



# A NEW CHURCH YEAR!

(MARK 13:33-37)

The imminent coming of the kingdom of God forms the basis of the preaching of John the Baptist and of Jesus. Our new cycle of Sunday readings opens with a similar message, delivered to the disciples at the end of Jesus' public ministry.

The extract for today comprises the concluding verses of Jesus' long discourse to his disciples concerning the second coming and the events which will accompany it, beginning with the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem. The final words are a warning: "Stay awake!" ■

## REFLECT

No one likes the sensation of being watched. We usually feel uncomfortable or uneasy if someone is looking over our shoulder and keeping an eye on us. Some people feel this way about God: the Lord is observing us, noting what we do right, or, more often, what we do wrong, and such individuals live with a guilt complex, that they are never in God's good books. Our Gospel reading today sets out a summary of the Christian ethical life: the master has left his servants with their different tasks, assigned according to their ability; the doorkeeper has been instructed to "stay awake", as the time for the master's return has not been announced, and so could happen at any time; if the servants are going about their duties, they have nothing to worry about, so the master's arrival is not something to fear.

We are beginning the season of Advent, when we think about the coming of Jesus in our human flesh and nature. It can be difficult to preserve this attitude of looking forward to Christmas when for so many people the feast has, to all intents and purposes, already arrived. Christmas carols and songs are to be heard everywhere, and carol services sometimes anticipate the day itself. But, as Christians, we are invited to prepare to celebrate this festival with prayer and penance: this means living these four weeks in the spirit of faith, and examining our lives in this light. We are being asked to think about how we would feel if the Master did arrive, how we are living up to our calling as disciples of Jesus. Are we awake and fulfilling our daily responsibilities calmly and thoroughly, or are we like the disciples in Gethsemane who fall asleep,

## SAY

**Awake from your slumber!  
Arise from your sleep!  
(Daniel L. Schutte)**

## LEARN

The Roman night was divided into four watches: evening, midnight, cockcrow and dawn.

"Advent" means approach, arrival, coming.

The Gospel according to Mark begins with Jesus as an adult: there is no "infancy narrative" telling of events such as the annunciation to Mary or Joseph, or of the circumstances surrounding his birth.

## DO

Set your alarm a little earlier than usual for the season of Advent: when it rings, think of Jesus' words "Stay awake!" and thank the Lord for a new day.



just when Jesus needs their support and presence? We are not being asked to work ourselves up into a frenzy of panic and guilt, but to look at ourselves honestly and remedy those compromises we may have fallen into, not out of ill will, but simply because of forgetfulness or tiredness or the like.

When we are expecting a guest, we see that everything is ready, not just out of courtesy for our guest, but also out of a sense of respect for ourselves. Advent is that time to prepare to celebrate the first coming of Jesus, but also a reminder that we should keep in mind that he will come again, and we do not know the day or the hour. ■

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON**

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.

**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.  
Amen.

**FIRST READING** Isaiah 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 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.  
Thanks be to God.

**PSALM**

Psalm 79

Response:

God of hosts, bring us back;  
let your face shine on us 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 Corinthians 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.

Thanks be to God.

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Alleluia, alleluia!  
Let us see, O Lord, your mercy  
and give us your saving help.  
Alleluia!

**GOSPEL**

Mark 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.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

**PROFESSION OF FAITH**

I believe in one God,  
the Father almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the Only Begotten Son of God,  
born of the Father before all ages.  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made, consubstantial with  
the Father;  
through him all things were made.

For us men and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,  
*(all bow during the next three lines)*

and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the  
Virgin Mary,  
and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under  
Pontius Pilate,  
he suffered death and was buried,  
and rose again on the third day  
in accordance with the Scriptures.  
He ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory  
to judge the living and the dead  
and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord,  
the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is adored  
and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and  
apostolic Church.

I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness  
of sins  
and I look forward to the resurrection of the  
dead  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

**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.  
Amen.

**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.  
Amen.

.....  
If the Word truly became flesh, then God had not only a mother, but also a grandmother, cousins, great-aunts, and weird uncles. If the Word truly dwelt among us, then he was part of a family that, like most, was fairly dysfunctional, a mix of the good and bad, the saintly and the sinful, the glorious and the not so glorious. And this is such good news for us.

*Bishop Robert Barron*

**Our Lady & St Edmund of Abingdon**  
**1 Radley Rd, Abingdon on Thames, Oxon, OX14 3PL**

We are a **LiveSimply** parish aiming to live Simply, Sustainably and in Solidarity with the Poor

Parish Priest: Fr. Jamie McGrath Tel: 01235 520375  
Parish Secretary: Lisa Paterson Tel: 01235 520375  
Office Hours: 10.30am-12.30pm Tuesday to Friday  
Office Email: abingdon@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

*We live stream all services*

Safeguarding Team: Tel. 07572 935 230  
Visits at JR Hospital: Fr Pius 01865 221732  
Visits and Help: Society of Vincent de Paul Group, contact via Parish Office  
Parish Website: [www.ourladyandstedmund.org.uk](http://www.ourladyandstedmund.org.uk)  
Primary School: St. Edmund's School, Radley Road, Abingdon, OX14 3PP Tel 521558



Roman Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth Reg. Charity No 246871

[www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](http://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

**PARISH OFFICE OPENING HOURS:**

Please note that during this second period of lockdown, and until further notice, the Parish Office opening hours will be from **Tuesdays to Fridays from 10.30am to 12.30pm**. Outside of these times, Fr Jamie will respond to urgent phone messages as soon as he can.

**PRIVATE PRAYER**

We are blessed that the church can be open, but for **private prayer only**, on the following days and times:

- ✠ **Tuesdays: 12pm to 1pm**
- ✠ **Thursdays: 7.30am to 8.30am**
- ✠ **Fridays: 12pm to 1pm**

**MASS BOOKINGS:**

Mass bookings can once again be made as follows:

- **On Monday 30<sup>th</sup> November you can book for Masses from Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> to Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> December.**

**HOW TO BOOK FOR MASS**

**No Internet Access?**

Phone **07395 946827** EACH MONDAY between 10am and 11am ONLY to book a place for the FOLLOWING week

**Have Internet Access?**

**DON'T** phone. Instead, email: [contact@ourladyandstedmund.org.uk](mailto:contact@ourladyandstedmund.org.uk) EACH MONDAY, to book a place for the FOLLOWING week

**CONFESSIONS**

By appointment only for now. Please contact the parish office to book an appointment.

**CHRISTMAS POST**

Due to the pandemic situation, this year's operation of the Abingdon Scouts and Guides Christmas Post has been cancelled.

**Week 1 of Advent (Year B)**

**Live streamed ONLY until 3<sup>rd</sup> December**

**Sunday 29 November FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

10.15am Mass (Laurence Turner, RIP)  
2.00pm Polish Mass

**Monday 30 November St Andrew, Apostle**

9am Mass (Martin Wedlock, RIP)

**Tuesday 1 December**

NO Mass See: [www.ourladyandstedmund.org.uk/english-martyrs-vale-of-white-horse](http://www.ourladyandstedmund.org.uk/english-martyrs-vale-of-white-horse) for other masses

**Wednesday 2 December**

7pm Mass (Patrick Mulligan, RIP)

**Thursday 3 December St Francis Xavier**

9.30am Mass (Aileen Thornton, intentions)

**Friday 4 December**

7pm Mass (Gerry Landers, intentions)

**Saturday 5 December St Birinus**

12pm Mass (Marguerite Innes & Mary Glynn, RIP)



**SPIRITUAL COMMUNION PRAYER:**

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Blessed Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot today receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there, and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You.

## CHURCH DONATIONS

You can make these on our website. You can also place donations in the basket as you leave church. **Your continued support is greatly appreciated.**

*Please do not use the online 'Donate' button for clergy stipends (Mass intentions, weddings, Baptisms). These can be put in an envelope marked FAO the parish priest and indicating what the offering is for and who is giving it. The envelope can then be left at the parish office or in the donations basket in the Church.*

## THE SVP THANKS YOU

The St Vincent de Paul Society in Abingdon (SVP) thanks all parishioners who have helped us in any way this year to provide support and help for the work which we do to help those in need.



## ADVENT

This Sunday, 29th November, is the First Sunday of Advent, a short season of four Sundays leading up to Christmas. Advent is a time when we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus at Christmas and when we renew our desire for His second coming at the end of time. We should be praying to God for the theological gift of hope that comes from the indwelling of the Holy Spirit in our hearts, and the renewal of that gift in our lives. Hope is essential to the Christian life – it gives us joy, energy, enthusiasm; it makes us smile; it puts a spring in our step; it assures us that with God the impossible can be possible, that obstacles can be overcome, that the gloom can be transformed into light. More, it is hope that enables us to glimpse the joy of our true home in heaven.

**On our parish website, you can follow Advent reflections on the Advent calendar on our Home page and the videos on the Advent page of the What's On section. There are also activities for children in the Youth section.**



## CAFOD WORLD GIFTS

This Christmas why not buy gifts that will change lives and bring happiness! CAFOD's World Gifts are a range of virtual gifts that transform the lives of those living in poverty overseas. New gifts this year included Keep Clean £6 (soap and washing powder for family) and Emergency Food £50 so please look online at:

<https://worldgifts.cafod.org.uk>

Many thanks for your support.

## FRIENDS OF THE HOLY LAND

Friends of the Holy Land invite you to join them via Zoom on two occasions: 7.00pm on **Wednesday 9 December** when Peter Rand, FHL's Vice Chairman would like to share with you and take questions on the reality of life with COVID for our Christian brothers and sisters in the West Bank, Gaza, Israel and Jordan, as we approach Christmas – a very different experience to ours in the UK. Peter has visited the Holy Land frequently in the last 10 years and is in regular contact with the FHL Bethlehem office and other partners. Please email Peter at [peter.rand@friendsoftheholylan.org.uk](mailto:peter.rand@friendsoftheholylan.org.uk) and he will send you the link to access the meeting.

Also, at 10am on **Saturday 5 December**, FHL are organizing a live cookery demonstration of a traditional Palestinian Christmas meal, prepared by the ladies at St. Martha's House, a Day Care Centre in Bethlehem. Again, please email Peter who will send you the link.

## CHRISTMAS LUNCH

We cannot host a lunch this year, but Peachcroft Christian Centre are offering to deliver festive hampers on Christmas day to those who would otherwise be alone or are in need of help. If you would like this help – or know anyone that would – please can you let them know **as soon as possible** by either emailing: [events@peachcroftcc.org](mailto:events@peachcroftcc.org) or phoning 07379 469311.

## ABINGDON FOOD BANK

**Urgently needed are:**

- Tinned meat (ham, corned beef, meatballs, stew, curry)
- Tinned vegetables (carrots, potatoes) or Instant potatoes
- Tinned fish (tuna, salmon, mackerel, sardines, pilchards)
- Jam, marmalade and honey
- Tins or long life cartons of custard Small (500g) bags of sugar

Last Christmas the foodbank gave out hampers to over 200 households. This year it is more important than ever to help. They are asking for donations of the items below **by 11<sup>th</sup> December, and making sure that the 'best before dates' on all items are 26<sup>th</sup> December or later.** If you cannot deliver yourself, phone 07960 718632 and we will pick up from you.



## IN NOVEMBER WE PRAY FOR

Deceased members of our parish, family and friends.