

# 1st Sunday of Advent YEAR B 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2023

### FIRST READING : Isaiah 63:16-17,64:1,3-8

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.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM : Psalm 79(80):2-3,15-16,18-19



*O* Shepherd of Israel hear us, shine forth from your cherubim throne, *O* Lord, rouse up your might, *O* Lord, come to our help.  $\mathbb{R}^{2}$ 

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

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.  $\mathbb{R}$ 

# SECOND READING : 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

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.

#### GOSPEL : Mark 13:33-37

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!'

# **CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH, #524**

"When the Church celebrates the liturgy of Advent each year, she makes present this ancient expectancy of the Messiah, for by sharing in the long preparation for the Savior's first coming, the faithful renew their ardent desire for his second coming. By celebrating the precursor's birth and martyrdom, the Church unites herself to his desire: "He must increase, but I must decrease."



Morning Tea and Fellowship in the Parish Hall, after every Sunday Mass.

#### FAMILY PRAYERS FOR ADVENT WREATH What to do?

1. Begin with the Sign of the Cross

- 2. Light Candle
- 3. Say Antiphon of the Day
- 4. Say the Advent Prayer of that week
- 5. say Gospel of the Week
- 6. Finish with Grace before Meals.

**1**<sup>st</sup> **Week Prayer:** Stir up your might we beg You Lord, and come, so that we may escape through Your protection and be saved by Your help from the dangers that threaten us because of our sins. Who lives and reigns forever and ever. Amen

#### 1st Week Gospel Luke 21:25-28, 34-36

"Be vigilant at all times and pray that you have the strength to escape the tribulations that are imminent..."

"Don't deceive people with the word "mercy". God forgives sins only if we repent of them." Cardinal Robert Sarah **"No one reaches the kingdom of Heaven** 

kingdom of Heaven except by humility."

St Augustine

"Our true worth does not consist in what human beings think of us. What we really are consists in what God knows us to be."

ST. JOHN BERCHMANS,

If you believe what you like in the gospels, and reject what you don't like, it is not the gospel you believe, but yourself. ~ St Augustine First Candle and Week 1 of Advent

**Monday:** "O Wisdom, you come forth from the mouth of the Most High. You fill the universe and hold all things together in a strong yet gentle manner. O come to teach us the way of truth."

**Tuesday:** "O Adonai and leader of Israel, you appeared to Moses in a burning bush and you gave him the Law on Sinai. O come and save us with your mighty power."

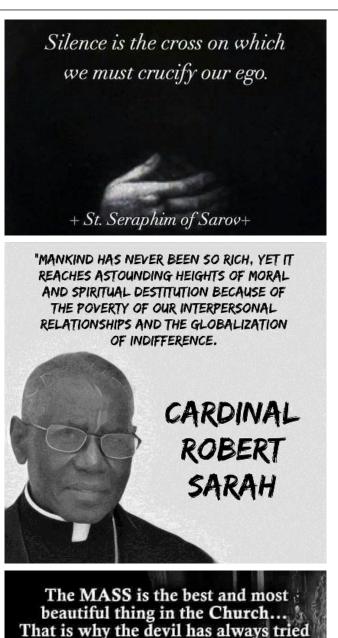
**Wednesday:** "O stock of Jesse, you stand as a signal for the nations; kings fall silent before you whom the peoples acclaim. O come to deliver us, and do not delay."

**Thursday:** "O key of David and sceptre of Israel, what you open no one else can close again; what you close no one can open. O come to lead the captive from prison; free those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death."

**Friday:** "O Rising Sun, you are the splendour of eternal light and the sun of justice. O come and enlighten those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death."

**Saturday:** "O King whom all the people's desire, you are the cornerstone which makes all one. O come and save man whom you made from clay."

**Sunday:** "O Emmanuel, you are our king and judge, the One whom the peoples await and their Saviour. O come and save us, Lord, our God."



by means of heretics to deprive us of it!

St. Alphonsus Maria de Liguori

To obtain favors, let us go to Mary, but let us remember that to deserve Her intercession, we must show that we are Her true sons who hate sin and keep it at a distance!

# St. John Bosco

🕻 If you examine yourself honestly, you'll be able to say, Well, I'm unkind. Well, I'm uncharitable. I'm caustic. All of these things you judge yourself before you die. 🄊

"As I am the Salvation and Life of the soul, and as continually hunger and thirst for the salvation of men, if you endeavour to study some words of Scripture every day for the benefit of others, you will bestow on Me a most sweet refection. If you read with the intention of obtaining the grace of compunction or devotion, you appease My thirst by giving Me an agreeable beverage to drink. If you employ yourself in recollection for an hour each day, you give Me hospitality; and if you apply yourself daily to acquire some new virtue, you clothe Me. You visit Me when sick, by striving to overcome temptation, and to conquer your evil inclinations; and you visit Me in prison, and solace My afflictions with the sweetest consolations, when you pray for sinners and for the souls in purgatory."

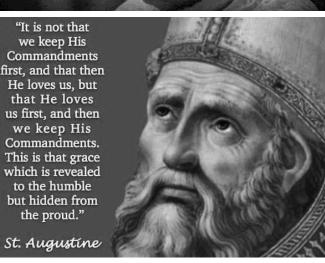
-Our Lord to St. Gertrude the Great, Revelation: On Corporal Works of Mercy; Chapter XV

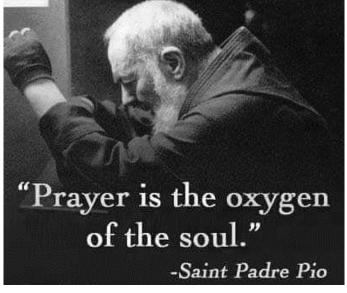
"The Church is a hospital, and not a courtroom, for souls. She does not condemn on behalf of sins, but grants remission of sins." - St John Chrysostom -

Dear friends, may no adversity paralyze you. Be afraid neither of the world, nor of the future, nor of your weakness. The Lord has allowed you to live in this moment of history so that, by your faith, his name will continue to resound throughout the world.

Pope Benedict XVI -

"It is not that we keep His Commandments first, and that then He loves us, but that He loves us first, and then we keep His Commandments. This is that grace which is revealed to the humble but hidden from the proud."





"Soon we will have priests reduced to the role of social worker and message of faith reduced to political vision. Everything will seem lost, but at the right time, at the most dramatic stage of crisis, the Church will be reborn. It will be smaller, poorer, almost catacomal, but also more holy. For it will no longer be the Church of those who seek to please the world, but the Church of the faithful to God and His eternal law. The rebirth will be the work of a small remnant, seemingly insignificant, vet indomitable, having past through purification process. Because this is how God works. Against evil, a small pack resists."

Cdl Joseph Ratzinger (Pope Benedict XVI) prophesied the future of the Church.

#### **PROCESSIONAL HYMN:**

O Come, O come, Emmanuel Redeem thy captive Israel, That doth in exile homeless mourn Until her Saviour Christ be born.

*Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel. Shall come to thee, O Israel.* 

O come thou day star seen on high with healing for our hearts draw nigh: Do thou the mists of night dispel and death's forboding darkness quell.

*Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel. Shall come to thee, O Israel.* 

O come of Gentile hearts, the King. A world that needs thee ransoming And save thy Servants who confess with humbled hearts their faithlessness.

#### *Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel. Shall come to thee, O Israel.* **OFFERTORY CHANT:**

Unto you, O Lord, have I lifted up my soul; O my God, I trust in you, let me not be put to shame; do not allow my enemies to laugh at me; for none of those who are awaiting you will be disappointed.

Guide me in your truth, and teach me; for you are the God of my salvation. I have hoped in you all day long.

Remember your compassion, O Lord, And your merciful love, For they are from of old.

Do not remember the sins of my youth, Nor my transgressions. In your merciful love remember me, Because of your goodness, O Lord.

Good and upright is the Lord; He shows the way to sinners. He guides the humble in right judgment; To the humble he teaches his way.

# **COMMUNION HYMN:**

O Beauty ever ancient, and yet so new, How I hunger and thirst now I have tasted You, You were deep within me all the while that I remained apart, Now my soul will be restless, until it rests in Your heart.

Your shout pierced my deafness and drew me to Your call, And my blindness was vanquished, Your light dispelling all, For your scent I pant, and for Your taste I hunger now so much, For your peace, my heart is burning now I have known Your touch.

O Beloved Eternity, Eternal truth, True love, How I sigh day and night now for You, my God above, When your rays of light flashed brilliantly, and beat my feeble gaze, Then my soul feared and trembled, I was so far from Your ways.

When I first came to know You, You lifted me so high, Your light truly blinding, and then I heard you cry: I'm the food of true maturity, so grow that you may dine, You will not make me your body, but I will make you mine.

O late have I loved You, Beauty ancient and new, How I hunger and thirst, now I have tasted You, You were deep within me all the while that I remained apart, Now my soul will be restless until it rests in Your heart.

Let all mortal flesh keep silence, And with fear and trembling stand; Ponder nothing earthly minded, For with blessing in His hand, Christ our God to earth descendeth, Our full homage to demand.

King of kings, yet born of Mary, As of old on earth He stood, Lord of lords, in human vesture, In the body and the blood; He will give to all the faithful His own self for heavenly food.

Rank on rank the host of heaven Spreads its vanguard on the way, As the Light of light descendeth From the realms of endless day, That the powers of hell may vanish As the darkness clears away.

At His feet the six winged Seraph, Cherubim with sleepless eyes. Veil their faces to the presence, and with ceaseless voice they cry: "Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia Lord, most High.

# **RECESSIONAL HYMN:**

Come, thou long expected Jesus, Born to set thy people free; From our fears and sins release us, Let us find our rest in thee.

Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art: Dear desire of ev'ry nation, joy of ev'ry longing heart.

Born thy people to deliver, Born a child, and yet a king, Born to reign in us forever, Now thy gracious kingdom bring.

By thine own eternal Spirit Rule in all our hearts alone; By thine all sufficient merit Raise us to thy glorious throne.

#### **NEXT SUNDAY: 10<sup>th</sup> December 2023 Second Sunday of Advent** *Is 40:1-5, 9-11; 2 Pet 3:8-14; Mk 1:1-8;*

LITURGY ROSTER Readers: L. Ahio, C. Tagiilima Prayers of the Faithful: B. Molloy Offertory: W & R Fakava Family Special Ministers: P. Capundag

> **CHURCH CLEANING ROSTER** Stowers – Subermani Family

SUNDAY CUP OF TEA ROSTER Tongan Community

# **ANNIVERSARIES THIS WEEK**

5 Dec: Kevin Lyons, Philip Luoni 8 Dec: Paddy Boyle, Eileen Moody, Edna Headland 9 Dec: Emma Ahio

# **PARISH FINANCES**

Parish	\$2,625.47
Priests	<u>\$1,312.73</u>
Total AP's and Cash	\$3,938.20

<u>Church Carpark</u> –just a reminder that we have plenty of parking behind the Church and Hall. *Please do not park on the grass in front of the Church.* 

# Christmas Mass Schedule

<u>SUNDAY, DEC 24™</u> 8am: Traditional Mass 9:30am: English Mass 10pm: Carols Service 11pm: Midnight Mass

<u>MONDAY, DEC 25<sup>тн</sup></u> 8am: Latin Mass 10am: English Christmas Mass

# HOLY FAMILY PARISH NOTICES

**Christmas Hampers:** the Mother's group are gathering food donations to make food hampers for families in need during this Christmas Season. If you would like to donate food items to the hampers, please bring your dry foodstuffs to the Office between 10am to 4pm, the last day for drop off is 13<sup>th</sup> Dec.

**St Joseph's Men's group:** Final meeting for our Parish Men's group for 2023 will be on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December at 7 pm in the Marian Centre. **Topic:** Reflection on Screwtape Letters – Chapter 1 to 5 by C.S. Lewis.

*Please note:* on Sunday, Dec 31, and Sunday, Jan 7, there will only be an English Mass at 9:30am, and no Latin Mass at 8am, as Fr Jeremy will be away at Hearts Aflame. A visiting priest will offer the Mass.