

29 NOVEMBER 2020

Sunday Message

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

THE WORD

Year B • Psalter Week 1



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. ■

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**ST. ANNE'S CHURCH
PILLORY STREET
NANTWICH. CW5 5SS
Tel: 01270 625494**

Email stannesnantwich@btinternet.com Website www.stannesnantwich.org.uk

Parish Twitter Feed @stannesnantwich

Parish Priest: Fr. Tony Grace

Fr Michael Ryan OMI

Permanent Deacons: Rev. Peter Mascarenhas and Rev. John Penny

29th November 2020 First Sunday of Advent

Fr Tony will be celebrating mass privately on a daily basis until 2nd December

Saturday	28		Ordinary Time ends	Barry Scruton RIP Alexander Wilson RIP
Sunday	29	9.30am-10.30am	Private Prayer First Sunday of Advent	Cath Grundy RIP Doris Ashbrooke RIP Diane Walters RIP
Monday	30		St Andrew	
Tuesday	1	10.00am-11.00am	Private Prayer	Fiona Mary Campbell RIP David Henderson RIP
Wednesday	2			
Thursday	3	10.00am	Mass St Francis Xavier Day of Special Prayer for all Migrants and Refugees	Theresa Palmer RIP 1 st Anniversary Colin Campbell RIP Fr Jack Warnock RIP Anniversary
Friday	4		St John Damascus	
Saturday	5	6.30pm	Mass	Ivy Campbell RIP Mike Devaney RIP
Sunday	6	9.30am	Mass Second Sunday of Advent Bible Sunday	Arthur Cunliffe RIP Margaret Cunliffe RIP

IN NEED OF A PRIEST Please contact Fr Grace on 01270 877736

Prayer and Mass Intentions can be sent by email to us at stannesnantwich@btinternet.com

Masses

With effect from Thursday 3rd December we will be permitted to open the church for the celebration of Mass. We will be following the strict number guidelines we had in place before the latest lockdown.

Wearing of a mask is compulsory

Only attend in your household bubble

Follow directions of the stewards who will take your details and guide you to seating

We are operating a one-way system entry through the main doors and exit through side doors

School Governor needed for St Anne's RC School.

We are looking for an additional Foundation Governor to help with the management and direction of our very good primary school. Parents with children at the school, and/or individuals who can bring some associated business and management skills (e.g. Finance, HR, experience of Government, etc.) would be desirable. However, the most essential criteria for a new Governor is to be a practising Catholic who believes in the ethos of Catholic education and can give some time to help with the successful running of the school. A safeguarding DBS check is required for all governors. If interested, please contact Father Tony, or Sue Day (Chair of Governors) at sday@stannes.cheshire.sch.uk for a further chat.

Community Hub Hooray!! We have reached our 1st initial target of £173k and can now progress to planning permission stage. Thank you to everyone who has donated, this really does mean a lot to the Parish and community. We need to continue fundraising to reach our next target of £87k to reach £260k. Please do help by making donations via this link <https://app.thegoodexchange.com/project/17726/st-annes-church-nantwich/st-annes-community-hub> or to the presbytery.

St. Anne's Catholic School Admissions.

We are welcoming lots of new families to our school community. We still have a few places left for our Pre-School Nursery called Sunflowers and School in 2020/2021. If you know anyone who is new to the area and/or is looking for a place, please let them know to contact us for details on office@stannes.cheshire.sch.uk or 01270 685353. For school places parents have to apply through Cheshire East Admissions. Details are on School website. Parents must apply by 15th January 2021 for Reception places for September 2021. If you know of anyone interested, please let them know.



OFFERTORY

Last week's collection. Thank you

£185

During Private Prayer baskets will be available for offertory donations. Standing order and gift aid forms are available from the Presbytery. Online donations <https://investmycommunity.com/not-logged-donor/page/stannesdioceseofshrewsbury2168>

RC Diocese of Shrewsbury is a Registered Charity No. 234025

St Anne's Safeguarding Officer is Michael Kilcourse: mkilcourse@hotmail.com 07942114145



St Anne's Christmas Mass Timetable (May be subject to change depending on Covid rules)	
22 December 2020	10am
Christmas Eve	3pm, 6:30pm, 9pm
Christmas Day	9:30am, 11am
Boxing Day	6:30pm
27 December 2020	9:30am
29 December 2020	10am
31 December 2020	10am
New Year's Day	10am
02 January 2021	6:30pm
03 January 2021	9.30am

Pope Francis' prayer for November: Pope's November prayer intention: that progress in robotics and AI "be human" In his video message on his prayer intention for November, Pope Francis emphasizes that progress in robotics and artificial intelligence (AI) be oriented "towards respecting the dignity of the person and of Creation". <https://youtu.be/NYkwVRteZTI>

Prayer in Difficult Times – Talks by Fr. Matt Blake OCD Drawing on the Carmelite tradition to help us pray and live deeply our Christian lives during this time of lockdown. Monday November 30th Times: 10.00am and repeated at 8.00pm www.carmelitechurch.org You Tube "Kensington Carmelite Church" "You'll notice that the talks, as well as being given live at 10.00 am and 8.00 pm and streamed from the Kensington Carmelite Church will also be streamed on YouTube, where they will continue to be available as recordings.

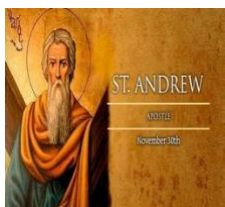
Diocese of Shrewsbury's prayer for the ending of the pandemic <http://www.dioceseofshrewsbury.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/National-Day-of-Prayer-for-the-ending-of-the-pandemic.pdf>

Christmas support for Nantwich Foodbank are promoting a reverse advent calendar idea. It gives suggestions of what is needed in the parcels (they don't expect people to donate all the items unless they wish to!) Donations can be dropped at Brine Leas school on 28/11/20 between 11-13.00. The organisers for the Food festival are arranging this collection. Copies of the calendar are available at the exits to St Anne's and on our website.

Charity Christmas Cards from Cards for Good Causes You can still support Cards for Good Causes by visiting our Chester shop which this year will be in the Grosvenor Shopping Centre, at 15 St Michael's Row. Alternatively cards can be bought on line at www.cardsforcharity.co.uk Charities have had a very difficult time raising much needed funds during this pandemic. Over 70% of our sales goes directly to the charities and so do please support us by buying your cards from either the Chester shop or on line. Stay safe. All enquiries Mary Thompson 01829 733642.

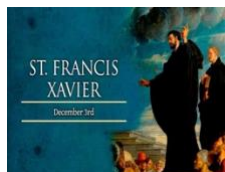
Bible Timeline Course - If you have struggled to read the Bible, and maybe given up several books in, this course is designed to help you understand the history of salvation. There are seven sessions from 7pm - 8.30pm starting Wednesday 4th. November. It is free and looks at the Bible story in a clear and simple way. You will need access to a Catholic Bible to read a section prior to each session. A description of the course is available in the link below as well as details of how to register. comeandsee.org The course is held live on 'Zoom' but you do not need a zoom account, the course leader will send you a link enabling you to join in.

Feast and Memorial Days



On Nov. 30, Catholics worldwide celebrate the feast of St. Andrew, apostle and martyr. A fisherman from Bethsaida and brother of Simon Peter, St. Andrew is said to have spread Christianity in Russia and Asia minor after Pentecost in the first century. He was crucified by the Romans in Greece on an X-shaped cross, which is now his distinctive symbol as well as the symbol of Scotland, of which he is the patron. St. Andrew demonstrated his love for his brother as well as his apostolic zeal when, convinced that Jesus was the Messiah, he sought out St. Peter. "Andrew, the brother of Simon Peter, was one of the two who heard John and followed Jesus. He first found his own brother Simon and told him, 'we have found the Messiah.' Then he brought him to Jesus." (Jn. 1:40-42)

Some of St. Andrew's remains were brought to Scotland in the fourth century, though parts of his skeleton lie in the crypt of the cathedral in Amalfi, Italy, where they are removed twice a year and produce a clear, water like substance. The substance, called "manna," is said to have miraculous attributes.



On Dec. 3, we honour St. Francis Xavier, born during 1506 in the Kingdom of Navarre, a region now divided between Spain and France. Francis followed an intellectual path to a college in Paris where he studied philosophy. In Paris, the young man would discover his destiny with the help of his long-time friend Peter Faber, and an older student named Ignatius Loyola whose humble and austere lifestyle did not appeal to him. But the older student, who had undergone a dramatic conversion, often posed Christ's question to Francis: "What will it profit a man to gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?"

In 1534, Francis Xavier, Peter Faber, and four other men joined Ignatius in making a vow of poverty, chastity, and dedication to the spread of the Gospel through personal obedience to the Pope. Francis became a priest in 1537. Three years later, Pope Paul III confirmed Ignatius and his companions as a religious order, the Jesuits. During that year, the king of Portugal asked the Pope to send missionaries to his newly-acquired territories in India.

Together with another Jesuit, Simon Rodriguez, Francis first spent time in Portugal caring for the sick and giving instruction in the faith. On his 35th birthday, he set sail for Goa. He spent his days visiting prisoners and the sick, gathering groups of children together to teach them about God, and preaching to both Portuguese and Indians. Adopting the lifestyle of the common people, he lived on rice and water in a hut with a dirt floor. In 1545 he extended his efforts to Malaysia, before moving on to Japan in 1549. St. Francis Xavier became ill and died on Dec. 3, 1552, while seeking a way to enter the closely-guarded kingdom of China. In 1622, both St. Francis Xavier and St. Ignatius Loyola were canonized on the same day.

A Visit to the Blessed Sacrament



First Sunday of Advent
Reflection Resource



Stillness: As we approach the Lord in the Tabernacle we make the Sign of the Cross.

Preparation: we open our hearts to the Lord and make a prayer of preparation.

O God, who in this wonderful Sacrament have left us a memorial of your Passion, grant us, we pray, so to revere the sacred mysteries of your Body and Blood that we may always experience in ourselves the fruits of your redemption. Who live and reign with God the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Invocation: Make an Act of Spiritual Communion.

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Most Holy Sacrament of the Altar. I love you above all things, and I desire to receive you into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace you as if you were already there and unite myself wholly to you. Never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.

Read: Meditate on the Gospel of 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!'

Intercession: We place before the Lord the desires of our hearts. Pray for the Holy Father, for Bishop Mark and the clergy of our diocese, for vocations to the priesthood, for those who are sick, for your own personal needs, and for those who have died.

Thanksgiving: In thanksgiving we pray the Divine Praises.

Blessed be God

Blessed be his holy name

Blessed be Jesus Christ, true God and true man

Blessed be the name of Jesus

Blessed by his most Sacred Heart

Blessed be his most Precious Blood

Blessed be Jesus in the most holy Sacrament of the altar

Blessed be the Holy Spirit, the Paraclete

Blessed be the great Mother of God, Mary most holy

Blessed be her holy and immaculate conception

Blessed be her glorious assumption

Blessed be the name of Mary, virgin and mother

Blessed be Saint Joseph, her spouse most chaste

Blessed be God in his angels and in his saints

Prayer Resource for November: month of the Holy Souls

Prayer: *taken from the Roman Missal* Listen kindly to our prayers, O Lord, and, as our faith in your Son, raised from the dead, is deepened, so may our hope of resurrection for your departed servants also find new strength. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen

Song of Farewell: *From the Order of Christians Funerals*



Saints of God, come to their aid!
Hasten to meet them, angels of the Lord!
Receive their soul and present them to God the most high. May Christ, who called you, take you to himself;
may angels lead you to the bosom of Abraham.
Receive their soul and present them to God the most high.
Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them.
Receive their soul and present them to God the most high.

Psalm 22:

The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want. Fresh and green are the pastures where he gives me repose.
Near restful waters he leads me, to revive my drooping spirit.

He guides me along the right path; he is true to his name.
If I should walk in the valley of darkness no evil would I fear.
You are there with your crook and your staff;
with these you give me comfort.

You have prepared a banquet for me in the sight of my foes.
My head you have anointed with oil;
my cup is overflowing.

Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me
all the days of my life.
In the Lord's own house shall I dwell for ever and ever.

Eternal Rest grant unto him/her, O Lord. And let perpetual light shine upon him/her. May he/she rest in peace.
Amen. May his/her soul and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen

Subject: Autumn talks on Spirituality. A series of eight, fortnightly talks about Spiritual Masters, given by distinguished speakers. They are free to view live-streamed, although there will be a fee to view recordings . Saints, Scholars and Spiritual Masters. A series of online talks on Thursday evenings at 7.30 pm, starting on 3 September organised by the Christian Heritage Centre at Stonyhurst. For details and to register: <https://christianheritagecentre.com/event/saints-scholars-spiritual-masters/>.

Sanctuaries, shrines Catholics can 'visit' virtually in Europe, Mideast. <https://catholicsentinel.org/Content/Arts/Arts-and-Entertainment/Article/Sanctuaries-shrines-Catholics-can-visit-virtually-in-Europe-Mideast/6/31/40431>

Journeying Together <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/home/events/journeying-together/>

Shrewsbury Youth Mission. <https://www.svmt.org.uk/>

The National Shrine for Our Lady of Walsingham www.walsingham.org.uk/livestream

Laudato Tree <https://www.vaticannews.va/en/world/news/2020-05/laudato-tree-sahel-pope-francis-laudato-si-year.html>

Watch a Mass from home. Live-streaming of Masses Shrewsbury Diocese: <http://www.churchservices.tv/shrewsburycathedral/embed#tab-player> Church Services TV: <https://www.churchservices.tv/timetable/>

Prayer resources at: <http://pathwaystogod.org/>. <https://www.sacredspace.ie/> <http://ln54.blogspot.com> <http://pravasyougo.org/>

Catholic Bishops Conference <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/> and latest news <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/home/news-and-media/news/>

Prayer for times of Flu or Illness <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2020/03/prayer-flu-viruses.pdf>

Stream Father Denis McBride's Mass for the Dead <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pY1bOyrcDbw>

Life Helplines and Information can be found at <http://www.dayforlife.org/article/helplines-and-information-2020/>

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; 54:1-3-4

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

Psalm 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 13:3

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