

Third Sunday of Advent

14th December 2025



The water that I will give him will become a spring of water within him welling up to eternal life.
JOHN 4:14

This weekend, we observe the Third Sunday of Advent, filling us with a sense that the time is getting short and soon our joy will be complete in the celebration of Our Saviour's birth. But still we are waiting. Advent is the season of waiting ... and hoping ... and wishing for some assurance that God does indeed love us and that God is in control of our lives and the future.

However, the Gospel reminds us that Advent is also a season of impatience. Will everything come together the way we hope? Have we thought of everyone? Are we doing enough for those for whom this will not be a happy time of celebration? Always in the back of our mind is that dull fear that we have forgotten something; that Christmas will not unfold the way we anticipate.

In the eleventh chapter of Matthew, John the Baptist no longer seems assertive and confident but rather confused. No longer free to wander unfettered through the wilderness, John is imprisoned and seeks to find out if Jesus is the one who is to come or if he must wait for another?

Each week, many of us, as members of a Catholic community, gather, hear the Scripture lessons read, try to follow the sermon, sing the hymns and receive the Lord as he comes to us through the Holy Eucharist but do we reflect on our faith in the our lives; in the decisions we make every day? Does the simple fact that Jesus is Lord have any impact on how we live out our responsibility as a spouse, a parent, a child, a friend, an employee, a volunteer?

Advent calls us to make room in our hearts and our hectic pursuits for the coming of Christ, the Saviour. Advent calls us to make it possible for him to come and that means to smooth out some of the rough places that block his coming. Advent teaches us to live with patient expectation. God begins with a tiny child, born in humble surroundings and then God works slowly but surely. Our task is to be watchful, to not lose hope, to see what God is doing all around us.

Are you the one who is to come, or have we got to wait for someone else?



O God,
As light comes from this candle, may the blessing of Jesus Christ come to us, warming our hearts and brightening our way.
May Christ, our Saviour bring life into the darkness of this world, and to us, as we wait for his coming.
Amen.

In addition, this week let us pray for:

- ♦ all those connected to our community who are unwell, upset or mourning;
- ♦ all those affected by the ongoing wars;
- ♦ our preparations for the coming of Christ.



Dear God, You know that our hearts long for the joy and gladness promised by life with You. Help us to remember that You are with us always, and that our hearts will rest only when they rest with You.
Amen