



CORPUS CHRISTI PARISH BOSCOMBE
OUTREACH 37 NOVEMBER 29th, 2020



**During Advent the Church will be open for
Adoration Monday-Friday: 10:00- 11:00m. From Dec, 3rd Mass
10:00am followed by Adoration till 11am**

Fr Adrian writes: Today is the First Sunday of Advent. The readings this year are taken from Year B. We start a New Year in the church. A New Year which has more hopeful news about the pandemic. Advent is a time of watchfulness. We are waiting for the coming of Christ at the end of time. We are also waiting for his coming to us at the end of our lives. We who are reminding ourselves that Christ always wishes to be part of our lives and we prepare ourselves for the great Feast of Christmas.

In the First Reading (Is. 63:16-17, 64:1, 3-8), the prophet recalls God's past goodness to his people, and pleads with God to save them from their sinfulness.

The Second Reading (1.Cor.1:3-9) tells us that as we await Christ's coming in glory, the Holy Spirit keeps us steadfast in bearing witness.

While the Gospel (Mtt. 13:33-37) urges us to stay alert and ready to welcome the Lord into our lives.

As we start our Advent together let us pray for each other; let us pray for the sick and the housebound; let us pray that all of us will be welcoming of the Lord into our lives as we start a New Year and, hopefully an easier New Year.

Thank you for all your patience, your support and your prayers. Thank you to all the volunteers who have helped in the maintaining if an open church. Prayers and blessings. Keep safe. Adrian Howell, SJ.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK OF THE PARISH: Luisa Coulthard, Anne Conway, Rose Smith, David Froud, Barry Henwood, Lourdes Saunders, Sally Lees, Carmel Rippington, Joyce Smith, Angela Hagley, Pat Hayden, Barbara Atkin-Spivey, Mary Atfield, Margaret McNeil and Simon Hamerton

FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED RECENTLY: Tony Inscoe . RIP

FOR THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR AT THIS TIME: Anthony Butchard and Szczepan Gczepan. RIP

ADVENT: WAITING WITH MARY: We move into Advent with Mary, Mother to be, who is very pregnant. Just one month to go. She feels her baby's heart beating as he moves and kicks inside her. And she waits for him to be born, filled with awe and expectation. In Advent we too, wait for Mary's child to come. We too, count the days as we prepare to celebrate Jesus' Nativity. Mary is a model for our own life and prayer during this time of waiting: "the young girl of Nazareth wrapped in silence, in dialogue with God, whom God used to prepare for the coming of His Son." Pope Francis describes how



Mary waited for God to take the reins of her path and guide her, and how she prepared, with great docility, the grand events in which God takes part in the world. Mary was praying, Pope Francis recalls, when the Archangel Gabriel brought his message to her in Nazareth: "Her small yet immense 'Here I am,' made all of creation jump for joy at that moment". Surely she continued to pray all the time, as she went about her daily life and the child grew inside her. The Pope says that there is no better way to pray than to place oneself in an attitude of openness. Prayer, the Pope said, "knows how to calm restlessness and worry, knows how to transform it into availability. "If in prayer we understand that each day given by God is a call, our hearts will then widen and we will accept everything. We will learn how to say: 'What You want, Lord. Promise me only that You will be present every step of my way.' So as we journey through Advent at this difficult and challenging time, waiting with Mary, let us pray with her and like her: "Come Lord Jesus, Come quickly".

THE FIRST WEEK OF ADVENT

Sunday: NEWNESS IS ON ITS WAY

Advent getting ready has never been a preparation that involves shopping, parties and cards – and definitely not this year. It is about thinking, pondering and re-setting. Advent is preparation for the newness that will break into our lives. How do we get ready? Jesus says "Stay wake". So we ask for the grace and the impatience to wait for Christ's coming from the bottom of our toes to the edges of our fingertips.

Monday: OUR IRRESISTIBLE GOD.

Today St Andrew pushes into our liturgy as a perfect example of how to begin our Advent preparation. Jesus, our irresistible God, walked into Andrew's life and said "Follow me"! Advent is a time when Jesus, our irresistible God, walks into our lives and calls us also. It can be a new beginning for us. As Advent begins, we might hear Jesus call to us, "Come, follow me!" If we hear him, our response, must be the same as St. Andrew's. It means that we must let go of anything and everything that keeps us from following Christ. Let's reflect, today, that Advent is a time to start again. Let's listen to Him and respond to Him with our whole heart.

Tuesday: BREAKING THE VICIOUS CYCLE

"The calf and the lion will shall browse together with a little child to guide them". (Is 11:6) The prophet knows for sure that things will change; that suffering and hostility are not forever. Things will be reshaped. Hate will collapse; anxiety will lessen. The vicious cycle will end and life will become possible; peace will be assured. This new possibility is rooted in God's love for us and in his suffering power. Jesus breaks the cycle: death becomes life. God's promise is that life can be different.

Wednesday: CELEBRATING NEW ABUNDANCE.

"On this mountain, the Lord of hosts will provide for all people a feast". God is the gift that keeps on giving, and his followers are empowered to receive abundance and, like the disciples, to share it with the 5000; to act generously. Every day, all day: it's still happening. He takes, he blesses, he breaks, he gives. And we are astonished about the surplus. We are the recipients of enough and more than enough; enough and more than enough to share. And to rejoice and be glad.

Thursday: SEASON OF DECREASE.

The dynamic figure of St . Francis Xavier bursts into Thursday. A brash, ambitious and stubborn Basque aristocrat, who wanted to do great things, he met St. Ignatius at University in Paris. For three years Ignatius patiently encouraged Francis to look at his life differently, to let Christ increase in his life and he himself decrease. Francis became a Jesuit. Some years later he embarked on a journey that would take the Gospel of Jesus Christ to many lands in Asia. For us too Advent is about a conversion that requires time and intentionality. Advent is not a time of casual waiting. It requires the daily work of decreasing so that Jesus and God's vision may increase.

Friday: DREAMS AND NEW SIGHT.

Advent is a time of struggle between our now and the dream that opens the future that God will bring about; of relinquishing control in order to receive the impossible from God. All will be well and all manner of things will be well. God will bring about healing, forgiveness, joy and sight to the blind. All we have to do is to let go and believe as the blind men did in the Gospel, that God "can do this". Then he will touch our eyes and they will be opened.

Saturday: SUMMONS AND MISSION.

Jesus commissioned his disciples to carry on the works that he did: to speak God's Word, and to bring his healing power to the weary and oppressed." Freely you have received, freely give'. We might wonder how the disciples coped: they were preaching a gospel not yet written down, proclaiming a story that had not yet reached its

Pentecost Spirit. But, they were willing to walk with uncertainty, with not knowing how the story would end, because they trusted in a *person*, their friend, Jesus Christ. Jesus sends us too. But at least we know the whole story.

MORE CANINE AND FELINE FIBS



REPOSTIORY Next Thursday & Friday I hope to be at the church entrance, between 10am & 11am. I will be selling Christmas cards, Card gift wallets, Calendars, Candles, Diaries, etc. Please come and support your church. Thank you.

PLEASE HELP! SVP: Thank you to all who have managed to keep bringing donations for the Food Bank during Lockdown. We will continue to collect from next Friday, 4th. December and subsequent

Fridays, until further notice, from 10.30 till 11.30 at the side entrance to the Parish Hall in St. James Square. Thank you so much for your continuing kindness!

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