



# Advent 1- 1st December 2024

With the season of Advent, a new liturgical year begins, Year C of the three-year cycle. It is a year when we are called to look back with gratitude on all that has been and to look forward with hope to what will be – ‘a towering miracle of God’s visit to this planet’. Luke’s Gospel tells of Jesus, born of Mary from the line of David. He is referred to as the ‘just shoot’ celebrated by the prophet Jeremiah in the first reading. Through his words and works, Jesus has established God’s justice on earth. All who believe and are bound to God in love and hope are also bound to one another. Those so bound, insists Paul, are to increase in love for one another and for all people – to conduct themselves at all times in a manner that honours God and God’s greatest gift to humankind, Jesus Christ.

Our rejoicing in the fact that God has actually been here is half the meaning of Advent. The other half focuses our attention on the Second Coming of Christ, which is described in this weekend’s Gospel. We are to be vigilant at all times and to pray for strength. Our annual remembrance of the incarnation (Advent) celebrates God’s desire to become immersed in every aspect of the human experience and, in our response, we will find Christ.

St Teresa of Kolkata recognised and welcomed Christ in the needy, the hungry, the homeless and the forgotten. Jesus’ words about serving his needs in God’s poor ones were seared into her soul. She was one of those rare figures that can shine a new light on Gospel teachings and actually live according to Jesus’ word and example. This Advent, we can emulate her example. Mother Teresa was certain that prayer could be the powerhouse of our lives. Through prayer, she said, one could recognise and serve Christ in his many comings among us. Of course, we cannot force these moments, all we can do is to be prepared.

Tuesday 30th November—Feast of St Andrew

Loving God,

We think of Andrew, called first among your disciples,  
Leaving his nets to follow Jesus, leaving his life behind to answer Your call,  
We thank You for Andrew, an example to all who follow You  
Trusting blindly in Your promise, trusting in a better life with You.

You have sent us Andrew the apostle, inspired by Your Spirit to spread Your news, let us find his courage to follow You, let us find his passion to be Your witness, let us be Your disciples. Amen

Lord Jesus,

With expectant waiting, we anticipate your coming.  
Come close to us, Lord,



**This week let us pray for:**

- ◆ our preparations for the coming of Christ;
- ◆ All those countries who struggling with war;
- ◆ all those connected to our community who are unwell, upset or mourning.

I will make a virtuous branch grow for David. Jeremiah 33

