarding
Safeguarding.

A MESSAGE FROM THE ARCHDIOCESE OF SYDNEY.

Abuse is a crime. The appropriate people to deal with a crime are the police. If you – or
anyone you know – have been abused, please contact the police. Alternatively, you can
contact the Safeguarding and Ministerial Integrity Office at 9390 5810 or
safeguardingenquiries@sydneycatholic.org. You may also want to speak to your Parish
Priest who will be able to provide support and guidance.

The Archdiocese has a legal obligation to report crimes to the police.

Please be aware that if you "TAG" St Martha's in photos on your
Facebook page, the images also appear on an "unofficial" St Martha's
Facebook page. This "unofficial" page was created automatically by
Facebook and is not controlled by St Martha's. We kindly remind you to
take care when uploading photos of any children without parent consent.



**Office of the
Children's Guardian**

IMPORTANT NOTICE:

IF YOU PARTICIPATE IN ANY OF THE FOLLOWING MINISTRIES YOU ARE
REQUIRED TO **SIGN IN** - ACOLYTES; READERS; EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS;
CHOIR; CHILDREN'S LITURGY (LEADERS & CHILDREN) & SACRAMENTAL
PROGRAM (LEADERS & CHILDREN). SIGN IN FOLDERS ARE KEPT IN THE
SACRISTY. THANK YOU FOR YOUR CO-OPERATION.

ALTAR SERVERS ARE **NOT** PERMITTED IN THE SACRISTY WITHOUT A
PARENT/TEACHER. THE SIGN IN FOLDER IS LOCATED IN THE CORRIDOR
OUTSIDE THE SACRISTY.

'Sharing the Word'

Mondays at 7 pm in St Martha's Church.

Everyone is Welcome.



GLUTEN FREE HOSTS ARE AVAILABLE FOR ANY CELIAC
PARISHIONERS. IF YOU WISH TO RECEIVE HOLY
COMMUNION PLEASE TELL THE CHURCH WARDEN OR SEE
AN ACOLYTE IN THE SACRISTY PRIOR TO MASS.



**2021 Columban Art
Calendars
(\$9 each) &
Christmas Card Packs
(\$7 each)
are now available
at the back of the
Church**



CWF November Parish Appeal

The Charitable Works Fund (CWF) Parish Appeal is still running this weekend. Your donation will help those most vulnerable in Sydney - including

our local Aboriginal community, as well as single mothers facing homelessness, people struggling with mental health issues and many others. Appeal envelopes will be provided for your use so please keep an eye out for them. You can also make a donation and find out more at www.ourfaithourworks.org/cwf



The Parish wishes to sincerely thank the Catechists of St Martha's for their generous commitment to teaching Special Religious Education to the children in the State schools during 2020. A very special thank you to Lorraine Kazzi for her coordination and assistance to our Catechists - Miriam Redolfi, Savitri Jebanasam, Patricia & Martin Walsh, Cathy Harrington, Nadya Joun, Sherine Youssef & Barbara Moussa.



**2021
God's Word Daily
Reflection Diaries are now
available in the Church
Foyer.**

**Ideal Christmas Gift.
\$15.00 each (rrp \$19.95)**



ST VINCENT DE PAUL CHRISTMAS APPEAL 28TH & 29TH NOVEMBER

THIS CHRISTMAS, YOUR GENEROUS FINANCIAL DONATION WILL HELP VINNIES PROVIDE MUCH NEEDED HELP AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO THOSE WITHOUT. MORE THAN ANYTHING WE CAN GIVE HOPE TO MANY IN OUR COMMUNITY IN THEIR TIME OF NEED. ENVELOPES WILL BE AVAILABLE ON THE PEWS. DONATIONS CAN BE PLACED IN ANY OF THE COLLECTION PLATES. THANK YOU IN ANTICIPATION. **PHILIP ROGERS, PRESIDENT
STRATHFIELD CONFERENCE.**



Background on the Gospel Reading - Today we begin the season of Advent, which marks the start of a new liturgical year for the Church. The readings for Sunday Mass are arranged on a three-year cycle. Each year features a different Gospel—Matthew, Mark, or Luke. Readings from the Gospel of John are interspersed throughout all three years. With this

year's first Sunday of Advent, we begin Cycle B of the Lectionary, which focuses our attention on the Gospel of Mark. This week and next week, our readings from Mark's Gospel present two important Advent themes: the Lord's return at the end of time and John the Baptist's preparation for Jesus. Today's Gospel is taken from the end of Mark's Gospel, the chapter that immediately precedes Mark's account of Jesus' Passion. Having been questioned repeatedly by the scribes and the Pharisees, Jesus is now questioned by his disciples—Peter, James, John, and Andrew—who want details about his prediction of the destruction of the Temple. Jesus answers with many warnings about the difficulties that the disciples will face. Today's passage comes at the conclusion of Jesus' warnings to his disciples. Jesus emphasizes the need for watchfulness. The Son of Man will come without warning; only the Father knows the exact hour. The disciples must not be caught unprepared when this time comes. Scholars believe that Mark's Gospel was written around the time of the destruction of Jerusalem by the Romans in A.D. 70. Mark's audience consisted of Christians who were living in difficult social and political times, times of conflict. They were likely beginning to face persecution as followers of Jesus. In this difficult time, it helped to recall that Jesus had foretold of such difficulties. Early Christian communities took courage from Jesus' warning to remain alert and watchful, and they found in his words a way to persevere through suffering. Today's Gospel reminds us that Advent is about more than our preparation for the Church's celebration of Christ's birth at Christmas. Advent is also about preparing ourselves for Christ's return in glory at the end of time. Like the disciples and the faithful in Mark's community, we must also stay alert and watchful. Our faithfulness to God, through the good times as well as the difficult times, shows us to be ready for the coming of the Son of Man.



Dear Parishioners, as you may have noticed, this year's SVDP Christmas Giving Tree has now been established at the front of the Church. Due to Covid19 implications, we are not collecting Food or Toys this year but rather seeking financial contributions. The tree has a selection of envelopes for \$5, \$10, \$20 etc with a designated collection stand beside the tree. The money collected will be used to issue Food Cards for needy members of our community so that they may purchase Christmas Hamper items directly from the shops. Thank you very much for your continuing support and generosity for those who are "doing it tough" at this time of year. Philip Rogers

Go Make Disciples- Prayer for Renewal Campaign



Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP will be launching a new Archdiocesan Mission Plan Go Make Disciples on 12 December, the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, the Star of the New Evangelisation. The new plan is aimed at renewing our parishes as places of encounter with the living Christ and centres of evangelisation and outreach to our community in love and mercy. In the weeks and months ahead we hope you will join us in an Archdiocesan-wide prayer campaign beginning on the Feast of All Saints (1 November), calling on the Holy Spirit, to prepare the hearts of each of us and of all our parishes and Eucharistic communities to receive anew the fire of God's love and the desire to be ever more faithful witnesses of Jesus Christ. Please join us by praying the attached prayer together at the end of each Mass, in your prayer group, and in your homes. More about the campaign in this weekend's Catholic Weekly. For more information contact Parish Renewal Team at the Sydney Centre for Evangelisation, Archdiocese of Sydney on 9390 5307 or elizabeth.arblaster@sydneycatholic.org

**PARISH FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING TUESDAY
8TH DECEMBER 7.00PM**



Happy New Liturgical Year!

Year B commences this week – the YEAR OF MARK!

The start of Advent commences a busy period so let's all intentionally slow down a little, take time and encourage each other to enter the season of Advent with joy!



The weeks of Advent remind us to set aside some of the hectic business of the holiday season, and to quietly reflect on the promise of the baby born in Bethlehem 2000 years ago. The Bible readings relate to the Advent themes of waiting, preparation, light in the darkness, and the coming of the promised Messiah.

Prayer for Lighting the Advent Wreath Candles

First Candle - The Candle of Hope

Leader: Light and peace, in Jesus Christ our Lord

All: Thanks be to God.

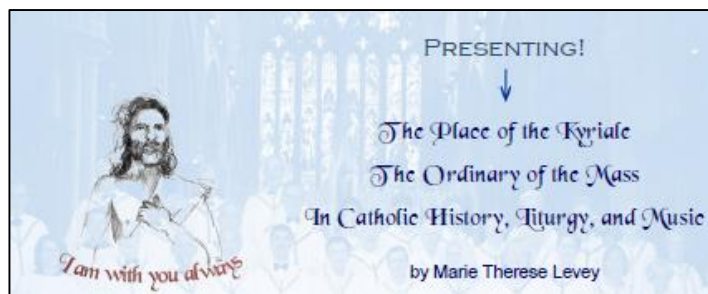
Leader: Today is the First Sunday of Advent, in which we recall the hope we have in Christ. God told Abraham that through him all the nations of the world would be blessed, because he trusted and put his hope in God. The Old Testament spoke of the coming of Christ, of how a Saviour would be born, a king in the line of King David. He would rule the world wisely and bless all the nations. We too believe in God's promise to send Jesus again to this world to establish his kingdom upon the earth.

(A person lights the First Candle here)

Hope is like a light shining in a dark place. As we look at the light of this candle we celebrate the hope we have in Jesus Christ.

Leader: Let us pray:

All: God of Abraham and Sarah and all the Patriarchs of old, you are our Father too. Your love is revealed to us in Jesus Christ, Son of God, and Son of David. Help us in preparing to celebrate his birth, to make our hearts ready and to place our hope in you. Help us today and every day to worship you, to hear your word, and to do your will by sharing your hope with others. We ask it in the name of the one who was born in Bethlehem. Amen.



The Place of the Kyrie - The Ordinary of the Mass – in Catholic History, Liturgy and Music by Marie Therese Levey rsj. The prayers of the Ordinary, or the people's parts of the Mass, have formed a type of spiritual chain which has linked all the prayers of the Mass together since the first years of Christianity. The current book is a response by the author to a need expressed by fellow parish musicians to know more about the origin of the people's sung parts of the Mass. In this work the reader will meet well known saints who loved to praise God in song and contributed to the *Kyrie*: St Gregory I the Great, Bernard of Clairvaux, Hildegard of Bingen, Francis of Assisi, Dominic of Osma. You will also meet those who made life difficult for them. The work is full of stories of "saints and sinners very human figures (who) come alive in these pages". Available for \$30 + P&P from *Congregational Administration Centre*, PO Box 1508, North Sydney NSW 2059. Enquiries (02) 8912 4853 email CAC.reception@sosj.org.au.



Prayer:

All-powerful God, increase our strength of will for doing good that Christ may find an eager welcome at his coming and call us to his side in the kingdom of heaven, where he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit one God, forever and ever. Amen. God of power and mercy open our hearts in welcome.



Receiving Advent

by Tom McGrath

One year during Advent, our parish priest invited us to write down on a slip of paper a word that named something that is keeping us from getting closer to God. He suggested it might be a fear, a resentment, or an attitude that shuts us off from the love God so wants to give. We were to fold the paper over a few times, grasp it tightly in one hand, and make a fist around it while he began to preach on the Scripture readings. After a minute, my hand began to ache. At two minutes, my hand grew numb. At three minutes, the hand started shaking uncontrollably. He told us to open our hands. I found how hard it was to do that. After grasping the piece of paper so tightly, my hand had stiffened and seemed to have a mind of its own. I can't remember what else he said that day, but I have never forgotten that lesson. Hold on to a resentment, fear, or bad attitude long enough and you will become paralyzed. As I begin Advent every year now, I start with the realization that I need to let go of any and all spiritual impediments I'm hanging onto. Advent is a time of receiving. It's hard to receive if your hands are clasped shut. So I begin Advent once again with this prayer: Holy Spirit of God, open my hands, my eyes, my ears, all my senses, and all of my heart so I will be ready to receive your Advent blessings. And then I sit there in the Advent darkness, my hands open before me, waiting on God.

MASS INTENTIONS

Recently Deceased: James Brady, Maria Kalinowski (Fr Jack's sister) Patricia Wilson, Norma Shore, Sr Pauline Smith rsm, Marie Verschuer, Enid Wynne, Frances Doumit, Jill Jones, Sr Frances Gaynor OP, Enid Wynne, Audrey Clark, Terry Stewart, Joseph Touma.

Repose of The Soul: Fr Adrian Horgan, Fr Paul Ryan, Br Ray Dowding, Gerald Wilson, John Ferguson, Daniel Lucich, Ken Fraser, Connie Wong, Mary Bentley, Aldo Amarino, Salvatore (Phillip) Puglisi, William (Bill) & Dorothy Starr, Roger O'Reilly, Stefano, Estelle Thurn, Anne Cecilia Glass, Reginald & Agnes Glass, Gerald & Frances Gleeson, Faado & Alice Herro, John, Doreen & Des McNamara Patrick & Janet Reynolds, Jim Reynolds, Ken Rich, Monica & Patrick Ryan, Stephen Maxwell Stewart & Christopher John Stewart, Dr Stephanie Winfield, Philip Winfield, Francesco & Maria Colagiuri, Caterina & Matteo Genova, Maria You, Joseph You, Maria Xie, Maria Huang, Dominic Wang, Maria Wang.

Anniversaries: John St George, Jack Dawson, Eileen Crocker, Dominic Wang, Maria Huang, Frank & Marie Monaghan, Lawrie Soares, Hubert Saldanha, Blanche Saldanha, Maud Soares, Mary G Cahill, Cornelius Ryan, Roger O'Reilly, Noel Jebanasam, Stephaine Kehoe, Caterina & Matteo Genova, Tom & Michelle Christy, Eric Sidoti, Steven Elias, Dorothea Starr, Bernard & Mark Kelly.

Sick Intentions: Angela Vasta, Pat Fraser, Tony Grace, Baby Alice Ladd, Margaret Davidson, Marc Kayrouz & Peter Starr.

Special Intentions: Liana, Mathew & Michael Brady, The Pagano & Colagiuri Families, May & Frank Grieves, Eileen Givney, Veronica, D'Cruz, Tony Fernandes, Gary & Priscilla, Anne Goodrick, Fr Titmus, Rr O'Rourke, Rineesh & Wander, The McIlwaine Family. For Deceased Friends & Benefactors of the Dominican Order.



Remembering someone with a Mass Intention honours them in a unique way – surrounding them with the warmth of God's love. A Mass may be offered for the living or deceased, for a Birthday, Anniversary, for somebody who is ill, or for a special intention. Mass Intention envelopes are available at the Church Entrances. If you would like a Mass offered on a particular date, please contact the parish office to arrange this.

5th & 6th December

VIGIL

8AM

10AM

6PM

Special Ministers

Peter McCluskey

Gina Surjadinata

Helen Williamson

Cue Family

Marian McCluskey

Andri Surjadinata

Jackie Romanous

Cue Family

Rachel Suriano

VIGIL

8AM

10AM

6PM

Readers

Natalie Bains

Greg Glass

Anne Marrins

Anne Chow

Patricia Saad

Maria Yu

Claudia Elias

Lena Melhem

VIGIL

8AM

10AM

6PM

Altar Servers

Lincoln M.

Mary Louise I.

Michael S.

Marina B.

Hayden M.

Shannon D.

Anthony S.

Oliver B.

Therese S.

Volunteer Needed

Aidan M.

Volunteer Needed

Sophia S.

Volunteer Needed

Volunteer Needed

Volunteer Needed

Wardens

VIGIL

8AM

10AM

6PM

Phil Robinson

Mary Cooke

Trudie Rogers

Vince Blefari

If you are unable to attend your rostered Mass kindly organise a replacement.

The current Roster is available to collect from the side entrance of the Church or via the parish website.

In the Spirit of St Martha, let us continue to help others and Carry Hope Everywhere.

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.

R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ

HOMILY

PROFESSION OF FAITH APOSTLES' CREED

Or the Nicene Creed may be said.

I believe in God, / the Father almighty, / Creator of heaven and earth, / and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, / who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, / born of the Virgin Mary, / suffered under Pontius Pilate, / was crucified, died and was buried; / he descended into hell; / on the third day he rose again from the dead; / he ascended into heaven, / and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; / from there he will come to judge the living and the dead. / I believe in the Holy Spirit, / the holy catholic Church, / the communion of saints, / the forgiveness of sins, / the resurrection of the body, / and life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

After the priest raises the paten with the bread and prays, and then the chalice, we respond to each prayer:

R. Blessed be God for ever.

P. Pray, brethren (brothers and sisters), that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

R. May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

P. 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.

R. Amen.

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

P. The Lord be with you.

R. And with your spirit.

P. Lift up your hearts.

R. We lift them up to the Lord.

P. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

R. It is right and just.

PREFACE I OF ADVENT

After the Preface, we sing or say:

All: Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

THE MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

P. The mystery of faith

All: We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your resurrection until you come again.

COMMUNION RITE

P. At the Saviour's command and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say:

All: Our Father, who art in heaven ...

P. Deliver us, Lord, we pray ...

All: For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours now and for ever.

P. Lord Jesus Christ, who said ...

R. Amen.

P. The peace of the Lord be with you always.

R. And with your spirit.

P. Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

All exchange a sign of peace

LAMB OF GOD

All: Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P. Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

R. Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON Ps 84: 13

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

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P. 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.

R. Amen.

THE CONCLUDING RITES

P. The Lord be with you.

R. And with your spirit.

P. May almighty God bless you, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

R. Amen.

P. Go forth, the Mass is ended.

R. Thanks be to God.

BREAKING OPEN THE WORD

THE CALL TO CONVERSION

As Advent begins, we set out once again to prepare our hearts for the great feast of God's humble presence among us. Expectation and complacency, longing and listlessness, can all be found in our hearts as we prepare for Christmas. Today's readings speak of our need for God's presence and our thankful response of faithfulness.

The reading from Isaiah is a passionate plea for renewal and change. The people have been left to their own devices for too long. If God would only tear open the heavens and come down, the mountains would melt before God's presence. Isaiah hopes that the hearts of the people of Israel should also melt so that God the great potter, could once more mould, shape, and breathe life into their hearts.

Paul's perspective is one of thanksgiving for the gifts that have already been given as the community waits for the Lord's return. Such gifts are given to sustain us as we wait for the moment when Jesus will finally be revealed in glory.

It is one thing to be grateful for blessings and gifts received but the Gospel calls us to take the next step of using these gifts faithfully. The parable of the master who leaves his servants in charge during his absence is as relevant today as in the days of Mark. It is important to note that each of the servants is entrusted with a task to be faithfully completed. As Advent begins each one of us is given the task of preparing our hearts and lives to welcome the Lord.

CHRISTOPHER MONAGHAN CP

WELCOME AND THANK YOU

Today we welcome Fr Chris Monaghan CP as our reflection writer. Fr Chris is President of Yarra Theological Union, University of Divinity, where he teaches both Old and New Testament. In his reflection, he will consider briefly each of the Scripture readings set down for the Sunday.

We are very grateful and thank Fr Brendan Byrne SJ, of the Jesuit College of Spirituality, University of Divinity, for his insightful reflections on the Gospels over the past three years.

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

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