

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

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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.

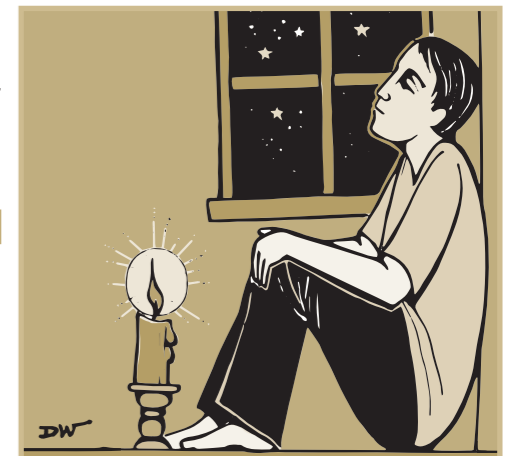
RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 79:2-3, 15-19

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;

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.