



## A NEW CHURCH YEAR!

(MARK 13:33-37)

The imminent coming of the kingdom of God forms the basis of the preaching of John the Baptist and of Jesus. Our new cycle of Sunday readings opens with a similar message, delivered to the disciples at the end of Jesus' public ministry.

The extract for today comprises the concluding verses of Jesus' long discourse to his disciples concerning the second coming and the events which will accompany it, beginning with the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem. The final words are a warning: "Stay awake!" ■

### SAY

**Awake from your slumber!  
Arise from your sleep!**  
(Daniel L. Schutte)

### LEARN

The Roman night was divided into four watches: evening, midnight, cockcrow and dawn.

"Advent" means approach, arrival, coming.

The Gospel according to Mark begins with Jesus as an adult: there is no "infancy narrative" telling of events such as the annunciation to Mary or Joseph, or of the circumstances surrounding his birth.

### DO

Set your alarm a little earlier than usual for the season of Advent: when it rings, think of Jesus' words "Stay awake!" and thank the Lord for a new day.



### REFLECT

No one likes the sensation of being watched. We usually feel uncomfortable or uneasy if someone is looking over our shoulder and keeping an eye on us. Some people feel this way about God: the Lord is observing us, noting what we do right, or, more often, what we do wrong, and such individuals live with a guilt complex, that they are never in God's good books. Our Gospel reading today sets out a summary of the Christian ethical life: the master has left his servants with their different tasks, assigned according to their ability; the doorkeeper has been instructed to "stay awake", as the time for the master's return has not been announced, and so could happen at any time; if the servants are going about their duties, they have nothing to worry about, so the master's arrival is not something to fear.

We are beginning the season of Advent, when we think about the coming of Jesus in our human flesh and nature. It can be difficult to preserve this attitude of looking forward to Christmas when for so many people the feast has, to all intents and purposes, already arrived. Christmas carols and songs are to be heard everywhere, and carol services sometimes anticipate the day itself. But, as Christians, we are invited to prepare to celebrate this festival with prayer and penance: this means living these four weeks in the spirit of faith, and examining our lives in this light. We are being asked to think about how we would feel if the Master did arrive, how we are living up to our calling as disciples of Jesus. Are we awake and fulfilling our daily responsibilities calmly and thoroughly, or are we like the disciples in Gethsemane who fall asleep,

just when Jesus needs their support and presence? We are not being asked to work ourselves up into a frenzy of panic and guilt, but to look at ourselves honestly and remedy those compromises we may have fallen into, not out of ill will, but simply because of forgetfulness or tiredness or the like.

When we are expecting a guest, we see that everything is ready, not just out of courtesy for our guest, but also out of a sense of respect for ourselves. Advent is that time to prepare to celebrate the first coming of Jesus, but also a reminder that we should keep in mind that he will come again, and we do not know the day or the hour. ■

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON**

To you, I lift up my soul, O my God.  
In you, I have trusted; let me not be put to shame.  
Nor let my enemies exult over me;  
and let none who hope in you be put to shame.

**COLLECT**

Grant your faithful, we pray, almighty God, the resolve to run forth to meet your Christ with righteous deeds at his coming, so that, gathered at his right hand, they may be worthy to possess the heavenly Kingdom.  
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.  
**Amen.**

**FIRST READING** Isaiah 63:16-17; 64:1.3-8

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.  
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.  
The word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM**

Psalms 79

Response:

**God of hosts, bring us back;  
let your face shine on us and we shall be saved.**

1. O shepherd of Israel, hear us,  
shine forth from your cherubim throne.  
O Lord, rouse up your might,  
O Lord, come to our help. (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.)
3. 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. (R.)

**SECOND READING** 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians.

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.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

**Let us see, O Lord, your mercy  
and give us your saving help.  
Alleluia!**

**GOSPEL**

Mark 13:33-37

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark.

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!"

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

**PROFESSION OF FAITH**

**I believe in one God,  
the Father almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all things visible and invisible.**

**I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the Only Begotten Son of God,  
born of the Father before all ages.  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made, consubstantial with  
the Father;  
through him all things were made.  
For us men and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,**

*(all bow during the next three lines)*

**and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the  
Virgin Mary,  
and became man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under  
Pontius Pilate,  
he suffered death and was buried,  
and rose again on the third day  
in accordance with the Scriptures.  
He ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory  
to judge the living and the dead  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord,  
the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is adored  
and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**I believe in one, holy, catholic and  
apostolic Church.  
I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness  
of sins  
and I look forward to the resurrection of the  
dead  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

**PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS**

Accept, we pray, O Lord, these offerings we make,  
gathered from among your gifts to us,  
and may what you grant us to celebrate  
devoutly here below  
gain for us the prize of eternal redemption.  
Through Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON**

**The Lord will bestow his bounty,  
and our earth shall yield its increase.**

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

May these mysteries, O Lord,  
in which we have participated,  
profit us, we pray,  
for even now, as we walk amid passing  
things,  
you teach us by them to love the things of  
heaven  
and hold fast to what endures.  
Through Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

.....  
If the Word truly became flesh, then God had not only a mother, but also a grandmother, cousins, great-aunts, and weird uncles. If the Word truly dwelt among us, then he was part of a family that, like most, was fairly dysfunctional, a mix of the good and bad, the saintly and the sinful, the glorious and the not so glorious. And this is such good news for us.

*Bishop Robert Barron*

# NEWSLETTER



CATHOLIC CHURCH OF ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY

59 Burgate Canterbury Kent CT1 2HJ

Telephone: 01227 462896 Email: [canterbury@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:canterbury@rcaos.org.uk)

Web Site: [www.stthomasofcanterbury.com](http://www.stthomasofcanterbury.com) St Thomas of Canterbury

Parish Priest: Canon Anthony Charlton email: [anthonycharlton@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:anthonycharlton@rcaos.org.uk)

Assistant Priest: Fr John Howard

email: [johnhoward@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:johnhoward@rcaos.org.uk)

Parish Administrator: Miss Linda Scott

St Thomas' Shop (01227 462896): OPEN SUNDAYS FROM AFTER 9.30 MASS UNTIL 12 NOON

University of Kent Chaplaincy: Fr Tom Herbst (01843 230 774) email: [tjherbst@gmail.com](mailto:tjherbst@gmail.com)

St Thomas' Catholic Primary School: Head Teacher: Miss Lisa D'Agostini (01227 462539)

St Anselm's Catholic Secondary School: Exec Prin: Mr M Walters; Academy Prin: Mr J Rowarth (01227 826200)

The Parish Office is Closed & Linda is working from home. Linda can access emails via the church email so please contact her this way initially.

## ALL MASSES ARE LIVESTREAMED

6.00pm (Vigil): Welfare of Caine Libin

THE SEASON OF ADVENT (B)

Sunday 29th Nov: 1st Sunday of Advent Mk 13:33-37

There will be no Mass celebrated at 8.00am or 6.00pm

9.30am: Hannah Loughran - RIP (Loughran Family)

11.00am: Deceased sisters & brothers of Nora King

6.00 pm Live streamed Prayer

Monday 30th Nov: St Andrew, Apostle Mt 4:18-22

8.00 am: Ellen Fitz-Gerald - RIP (Nieves Castro)

12 noon: Remi Morilleau - RIP (John & Marie-Claire Renn)

6.00 pm Live streamed Prayer

Tuesday 1st Dec: Feria Lk 10:21-24

12 noon: Joseph McKee - RIP (McKee Family)

6.00 pm Live streamed Prayer

Wednesday 2nd Dec: Feria Mt 15:29-37

8.00 am: In Thanksgiving (Picozzi Family)

12 noon: Funeral of the late Anna Koeller (family and invited guests only at Mass)

6.00 pm Live streamed Prayer

Thursday 3rd Dec: St Francis Xavier Mt 7:21,24-27

7.30 am: Janina Gorka - RIP (Marta Gocek)

12 noon: Ellen Fitz-Gerald - RIP (Nieves Castro)

6.00 pm Live streamed Prayer

Friday 4th Dec: St John Damascene Mt 9:27-31

12 noon: Marie Furlong - RIP (Connie Nolan & Family)

7.30pm: Dr Mary Knightly - health & welfare (G Evans)

6.00 pm Live streamed Prayer

Saturday 5th Dec: Feria Mt 9:35 -Mt 10:1,6-8

12 noon: Jim - RIP

6.00pm (Vigil): Helena Bal - RIP (Marta Gocek)

THE SEASON OF ADVENT (B)

Sunday 6th Dec: 2nd Sunday of Advent Mk 1:1-8

2nd Collection for SVP

8.00: People of the Parish

9.30am: UCM members & families

11.00am: Long-Castro Family's welfare

12.15 pm: Baptism of Andrea Vrishali Anthonyrajah

6.00 pm Ellen Fitz-Gerald - RIP (UCM Members)

Tuesday, 8th December: private interment of the ashes of the late Pamela Dodds at Canterbury Cemetery

## EXPOSITION OF THE SACRAMENT

We have Exposition of the Sacrament every day during Church opening times

## PARISH MATTERS

### Please remember in your prayers:

Marie Strong, Pat Gill, Angeline Frizell, Alan Skeet, Louisa Ward, Janette Hughes, Barbara Brett, Mary Dittrich, Pat Gibson, Jenni Aldridge, Mary Reynolds, Brian Wicker, Joan Sutton, Audrey Martin, Elizabeth Gilhenny, Bill Parker, Lucy Purbrick, Josie Carr, Simon Lam, Sr Anne Bross (formerly of our parish), Pippa Swan, Fr John Slater and Jennifer Lang

**Please pray for the repose of the souls of:** Maria Bryant, Pamela Dodds, Roberto de Paco, John Todd, Carol Mary Kidby, Anna Hesketh, Tom Hodges, Rebecca Judge, Gertraude Katherine Brock, Vera Fletcher, Maria Daniels, Maria Prado, Hannelore Hall, Bernie Fisher, Joseph McKee, Tony Kenny, Michael Jones, Douglas Ricketts, Maurice Crosland, Patricia Collins, Andrzej Czupkowski, Chris Bateman, Pia Iannacci, Antonio Iannacci, Ellen Fitzgerald & Anna Koeller

**Please pray for those whose 1st anniversaries are this month:** Francis Sullivan, Margaret Bromley and Bernard Sullivan

### SAFEGUARDING / DISCLOSURE & BARRING SERVICE - VOLUNTEERS.

Our parish is blessed in having a large number of volunteers carrying out a variety of roles, e.g. sacristans, catechists, flower arrangers, extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion, members of the SVP etc; most however do not require DBS clearance.

The Catholic Church in England & Wales intends to put into place, a framework providing a stricter oversight of volunteers who may have any contact, in that role, with children and other vulnerable groups.

The parish record of successful DBS applications, dates back to 2007. For a variety of reasons, many listed, no longer undertake the role they received DBS clearance.

The safeguarding office of the Archdiocese, have therefore asked our parish to provide a current list of parishioners who received DBS clearance and who wish to continue to actively volunteer, when normality is reached, after Covid19.

**REQUEST:** May I therefore ask you to contact and advise me of your continuing commitment, by the **30<sup>th</sup> November 2020**, to the following e-mail:- [Canterburysg2@safeguardrcaos.org.uk](mailto:Canterburysg2@safeguardrcaos.org.uk)  
Thank you! Peter R M Jones (Parish Safeguarding Rep)

### 2nd COLLECTION

The second collection on the weekend of 5/6 December will be for the SVP Society - please give generously as usual.

**SVP:** the impact of Covid-19 on employment and family income, has resulted in an unprecedented number of new requests for food and help with fuel bills this month. We are most grateful for your generous support, without which we would be overwhelmed.

ADVENT 2020

There has been much in the news about how we are able to celebrate Christmas during this time of Pandemic. Last Tuesday the government issued guidance on making a Christmas bubble with friends and family between 23rd and 27th December. Thus, people having looked through this guidance are attempting to plan what is the best way to celebrate Christmas.

As we begin our new Liturgical year this weekend we have an ideal opportunity to prepare for the Christmas season that will be more than 4 days. We have the Octave of Christmas which means every day is Christmas from 25th December until 1st January.

So, we have from this Sunday till 24th December, twenty-six days, to prepare to celebrate the coming of Jesus, the Saviour and Redeemer of the world.

What would you most like to do in this time, apart from shopping, writing cards and decorating the house?

What is the best way to spend these days? One simple way would be to take a copy of "Day by Day" (available in the Narthex) and prayerfully read the scriptures for each day.

This Advent is a time when we are encouraged to wait in joyful expectation. We remember those who waited for the first humble coming of the Lord and we also remember that we are waiting for his final glorious coming as Lord of History and Universal Judge. Advent teaches us to wait actively. We cannot be passive. This is clear from the readings at Mass. The psalm response for this Sunday is "God of Hosts bring us back, let your face shine on us and we shall be saved."

Jesus asks us to stay awake and be on our guard. We pray on this first Sunday that we run forth to meet Christ.

In the second week we are asked to live holy and saintly lives while we long for the Day of the Lord to come.

We hear John the Baptist cry, "Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight". We are encouraged to be happy at all times, to pray constantly and in all things to give thanks to God. Mary is a vital figure in Advent. We celebrate her special feast, the Immaculate Conception, on 8th December and on the fourth Sunday of Advent we sing her Magnificat. Waiting can be a time of great uncertainty, but we are reminded that the uncertainty didn't prevent Mary being full of joy. We know that Jesus has already been born, has died, and has risen to save us, so we too are able to echo Mary's "Yes" - her "fiat" - in our own lives and trust in God and wait with hopeful joy. *"As disciples of Christ, we learn anew what it means to wait as Christians. We light the candles on our wreaths, place the ornaments on our Jesse trees and sing our Advent hymns."*

**THANK YOU** to all who gave to the Shoebox appeal - there was a great response.

**MASS AND CHURCH OPENING TIMES**

Well, we thank God that we are coming out of LOCKDOWN this week but because we are in Kent we are in Tier Three. Even though we are in Tier Three we are able to celebrate Mass. I suggest that we resume celebrating Mass with a congregation on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> December. There will be Mass at 12 noon and the first Mass of Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent at 6pm. Masses on Sunday will be at the usual times of 8am, 9:30am 11am and 6pm.

Confessions this weekend will be on Saturday morning at 10:30am till 11:30am. There will also be confessions on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> at 10:30am for an hour.

Please note that Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> December is the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception is the principal Patron of Our Diocese and we will have an evening Mass at 7.00pm with music to mark this feast.

I would like to thank all the volunteers that have selflessly given their time so that the church remains open for prayer.

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION APPLICATIONS 2021:** Forms are available on the parish Webpage under the tab Journey in Faith - Sacraments - Eucharist; or via email from the parish office on canterbury@rcaos.org.uk. Forms should be completed and submitted to the parish office along with the baptism certificate of the child before 10 January 2021.

**For Sale: L'Arche Nativity figures.** Set of 12 (holy family, 3 kings, 3 shepherds, 3 animals) about 5 to 10cm high. Ready for painting. Complete with brush and acrylic paints. Gift wrapped. £12 call Maurice Carmody on 01227 643025.

**SCHOOL ADMITTANCE SUPPLEMENTARY FORMS**

Father Anthony is available to sign school forms for St Thomas' Primary at the **Presbytery** on **Friday, 4th December from 4pm to 6pm**. No booking required - please wear a face mask!

**HCPT UPDATE**

Positive plans are going ahead, Covid measures in place e.g. vaccine, full comprehensive insurance etc. for Pilgrimages to Lourdes 2021. Our local Children's Group 87 will be going in the October half term (not Easter next year), & our Summer Group 587 in the late summer, hopefully by then we'll all be safe.

**HCPT CHRISTMAS 2020 GRAND DRAW.**

To raise funds for the fares for the children we take. All money from the Draw tickets is dedicated to their fares. It would be greatly appreciated if you could sell tickets for us at £1 each (10 per book) - available on the table in the Saints Chapel in St Thomas's Church or from [anniejudge@hotmail.com](mailto:anniejudge@hotmail.com) or 07866 515797/01227 700553. Two short recent videos about HCPT are on our media: HCPTV - via internet or hcptfacebook.

**Missing Carols this year?** HCPT Virtual Christmas Carol Service. Watch online at [www.hcpt.org.uk/carolservice](http://www.hcpt.org.uk/carolservice) from Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> December. Thank you, Annie Judge

**The Passage** is raising funds via the **Big Give** from 12 noon Tues 1 Dec – 12 noon Tues 8 Dec to support its work helping Homeless People this winter. **Double your Donation, Double your impact** - a matched giving scheme for online donations. More Information from Andrew Hollingsworth: 020 75921886 or [andrew.h@passage.org.uk](mailto:andrew.h@passage.org.uk)  
Please give generously online: <https://tinyurl.com/PassageBigGive>

**CONTACTLESS GIVING / ELECTRONIC PAYMENTS**

We have contactless giving available in the Parish. From the device in the church, receipts can be sent to you electronically. Try it out to see if it works for you! The office also offers contactless or electronic payments for Mass intentions and other transactions. Please see Linda if this is your preferred payment method of donation. If you donate directly into the Parish Bank account for a Mass donation, please send an explanatory email to Linda in the office - this helps with accurate record keeping.