



CORPUS CHRISTI PARISH BOSCOMBE
OUTREACH 37 DECEMBER 6th, 2020

The readings for the Second Sunday of Advent highlight prophets as people who can guide us on our journey closer to God. The biblical prophets reveal that God speaks through the words and actions of people. During Advent, we are called to listen to the prophets of our day and be inspired to live prophetic lives, always mindful of pressing issues and working tirelessly to understand and improve the world.



Fr Adrian writes: On the Second Sunday of Advent we hear the lonely voice of John the Baptist calling us to prepare a way for the Lord. The Advent season reminds us that we are always asked in our lives to find time for the Lord to enter our lives. This Advent is very challenging for many of us: we feel restricted, lonely and isolated; we are missing "normal" contact with people. However, in our frustration we must not turn in on ourselves. We need to look outwards to the world around us; to thank God for the blessings that we have received and to thank God for each other. We must find God in all things.

Today's Readings: In Is. 40: 1-5, 9-11 the people are asked to prepare a way for the Lord who wants to be part of their lives. In the Second Reading (2 Peter: 3, 8-14) we hear that if the Lord appears to be slow in coming, it give people the opportunity to get ready to meet him. In the Gospel (Mk. 1:1-8) John the Baptist urges the people to prepare for the coming of the Lord.

As we progress through Advent, let us be open. Let us be sure that Christ wants to be part of our lives. We are not an isolated, abandoned and locked out people. Christ wants to be a sharer in our lives. Keep safe. Pray for me, pray for each other and thank you for all the encouragement you give me. 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, Joyce Smith, Carmel Rippington, Angela Hagley, Pat Hayden, Barbara Atkin-Spivey, Mary Atfield, and Simon Hamerton 🙏

THOSE WHO HAVE DIED RECENTLY: Margaret McNeil, Annette Wilson and Gordon Cameron. RIP 🙏

THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR AT THIS TIME: Pauline Browning. RIP 🙏

The highlight of the Second Week of Advent, as we journey towards Christmas with Mary, is the FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION.

This feast makes us think of St. Bernadette Soubirous. The Virgin Mary appeared to her in one of the apparitions at Lourdes, and said, "I am the Immaculate Conception." And when she heard Mary say this, Bernadette ran to the local priest, to tell him. The priest had asked for the vision to give a name, and this was the answer. But Bernadette had no idea what it meant and so had to repeat it over and over, on her way, lest she forget. What does that name mean? It means that God chose a mother for his Son, a unique woman, whom he wanted to be perfect. So God filled her with grace and holiness from the moment of her

conception in her mother's womb. As in our own lives, the first step is God taking the initiative. In any spiritual experience, it is God who makes the first step, with his grace. God also gave Mary a listening heart as we see in today's Gospel and, with it, the ability to hear the word of God. She had to be attentive, aware, and patient. She had to have the stance that characterizes the contemplative: to hear God's voice in the midst of daily life. God also filled Mary with openness, total trust and the perfect freedom to say yes to God, even when wondering "how can this be?". And so God brings something new to life within her, for our good and the good of the world.



This Advent is the time for faith. So like the Blessed Mother, and like St. Bernadette, we're called to be attentive, to listen and to act, even if we may not entirely understand where things will lead or how we might accomplish them, trusting that God will lead us and God will bring every *yes* to fulfillment

A PRAYER DURING COVID

God Almighty, this has been a terrible year. So much death. So much illness. So much misery, all around the world, for every human being. We can hardly believe it and we certainly don't understand it. It breaks our hearts to think of how many people have lost family members, spent hours worried about sick friends in the hospital, not been able to attend funerals, been laid off from their jobs, seen their businesses closed and agonized over whether to send their children to school or not. Sometimes the only prayer we can say is the prayer of the psalmist: "How long, O Lord?"

But our Parish, CORPUS CHRISTI, is a Parish rooted in Eucharist - in Thanksgiving. So Lord, despite everything: Teach us to be grateful. Teach us to be grateful for what we still have. Help us to see where you are blessing us, even in the midst of this pandemic. Give us a new pair of eyes, so we can more clearly see your grace: Let us see the generosity of health care workers on the front lines as a sign of your love. Let us see the care that we have for our families as a sign of your compassion within us. Let me see our sadness over the virus as a sign of your sorrow for those who suffer.

Help us to give other people something to be thankful for: By being generous to them when we are sad. By being patient with them when we are tired. By encouraging them when we are feeling low. Most of all, draw us closer to your Son. During his time on earth, Jesus saw people who were hungry, visited people who were sick and wept over the death of his friend Lazarus. He entered a world of illness, suffering and death, so he understands what we are going through—not only because he is divine and knows all things, but because he is human and experienced all things. (Cf. James Martin SJ.)

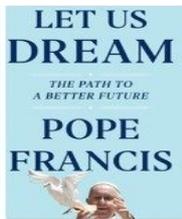
ADVENT RESOURCES: As we enter into the season of Advent, we prepare to welcome the Christ Child into our hearts and minds once more. The Jesuit parishes of Great Britain

invite you to journey through Advent to the Epiphany together through a series of short video meditations



https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCz2kFxfSoYBCb_LfAPPgVA/featured

2. Another way to pray during Advent is to follow an Advent Prayer Calendar, with scripture, prayer materials and an image to pray with each day, created by the Ignatian Spirituality Centre in Glasgow. Open up a 'door' each day to reveal that days prayers.



<http://iscglasgow.co.uk/advent.html>

Pope Francis : My life's three moments of solitude.

Get Pope Francis' new book, released in December 1st: "Let us Dream: the Path to a Better Future", in which the Pope describes three of his own personal "Covid" moments: his illness, Germany and Cordob

CHRISTMAS 2020???



Beginning Saturday 12th December, we are resuming the 6pm Saturday Vigil and 9:30am Sunday Mass. There will be a booking system in place in order to attend either Mass with a designated mobile number to call. Booking in system details will be published on the Parish website.

Please note due to Covid-19 regulations numbers will be restricted and only via pre booking. There will be two Masses at Christmas and again details will be published on website.

Please note that due to limited numbers, Bishops have advised that parishioners could attend Mass during the Christmas Octave prior to Christmas.

