



St. David's Parish  
Monastery Road, Pantasaph,  
Holywell. CH8 8PE



DECEMBER 3, 2023,

## **FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

“With all prayer and supplication, pray at every opportunity in the Spirit. To that end, be watchful with all perseverance and supplication for all the holy ones”. *Eph 6:18*

### **Mass Timings**

Saturday Vigil Mass      4.00 Pm  
Sunday Mass                10.00am  
Weekdays      9.00 am In Denbigh House

### **READINGS**

1<sup>st</sup> Reading                      IS 63:16B-17, 19B; 64:2-7

Reading 2                      1 COR 1:3-9

GOSPEL                      MK 13:33-37

**INTRODUCTION:** The common theme of today's readings is that vigilant service prepares us for the coming of Christ as our Savior at Christmas and as our Judge and Lord at the end of the world. The reason the liturgical year ends and begins with the same theme is clear: if we have already embraced Jesus in his first coming, we will have no fear of his second coming. Advent is the season of special preparation for, and expectation of, the coming of Christ. It encourages us to examine our lives, to reflect on our need for God to enter our lives, and to prepare earnestly for, and eagerly await, the coming of Christ. He will come to us in the celebration of the Incarnation, in His continual coming in our daily living, and in His final coming as our Lord to judge us all and to renew the Father's creation. First reading( Isaiah 63:16-17, 19; 64:2-7)

**explained:** Around 600 BC, the Babylonians took the Jews out of the Promised Land and kept them in exile (the Babylonian Captivity) for about 60 years. When Cyrus, the Persian emperor, took over Babylon, he sent the Jews home. This reading is set in that troubled period when Judah was trying to put itself back together after returning from Exile. To get the flavor of it, imagine how a contemporary family might feel when they return to a fire-damaged, or hurricane-destroyed, or flood-damaged home. The reading contains a mix of feelings: guilt, and outrage at God, alternating with praise of God, humility, anguish, and hope. Isaiah expressed the hope of Israel for a powerful manifestation of God in their midst.

*"Oh, that You would rend the heavens and come down, with the mountains quaking before You."* The prophet hoped that if God would come into their midst, the people could be faithful to Him. Acknowledging the fact that the people were unfaithful, Isaiah asked for God's forgiveness and acceptance: *"You, O Lord, are our Father; we are the clay and You are the potter: we are all the work of Your hands."* In other words, we're not perfect, but we are totally God's to shape. Here Isaiah was not anticipating Jesus' arrival when he asked God *"... to rend the heavens and come down ..."*! He was simply pleading with Yahweh to force those Israelites who had recently returned from the Babylonian Exile to do what was necessary to allow God to be present and active in their lives. Isaiah was praying to Yahweh on behalf of the Israelites, *"Would that You might meet us doing right, that we were mindful of You in our ways!"* He begged Yahweh, the Father of the Chosen People, for mercy.

This prayer was answered when the Son of God became man in the Incarnation. **Second Reading (1 Corinthians 1:3-9) explained:** We wait for Christ in two ways. The early Sundays of Advent teach the end-of-the-world theme. In this context, we wait for Christ to *"come again in glory, to judge the living and the dead."* The later Sundays of Advent celebrate a different theme: the coming of the Messiah in the flesh. Today's second reading, taken from the first letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians and written from Ephesus in 57 A.D., begins with a greeting

and a thanksgiving prayer. The letter is Paul's answer to reports which had reached him concerning disputes and difficulties in Corinth. It was written while he and his audience were still sure that Christ's second coming was just around the corner. Like all early Christians, the Apostle used the phrase "*the Day of our Lord Jesus Christ*" as another way to speak about Jesus' Parousia — his Second Coming at the end of the world. Paul reminded the Corinthians that they were not ready to face the *Day of the Lord* because they were misusing the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

**Today's Gospel** is the conclusion of a speech found in Mark 13, in which Jesus foretells his Second Coming (Parousia), at the end of time or at the end of the world. Ten years after Paul's death, Mark reminded his community in Rome of Jesus' words, "*Be constantly on the watch! Stay awake! You do not know when the appointed time will come.*" The evangelist knew that if an expected event didn't happen as quickly as expected, people would stop doing the things they ought to do. Hence, Mark reminded them of Jesus' parable about the gate-keeper in the house of a traveling master. Since the master was traveling, his servant must be constantly alert, "*at dusk, at midnight, when the cock crows, or at early dawn.*" There was always a fear that the master would come home "*suddenly and catch you asleep.*" In such situations, one must constantly, "be on guard!" When Paul and Mark spoke about the things to come, it was only to remind their readers that their present behavior wasn't measuring up to what Christ's second coming demanded.

### **SUNDAY COLLECTIONS- November 25-26**

<b>Loose cash</b>	<b>107.70</b>
<b>Gift Aid</b>	<b>110.00</b>
<b><u>Total</u></b>	<b><u>217.70</u></b>

### **ANNIVERSARIES ( Dec 2- 8)**

Thomas Durkin '73: Joseph Hourinhane, Anne Brown, '04, Winefride Mary Pickup '01: Sr. Florenec Edgar '93, Vince Walsh '11, Catherine Cahill: Arthur Sullivan '03, Jim Taylor '95: Peter Burton '09, Alice Neal: Lucia Davies '88: Ellen Griffiths '97, Sr Eileen Glynn, '09. Oonagh Therese Foster, 2021

## **MASS INTENTIONS December Dec 2- 8**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Offered by</b>	<b>Intention</b>
Dec 2, Saturday		For the Parisioners
Dec 3, Sunday	Carmel Jones	Ann Parry RIP
Dec 4, Monday	Carmel Jones	Ann Parry RIP
Dec 5, Tuesday	Vivan Nwakor	Godwin Carolin Nwakor
Dec 6, Wednesday	Billy, Liz and Jones Family	Sr. Marie Therese
Dec 7, Thursday	Mathew Rodrigues	Marciu& Edit's intentions
Dec 8, Friday	Marie	Antony Parry

### **Let us Remember the Sick in Prayer**

Patrick Ngale, Philip McGreavy, Antony Parry

### **SACRAMENT OF CONFESSION**

**Sacrament of Confession at 11.30 am on Saturday  
ON EMERGENCY ANY TIME 0741-749-4277**

**December 8, Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Mass at 9.00 am in the Denbigh House Chapel**

**Stewards meeting: December 3, Sunday at 4.00 pm in the Retreat Hall, Laverna Ground floor.**

**Christmas Meal in St. Pio's Café: We will be holding a Christmas Meal on 19<sup>th</sup> December, Tuesday at 6.30 pm in St. Pio Café, Pantasaph. It will a 4-course traditional Christmas dinner with all the trimmings. The cost is £30.00 per person. For booking, please contact the Café Staff. Only limited seats are available.**

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