

OUR SUNDAY CELEBRATION

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT / B

3 DECEMBER 2023

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.

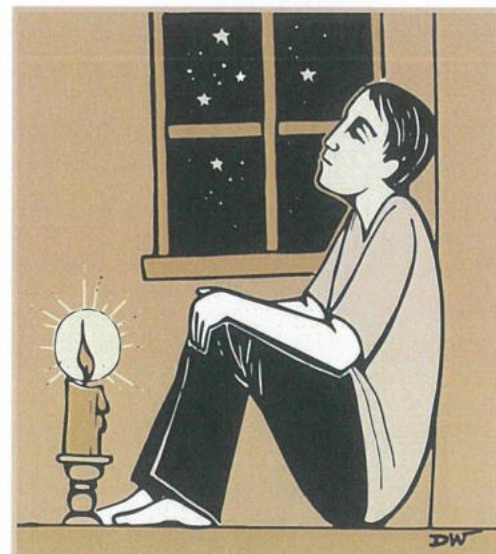
RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 79:2-3, 15-19

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;



ST MARTHA'S PARISH STRATHFIELD

Parish Priest: Father John Hayes

Assistant Priest: Father Liem Duong

Administration Coordinator: Nicolle Mazzaferro (Mon, Tues & Thurs) admin@stmarthas.org.au

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

Sacramental Coordinator: Linda Praum sc@stmarthas.org.au

Safeguarding Officer: Dianne Dawson & Helen Williamson safeguarding@stmarthas.org.au

Parish Ministries Coordinator: Helen Williamson

Music Ministry: Marcella Ayoub

Children's Liturgy Coordinator: Alannah Hickry

Plenary Council Ambassador: Helena O'Neil



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

70 Homebush Rd Strathfield NSW 2135

Phone: 9746 6131 Fax: 9764 3040

Email: office@stmarthas.org.au

Website: www.stmarthas.org.au

Parish Office Hours:

Mon, Tues & Thurs 9am-5pm & Fridays 9am-3pm



St Martha's School: 9764 1184

Email: info@stmstrathfield.catholic.edu.au

Principal: Carolyn Parsell

Assist Principal: Steven Belcastro

Acting REC: Cindy Ronzini

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:

8.30am Adoration followed by Mass

RECONCILIATION:

Saturday after 9.10am Mass or by appointment.

SYDNEY MALAYALEE ROMAN CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

Rosary, Mass & Adoration from 6.30pm to 8.00pm on the 2nd Saturday of each month.

BAPTISM:

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

Baptism Preparation by appointment only.
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

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 Entrance.**



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.

Child sexual abuse is a crime. The appropriate people to deal with crimes 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 (02) 9390 5810 or safeguarding@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.

Commitment Statement

The Archdiocese of Sydney is wholly committed to ensuring the safety, well-being and dignity of all Children and Adults at Risk, and it acknowledges its important legal, moral and spiritual responsibility for Children and Adults.



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.

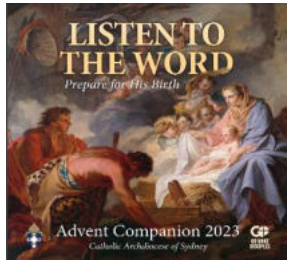
IMPORTANT NOTICE:

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.



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.



Happy New Liturgical Year

Let's all encourage each other to enter the season of Advent with Joy and Hope!

Dear Jesus, you are the hope in our messy world.

This Advent help us slow down, listen to your voice and focus on what's really important.

We place our hope in you as we prepare our hearts to celebrate your birth. Amen.

During Advent, we not only prepare ourselves to celebrate the birth of Jesus, but we also check in to see if we are doing all the things that will keep us ready to receive Jesus when he comes again. Recommit yourselves to praying daily, reading Scripture, and staying faithful to God's commandments.

FREE COPIES ARE AVAILABLE IN THE CHURCH FOYER

Lectors, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion & Altar Servers

To assist with the preparation of rosters for the Christmas Masses would any parishioners who are on the regular rosters please volunteer if available. Christmas is one of our major Liturgical celebrations so the more volunteers we have would be appreciated.

The Christmas Eve Children's Mass - Plans are underway for school aged children to take part and participate in this Mass by coming along dressed as either an Angel or a Shepherd. Children will need to supply their own costume. The specific roles of Mary, Joseph, the Three Wise Men, Readers and Offertory Procession will be allocated by Fr John. More information will be made available over the coming weeks.

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.



Background on the Gospel Reading (Loyola Press)

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.



Family Connection: In family life, we try to prepare ourselves for many future things: our next vacation, our children's education, our retirement. We are careful not to allow ourselves to be caught by surprise so that we can handle any challenges our family may face. Today's Gospel reminds us that we are called to be just as attentive and alert to the coming of the Son of Man so that it will not catch us unprepared. This means attending to our family's spiritual life as carefully as we attend to other important family matters. As you gather as a family, talk about a time when you received surprise visitors at your house, perhaps a neighbor who stopped by or a relative who arrived unannounced. Was your household prepared to receive this unannounced guest? What might your family have done differently if you knew ahead of time that this visitor was going to arrive? Jesus told his disciples that no one knows when the Son of Man will return, except the Father. Read with your family what Jesus told his disciples in today's Gospel, Mark 13:33-37. During Advent, we not only prepare ourselves to celebrate the birth

of Jesus, we also check to see if we are doing all the things that will keep us ready to receive Jesus when he comes again. Talk about how your family can recommit to daily prayer, reading Scripture, and staying faithful to God's commandments. Pray together that through this Advent season your family will be more prepared to receive Jesus when he comes again. Read as a concluding prayer Paul's words to the Corinthians found in today's second reading, 1 Corinthians 1:3-9, or pray the Lord's Prayer.

Our Father, Who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.

May this season remind you of the Hope, Joy, Love and Peace found in Christ. Romans 15:13



St Vincent de Paul 2024 Columban Calendars & Christmas Card packs are now available for \$10 each.

St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal – 2nd & 3rd December



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. **Anthony Thurn, President Strathfield Conference.**



Mass for Expectant Mothers and those Hoping to Conceive - All expectant mothers and those hoping to conceive are warmly invited to come to 10:30 Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral on Sunday, 10 December, with an opportunity to receive a special blessing from Bishop Richard Umbers with relics of St Gerard Majella and St Gianna Molla. Register before 1 December for catering purposes at <https://www.trybooking.com/CLMSM>.



Immaculata Mission School 2024: FISHERS OF MEN - Start the new year by going deeper in God's love through awesome speaker s on the Catholic faith, daily Mass, Adoration and the Rosary, praise and worship, fellowship and more! There are two different programs, so there is something for everyone ... Youth & adults (14 years & up): 1-6 January 2024. Married couples & families: 7-10 January 2024 (specifically designed for married couples, includes ministry for children aged 13 & under) Special guest speakers: Dan & Stephanie Burke from the USA (co-founders of the Avila Institute, presenters on EWTN & Dan is an author of over 15 books on Catholic spirituality), plus Fr Francesco Gavazzi (from the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal) Where: NEGS (New England Girls' School), Armidale NSW. For costs, additional information and TO REGISTER visit: <http://www.immaculata.org.au/ims>

The New January to July Roster is now available from the side entrance of the Church and on the parish website.

9th & 10th December

Special Ministers	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Grace Herro	Gian Surjadinata	Jackie Romanous	Elias Family
	Rick Herro	Artha Surjadinata	Relyn Aguinaldo	Elias Family
Readers	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Natalie Baini	Greg Glass	Emmanuel Nathan	Elias Family
	Marianna Soo	Maria Yu	Michael Quinlan	Elias Family
Altar Servers	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Aiden L.	Liam D.	Emilia T.	Elias Family
	Beatrix A.	Shannon D.	Catelyn C.	Elias Family
	Collin A.	Volunteer Needed	Aidan M.	Volunteer Needed
	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Emilio A.	Volunteer Needed
Wardens	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Phil Robinson	Georgette Sahyoun	Trudie Rogers	Vince Blefari

MASS OFFERINGS

Recently Deceased:

Bill O'Riordan, Sr Helen Aphorpe, Charlie Stevens, Josefina Sereno, Paul Maria To Ba Tuan, Maria Pagano, George Lee, Margot Starkey, Michel Baini, Cecelia Donohue, Kay Doran, Sinead Dillon, John Quinlan.

Repose of The Soul:

Fr Adrian Horgan, Fr Paul Ryan, Br Ray Dowding, Francesco Campanale, Francis Doumit, Frederick McDowell, Dorothy Harris, Daniel Lucich, James Brady, Ken Fraser, Elizabeth Keating, John McManus, Aldo Amarino, Salvatore Puglisi, William & Dorothy Starr, Bruce & Estelle Thurn, Anne Cecilia Glass, Reginald & Agnes Glass, Gerald & Frances Gleeson, Faado & Alice Herro, Patrick & Janet Reynolds, Jim Reynolds, Ken Rich, Monica & Patrick Ryan, Francesco & Mary Sorbello, Betty Warbrick, Gerald Wilson, Dr Stephanie Winfield, Philip Winfield, Mary Trefle', Anne Trefle', Elie Sahyoun, Alan & Peg Bailey, Matteo & Caterina Genova, Francesco & Maria Colagiuri, Lisa Cooke, Michael & Mary Cassar, Giuseppe & Romilda Reginato.

Anniversaries:

Ethan Yan, John St George, Dorothea (Dorothy) Starr, Ilham (Helen) Matta, Jack Dawson, James Brady, Noel Jebanasam, Giuseppina Iannella, Marie Verschuer, Dominic Van So Duong, Francis Ta, Michael & Noliag Donegan, Thomas Kenny, John Harrington, Mary Dinhvu & John Hao Vu.

Sick Intentions:

Theo McLean, Joseph Akkary, Baby Oscar McNamara, Tor King Yuen, Sylvia Watson, Sheree Mouawad, Virgilio Lim, George Jabbour, Dr Maher Ishak Morian, Graham Byrnes, Stephanie Harrington, Phil Harriss, Sophie O'Donnell, Ken South, Ajith Antony, Pat Fraser, Siena Fabrie, Giuseppe Faraone, Joanna Jo, Simon Alam, Rosanne Sukkar, Henry D'Souza, Kevin O'Connor.

Special Intentions:

Deceased friends, relatives & Benefactors of the Dominican Order. The Bowden Family, Antonia, Giuseppe, Raffaele, Teresa, Matteo, Filomena & Maria Pagano, Caterina & Francesco Agostino, Sofie & Jerome Druart.



"When the power of love overcomes the love of power the world will know peace." ~ Jimi Hendrix



GAZA CRISIS APPEAL

Help provide urgent humanitarian assistance to the people affected by the conflict.



DONATE NOW
www.caritas.org.au/gaza
1800 024 413



You can donate by scanning this QR code or via the Cash Donation box in the Church foyer

Join the call for a CEASEFIRE

Join the call to Foreign Minister Penny Wong for an enduring ceasefire and increase humanitarian assistance in Gaza.

<https://www.caritas.org.au/act/ceasefire-now/#form>

SIGN THE PETITION

Our message to Minister Wong:

We refuse to stand by and watch Palestinian and Israeli civilians pay the price for political failure. Humanity must be shown to those caught up in this violence and humanitarian catastrophe. Every life matters equally, and we will not be divided on this. You must do everything in your power to push for an immediate ceasefire and an end to the siege of Gaza. The conditions are dreadful and rapidly deteriorating yet humanitarian operations are now effectively frozen because it is impossible for agencies to restart them in the face of bombs, shells, rockets and bullets. The siege of Gaza must be stopped, and water, food and fuel allowed in. We ask you to work to secure the release of hostages held in Gaza. We also ask that the Australian Government offers increased humanitarian assistance to Gaza. We welcome the funds already pledged and call for an immediate increase. A path to peace and justice for all, that includes a fair future for both Palestinian and Israeli people, is the only way forward. Our government and other world leaders must work towards a de-escalation of violence now. This petition to Minister Wong was originally developed by Oxfam Australia.

CHRISTMAS at the Cathedral

a festival evening at St Mary's

14-25 DECEMBER

We invite the community of Sydney to come together at St Mary's Cathedral during Advent to prepare for the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Festivities begin at 5.30pm with:
Christmas market stalls, food, fun activities for the kids and live entertainment

Use the hashtag
#ChristmasAtTheCathedral
on your social posts.

For more information, visit our website:
christmasatthecathedral.org.au



CAROLS ON THE LAWN

Sunday 10th December, 5:30pm - 7:30pm

Community Christmas Carols
Includes free BBQ and children's activities

CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE

Monday 25th December, 9:00am



Beyond Blue
P: 1300 22 4636
W: www.beyondblue.org.au



CatholicCare - Archdiocese of Sydney
P: 13 18 19
W: www.catholiccare.org



Call 1800 55 1800



Lifeline
Crisis Support, Suicide Prevention.
P: 13 11 14
W: www.lifeline.org.au



1800RESPECT
NATIONAL DOMESTIC FAMILY AND
SEXUAL VIOLENCE COUNSELLING SERVICE
P: 1800 737 732
W: www.1800respect.org.au

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.

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

WATCHING AND WAITING

The liturgical year begins, Advent dawns, and the readings call us into reflection and renewal of our relationship with God. The prophet Isaiah's plea resounds across the ages, lamenting the current state of affairs. Having already asked God to see how bad things are, he beseeches God "Oh that you would tear the heavens open and come down." Then and now, God's help is needed to turn our lives around.

The psalm invites us to raise our voices in response "Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved." Paul writing to the Corinthians offers a thanksgiving to God for the revelation of Jesus Christ and prays with all gratefulness so that they, and we, "will not be without any of the gifts of the Holy Spirit while waiting for our Lord Jesus Christ."

In today's Gospel four imperatives emphatically call upon our hearts: "see" and "be alert" come in rapid succession, then "stay awake" is repeated. This warning to stay awake is echoed twice to the disciples in Gethsemane. The beginning of Mark's Gospel announces, "The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ" (v1) and "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent and believe in the good news" (v15). The ultimate moment of revelation of Jesus comes with the resurrection and the empty tomb. This is our time to turn our hearts to God, to hear the good news, to wait with gratitude and renew our souls before celebrating anew the birth of Jesus, God among us.

DR ROSEMARY CANAVAN

WELCOME AND THANK YOU

Today we welcome Dr Rosemary Canavan as our reflection writer. Rosemary is Senior Lecturer in New Testament at Catholic Theological College, Melbourne. In her reflection, she will briefly consider each of the Scripture readings set down for the Sunday.

We are very grateful and thank Fr Christopher Monaghan CM, for his insightful reflections on the readings over the past three years.

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

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