



St. David's Parish  
Monastery Road, Pantasaph,  
Holywell. CH8 8PE  
**PARISH NEWSLETTER**  
**FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT**



November 27, 2022

“The kingdom of God is peace in the Holy Spirit; He will reign in you if your heart is at peace. So, be at peace, Mademoiselle, and you will honour in a sovereign way the God of peace and love”.

Vincent de Paul

## **READINGS**

1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Isaiah 2:1-5

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Romans 13:11-14

Gospel: Mathew 24:37-44

## **Scripture Reflection**

In chapter 1 Prophet Isaiah chastises the chosen people for the injustice practiced by them and warns them of the destruction of the city of Zion, on which Jerusalem is built, and Judah, the land of the chosen people (Isaiah 1:7-9). In 2:1-5 the Prophet predicts that during the Messianic era the glory of the city will be re-established and Zion will be lifted up; and people of all nations- Jews and Gentiles alike- will come to the mountain of the Lord to hear the messianic instructions. Through the instructions the nations will stop waging war, warriors will become farmers, and their weapons of destruction and death will be transformed to instruments for cultivation which gives life. Chosen people will walk in the light of the Lord and they will become beacons of light which will lead others to light.

Today's 2<sup>nd</sup> reading Romans 13:11-14 converted St. Augustine. The day of salvation has already come and so the believers are advised to leave aside the life of sin and darkness, and lead a life becoming to the children of light.

Advent is a time not only to prepare for the celebration of Christmas, but also a time to reflect on, and prepare for the second coming of Jesus. In today's Gospel Jesus warns us of the urgency of vigilant preparation on our part that we may meet him as the judge both at the end of our lives on earth and on the day of the Last Judgment when he comes in his glory. Jesus reminds us of how the unrepentant and ill-prepared evil people were destroyed by the flood in the time of Noah and how a thief would break in and plunder the precious belongings of an ill-prepared house owner. Using the additional examples of ancient way of arrest and punishment of a culprit without notice by a king and of forceful recruitment to military service by ancient rulers, Jesus repeats his warning for us to be vigilant and well-prepared all the time, doing the will of God by loving others.

During this advent season let us repent of our sins and be attentive to the divine instructions in Bible. This will help us to shed of our enmity and work for peace and reconciliation. Let us also be vigilant lest we may be condemned to damnation.

## **ADVENT**

The word *advent* comes from the Latin prefix '*ad*'-meaning 'to' and the root '*venire*' meaning 'come'. The English word is derived from the Latin '*adventus*' meaning 'arrival'. So advent season is a time to prepare for the arrival of Jesus, both as the Incarnate Word, and as the Eschatological judge. Pope Francis advises that we should practice vigilance during this season. Vigilance is an important aspect of Christian life because it prevents one's spirituality from becoming mediocre and lazy. The pope said Jesus' call to his disciples to "be vigilant at all times" is a warning for all men and women in the church not to become "sleepy Christians" who are "anesthetized by spiritual worldliness."

"This leads to 'dozing off,' to moving things along by inertia, to falling into apathy, indifferent to everything except what is

comfortable for us,” he said. “This is a sad life going forward this way, since there is no happiness.”

“We need to be vigilant so that our daily life does not become routine, and, as Jesus says, so we are not burdened by life’s anxieties”. “So today is a good moment to ask ourselves: What weighs on my heart? What weighs on my spirit? What makes me go to sit in the lazy chair?”

Christians who ask those questions can guard themselves against apathy, which “makes us slide into sadness; it takes away zest for life and the will to do things, the pope said.

Pope Francis said the “secret to being vigilant is prayer,” which “keeps the lamp of the heart lit.” "Prayer reawakens the soul from slumber and focuses it on what matters, on the purpose of existence". "Even during our busiest days, we must not neglect prayer."

## **SUNDAY COLLECTIONS-**

**November 13, 2022**

Gift Aid collection	151.00
Loose cash	45.52
<b>Total</b>	<b>196.52</b>

## **NSPCC CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION- PAANTASAPH**

NSPCC, the UK leading charity organization specializing in the prevention of cruelty to children and the only charity with statutory powers to intervene, on behalf of children in the same way as police or local authorities has organized a Christmas celebration in St. David’s Church, Pantasaph on December 4, 2022 starting at 6.00 pm. All are welcome for the programme and enjoy a blessed evening. Carol songs will be sung by famous band team. Complementary

refreshments will be served in the Dining Hall of the Vincentian Divine Retreat Centre.

## MASS INTENTIONS

Date	By	Intentions
November 26		For the Parishioners
November 27	Gerard & Angela Rhodes	Bradley Family, Eric+Kathleen Rhodes, Frank+ Doris Rhodes, and other Relatives
November 28	Lawrie Wade	David Gasper
November 29	„	Rachel Gasper
November 30	„	Christopher Lane
December 1	„	Billy Lane
December 2	„	Earnest Wade

## SACRAMENT OF CONFESSION

**Sacrament of Confession at 11.30 am on Saturday**

## Please Pray for our Sick

Eliza Brizzi, Mary Toumaine, Patrick Nagle,  
Phillip Mc Greavy, Toni Whalley,

## ANNIVERSARIES

Gertrude Hill, Ethel Field, Fr. Harold Naylor,  
Amilia Heron, John Parry, Lydia De Haan

*“Let His face shine up on them and may they rest in Peace”*

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