



ONE MISSION, TWO PARISHES



First Sunday of Advent, Year C - 1st Dec. 2024

Administrator

Fr Alex Chow

Parish Secretary

Sonya O'Farrell
Wednesdays,
Thursdays & Fridays
10am – 2pm

SUNDAY MASS

Saturday Vigil
ST: & SL: 6pm
Sunday
St Luke's 8:30am
St Timothy's 10:30am
St Timothy's 5pm
(Vietnamese)

WEEKDAY MASSES

St Timothy's:
Wed & Thurs - 9:15am
Fri - 10am
1st Wed of the month
@ 10.00am
Mass of Anointing

St Luke's:
Tues - 5pm
Wed & Fri - 9:30am
Sat - 9am
Rosary after each
morning Mass

RECONCILIATION

SL: Sat 9.30am - 10am
5.30pm – 5.50pm

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

SL: Tues 5:30pm-6:30pm
(note new time and day)

Jeremiah 33:14-16, Ps 24:4-14, 1 Thessalonians 3:12-4:2.

Gospel Reflection on **Lk 21:25-36**

Meditation: How good are you at reading signs, especially signs which God sends our way? The people of Jesus' time expected that the coming of the Messiah would be accompanied by extraordinary signs and wonders. Jesus' first coming was clouded in mystery and surprising wonderment: Even though he was the rightful heir to the throne of King David, he was born in obscurity in a cave at Bethlehem, near the place where David had watched over his father's sheep some 1000 years before. A choir of angels announce the good news to a some lowly shepherds keeping their night watch nearby. Learned magi from the East followed the star until it led them to Bethlehem. They found the child with his mother and paid him homage as the newborn king of Israel. When Jesus was baptised at the River Jordan, the heavenly Father spoke audibly for those nearby who were willing to listen, "This is my beloved Son with whom I am well pleased."

Signs which point to the Lord's coming to reign with power and great glory

Jesus, during his public ministry performed numerous signs: turning water into wine, calming the storm at sea and walking on water, multiplying seven loaves of bread in the wilderness to feed 5000 people, healing the blind and the lame, expelling demons, and raising the dead. While many believed in Jesus, many also questioned his signs and refused to believe his claim to be the Messiah sent by the heavenly Father to suffer and die for our sake and for our salvation on the cross of Calvary. Jesus' last and greatest sign during his earthly ministry was his rising from the tomb on the third day after his crucifixion. This sign demonstrated his power to defeat death itself and to give abundant everlasting life to all who believed in him. Jesus told his disciples that his final great sign would be his return in glory at the end of the age. He would come this second time as Judge and Merciful Redeemer to vindicate those who accepted him as Lord and Saviour and to punish those who rejected him. Jesus declared that this last sign at the end of the world would be unmistakable. All would recognize and "see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory" (Luke 21:27). The title which Jesus most often used to describe his Messianic role was the expression "Son of Man". This title comes from the Book of the prophet Daniel, chapter 7. The image of a "Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory" was given in a vision where the prophet Daniel saw heaven opened before the throne of God (Daniel 7:13-14). In this vision God showed Daniel a royal investiture of a human king before God's throne. This king was invested with God's authority and was given power to judge and rule over the whole earth. His reign would last for all ages. The Jews of Jesus' day were looking for a Messiah King who would free them from the oppressive rule of pagan Rome. Many had hoped that Jesus would be their victorious conqueror. They missed, however, the most important sign and reason for the Messiah's first coming - his death on the cross as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the world and his triumphant victory over death and Satan when he rose on the third day. The Lord Jesus is both the "Son of David", the rightful heir and Messiah King of Israel whose reign will endure for all ages (Psalm 89:3-37) - and the "Son of Man", chosen by God as the anointed ruler who will come at the end of the age to establish a universal kingdom of peace, righteousness, and justice for all the nations and peoples of the earth.

Advent season reminds us that we are pilgrims longing for our home with God: Since the early first centuries of the Christian era, the Church has marked special seasons to celebrate the central truths of the faith. The Advent season prior to Christmas and Epiphany reminds us that we are a pilgrim people in this age who long for our true home with God in his heavenly kingdom, and who await with joyful hope the return of the Lord Jesus at the end of the age. No one but the Father in heaven knows the day of the second coming. Yes, we are living in the end times, the close of this present age! The end times begin with the first coming of Jesus Christ (his Incarnation - Christmas) and culminates in his final return on the Day of Judgment. © 2024 Servants of the Word, source: dailyscripture.net, author Don Schwager.



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Email: blackburnsouth@cam.org.au | Web: blackburnsouth.org.au

Next Week Daily Readings 02 - 08 Dec 2024

MONDAY: Is 2:1-5, Ps 121:1-9, Mt 8:5-11.

TUESDAY: Is 11:1-10, Ps 71:1-17, Luke 10:21-24. Saint Francis Xavier, Priest

WEDNESDAY: Is 25:6-10, Ps 22, Mt 15:29-37.

THURSDAY: Is 26:1-6, Ps 117:1-27, Mt 7:21-27.

FRIDAY: Is 29:17-24, Ps 26:1-14, Mt 9:27-31.

SATURDAY: Is 30:19-26, Ps 146:1-6, Mt 9:35-10:1-8. St Ambrose, bishop, doctor

SUNDAY: Baruch 5:1-9, Ps 125, Philippians 1:4-11, Lk 3:1-6. 2nd Sunday of Advent

Is=Isaiah, Mt = Matthew, Ps = Psalms (Taken from ORDO 2024, Liturgy Brisbane, ACBC 2023)

Come, Thou Redeemer of the Earth (Poem by St Ambrose of Milan)

O COME, Redeemer of the earth, and manifest thy virgin-birth.
Let every age in wonder fall: such birth befits the God of all.
Begotten of no human will but of the Spirit, Thou art still
the Word of God in flesh arrayed, the promised fruit to man displayed.
The Virgin's womb that burden gained, its virgin honour still unstained.
The banners there of virtue glow; God in his temple dwells below.
Proceeding from His chamber free that royal home of purity
a giant in twofold substance one, rejoicing now His course to run.
O equal to the Father, Thou! gird on Thy fleshly mantle now;
the weakness of our mortal state with deathless might invigorate.
Thy cradle here shall glitter bright, and darkness breathe a newer light
where endless faith shall shine serene and twilight never intervene.
All praise, eternal Son, to Thee, whose advent sets Thy people free,
whom, with the Father, we adore, and Holy Ghost, for evermore. Amen.



MINISTERS OF THE WORD

Saturday 6pm SL

6pm ST

Sunday 8:30am SL

10:30am ST

5pm ST

30 Nov and 1 Dec

Bernie Brennan

Peggy D'Cruz

Dale Dixon

Alfred Lee & Ryan Yee

Doan Pham & Hoa Doan

7 and 8 Dec

Ian Holmes

Caren Garlick

Kana Chelliah

Trevis Yee & Molly Hemsley

Mai Le & Gia Nghi

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST

Saturday 6pm SL

6pm ST

Sunday 8:30am SL

10:30am ST

5pm ST

Edna Lee

Susan Chen

Margaret Gearon

Daphne Hickman

Hung Dinh

Godfrey Thong

Owen Grealy

Beryl Chelliah

Eleanor Mendes

Hoang Nguyen

SLIDE OPERATORS

Saturday 6pm SL

6pm ST

Sunday 8:30am SL

10:30am ST

5pm ST

Nigel Tauro

Michelle Chen

Paul Tierney

Lee Min Yee

Toan Tran

Volunteer

Michelle Chen

Megan McLean

Manny Gonzalez

Toan Tran

SL WELCOMERS 30/1 DEC

6:00pm Libby Theodore

8.30am Marie Pekish

10.30am Volunteer

SL CHURCH CLEANING

7th Dec. – Megan's Team

Megan McLean, Janette Clark,

Rita Gibb & Maureen Davis

SL CHURCH FLOWERS

No flowers during Advent

ST CHURCH FLOWERS

No flowers during Advent

SL WELCOMERS 7/8 DEC

6:00pm John Ryan

8.30am Margaret Gearon

10.30am Volunteer

ST CHURCH CLEANING

21st Dec @ 8am

Toan Tran, Dao Dinh, Hieu Nguyen,
Dieu Nguyen, Hoang Nguyen, Anico Yee,
Dzung Vu & Trong Nguyen

ST COUNTERS

This week Team 3:

Peter Deayton & Kelvin Chen

Next week Team 4:

Mary Choy & Eileen Tam

WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

All who are sick, especially Bill Goodwin, Bernadine O'Meara, Kit Bing Fan, Kathryn Holmes, Therese O'Donoghue, Stewart Davis, Jerry Donoghue, Mark, Margaret Hayes, Charmaine Bancroft and all those Parishioners unable to be among us this weekend.

All who have died, especially Peter Johnson and Fr Terry Bowman MSC who died recently and all those whose anniversaries occur about this time especially Mary McEwan, Jack Taya, Mario Cardenti, John Wilson Ravela, Margaret Jones, Andrej Kawalevski, Eugena D'Souza, June Dorling, Garry Halourson, Else Rasmussen, Norberto Gonzales, Monica Bone, Josephine Cannestra, Francesco Boccaccio, Maria Cassano, Giosue Iaccarino, Damiano Viola, Gabriel Soosadasan, Gina Berenato, Alan Stewart, Paul Van Raay and Jean Willett. May they rest in peace.

WEEKDAY MASS: For the month of December, there will be **NO weekday Mass at St Luke's on Thursdays**. All parishioners are welcome to attend the 9.15am Mass on Thursdays at St Timothy's.

ADVENT GOSPEL REFLECTION BOOKS FOR SALE: These books have been purchased by the parish from Word on Fire and are available to parishioners for \$5 each from the sacristy of each church.

S.T. CHRISTMAS CARDS & CALENDARS: Christmas Cards and the 2025 Columban Calendars are now on sale at the ST Piety Stall. Packs of 5 cards are \$4.00 and packs of 10 cards are \$8.00. The Columban Calendar is \$9.00.

ADVENT RETREAT AT ST DOMINIC'S - Sat. 14th DEC.: St Dominic's Parish invites everyone for a day-long Advent Retreat focusing on the theme from the Creed- 'God from God, Light from Light, True God from True God'. Commences with 9am Mass and concluding with Adoration, Confession and Benediction from 4-5pm at St Dominic's Parish, 816 Riversdale Road, Camberwell. Cost: \$20.00, includes morning/afternoon tea and lunch. Register at <https://www.trybooking.com/CXCKT>

S.L. ANNUAL CARE GROUP CHRISTMAS HAMPER RAFFLE: Tickets will be on sale this weekend for the St Luke's Care Group Christmas Hamper Raffle. Donations for the hampers can be left in the labelled baskets in the church foyer. The proceeds go to our Care Group who look after funeral refreshments during the year. Thanks in advance for your support.

Resources

MELBOURNE CATHOLIC: [A week of milestones](#)

MAJELLAN MEDIA: [Advent, a time of reflection](#)

The Journey This Week: On The Journey This Week: Fr Mark De Battista says that Advent invites us to prepare for Christ's coming through watchfulness and prayer. Mother Hilda and the enduring influence of parents' simple, sincere acts of faith on their children. Plus, Fr Tony Percy, and two Light Advent Series reflections. The Journey podcast available at www.jcr.org.au.

STEWARDSHIP CORNER:

The First collection is for the priest and retired priests.

The Second collection is for parish expenses

ST: Last week's Presbytery Stewardship Envelopes: \$80

Last week's Church Stewardship Envelopes: \$155

Vietnamese Donation: \$168

SL: Last week's Presbytery Stewardship Envelopes: \$293

Last week's Church Stewardship Envelopes: \$302

Parish Groups & Contacts

Volunteers and Rosters

ST: Corrie Quimbo

SL: Margaret Gearon

Baptism Preparation

ST: Mary Italiano

Vietnamese Community

Hoang Nguyen

Andy Tran

Vietnamese Youth

Theresa Nguyen

Parish Collection Preparers

ST: Barry Silvester &

Michael Kawalevski

Stewardship Counters

SL: Dale Dixon

Steve Kilroe-Smith

Parishes Safeguarding Committee

Theresa Nguyen, Mary Italiano,

Darren McLean

Janette Clark

Parish history

SL: Margaret Gearon

Parish Accountant

Bernard Negline

SL: Hall Hire

Sonya O'Farrell @ the

Parish Office – 9877 2292

Church Sacristan

ST: Margaret King & Hoang Nguyen

SL: Greg Grant

Church Housekeeping

ST: Margaret King

Church Cleaning & Flowers

SL: Megan McLean

Church Linen

SL: Beryl Chelliah

Parish Garden Maintenance

ST: Des Connors, Leo Watson,

Anico Yee & Vietnamese Community

SL: Darren McLean

Parish Choirs

ST: Mary Italiano & Theresa Nguyen

SL: Lina & Maria Mafi

St Vincent de Paul Conference

For Assistance: 1800 305 330

(Monday to Friday 10am-3pm)

Parish Contacts:

ST: John McCoy

SL: Tony Lobo &

Steve Kilroe-Smith

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.

Response to the Psalm: To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! Lord, show us your mercy and love, and grant us your salvation. Alleluia!

Eucharistic Acclamation: Save us, Saviour of the world, for by your Cross and Resurrection you have set us free.

Communion Antiphon: The Lord will bestow his bounty, and our earth shall yield its increase.

[Some Catholic resources on meditation, prayer and scripture readings](#)

- **PRAY AS YOU GO.** (<https://pray-as-you-go.org/daily-meditation>)
- **HALLOW** <https://hallow.com/#1> prayer Catholic App - bible study, reflection, prayer, meditation, music
- **UNIVERSALIS** website and App. <https://universalis.com/index.htm>:

SAINT AMBROSE, bishop, doctor. 07 December

SAINT Ambrose, also known as Ambrose of Milan, stands as a prominent figure in the Christian biography and one of the four original Doctors of the Church. He is revered for his impact on the lives of many, most notably on the conversion and spiritual journey of Saint Augustine.

Ambrose was born around 340 AD in Trier, a region of the Roman Empire, into a noble and Christian family. Raised with a strong Christian influence, he pursued a career in law and, through his intellectual prowess and moral integrity, rose to become the governor of Aemilia-Liguria.

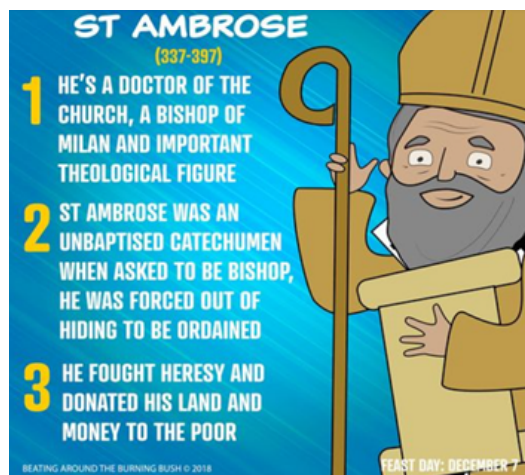
However, God had different plans for Ambrose, as a tumultuous turn of events led to his unexpected election as the Bishop of Milan in 374 AD, despite having no prior clerical experience. As the Bishop of Milan, Ambrose dedicated himself to serving the Church and defending its doctrines against various heresies, especially Arianism which declared that Jesus Christ is not truly divine but a created being. His eloquence and steadfast commitment to orthodoxy earned him the admiration of a young Augustine of Hippo – and many others.

Augustine's encounter with Ambrose proved to be transformative. Ambrose's sermons, characterised by their rhetorical brilliance and profound theological insights, captivated Augustine's intellectual mind and tugged at the strings of his restless heart. Ambrose's influence became a catalyst for Augustine's conversion to Christianity, marking a pivotal moment in the history of the Church.

The most celebrated episode of their interaction occurred during Augustine's garden experience, where he heard a child's voice repeating, "Take up and read." Augustine took this as a divine sign, opened the Scriptures, and read a passage from the Epistle to the Romans. This moment served as the turning point in Augustine's life, leading to his baptism by Ambrose in 387 AD.

Saint Ambrose's impact extended beyond Augustine's conversion; it influenced Augustine's theological development and shaped his later contributions to Christian doctrine. Saint Ambrose's life exemplifies a commitment to truth, intellectual rigor, and pastoral care. His guidance not only fortified the Church against heresy but also played a crucial role in the conversion and spiritual formation of one of its greatest theologians, Saint Augustine. Their intertwined lives showcase the power of mentorship, divine providence, and the transformative impact that one saint can have on another.

"To avoid dissensions we should be ever on our guard, more especially with those who drive us to argue with them, with those who vex and irritate us, and who say things likely to excite us to anger. When we find ourselves in company with quarrelsome, eccentric individuals, people who openly and unblushingly say the most shocking things, difficult to put up with, we should take refuge in silence, and the wisest plan is not to reply to people whose behavior is so preposterous. Those who insult us and treat us contemptuously are anxious for a spiteful and sarcastic reply: the silence we then affect disheartens them, and they cannot avoid showing their vexation; they do all they can to provoke us and to elicit a reply, but the best way to baffle them is to say nothing, refuse to argue with them, and to leave them to chew the cud of their hasty anger. This method of bringing down their pride disarms them, and shows them plainly that we slight and despise them". Saint Ambrose



We are preparing for Jesus

1st Sunday of Advent, Year C



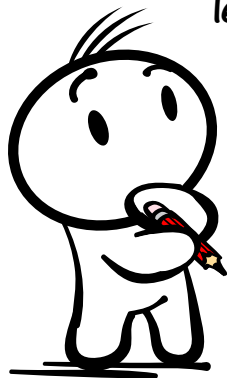
During Advent we can prepare for the arrival of Jesus by helping others. Write down some of the ways you can help family, friends and people in need during Advent.

I can help my family by

I can help my friends by

I can help those in need by

Find the opposite of each word, then rearrange the circled letters to complete the sentence below.



MAN	○	—	—	—	—
UNDER	—	—	—	○	—
OPEN	—	—	○	—	—
SAD	—	—	—	○	—
ALWAYS	—	○	—	—	—

Colour the shapes that contain dots purple.

Fill the other shapes with different colours.

“the Son of Man will be seen, coming in a cloud with great _____ and glory.”

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT – 1 DECEMBER 2024



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.

READINGS AND REFLECTIONS

The annual liturgical cycle ended last week with the cosmic feast of Christ, King of the Universe. There is a similar cosmic sense at the beginning of Advent as we look forward to the end of time and the second coming of Christ in glory.

Purple vestments are not penitential as they are in Lent; here they encourage us to be ready and alert. The spirit of hope and expectation gives Advent its appeal.

Jeremiah encourages the troubled people of his day with God's promise of a new era of justice and peace. Immediately the psalm invites us to renew our trust in the goodness of God. Then Paul writes to the Thessalonians to calm their anxiety about Christ's return. The gospel comes as a bit of a shock with the images of the cosmic upheaval and sudden judgement. But Jesus is not trying to strike fear into our hearts – he assures us with the promise of liberation.

Today's readings invite us to stand tall, take heart, and get on with living "the life that God wants."

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah 33:14–16

See, the days are coming – it is the Lord who speaks – when I am going to fulfil the promise I made to the House of Israel and the House of Judah:

‘In those days and at that time,
I will make a virtuous Branch grow for David,
who shall practise honesty and integrity in the land.
In those days Judah shall be saved
and Israel shall dwell in confidence.
And this is the name the city will be called:
The Lord-our-integrity.’

First Reading

The book of Jeremiah is a mix of material diverse in style, time and origin. Here, Jerusalem has been sacked and the people exiled to Babylon.

In these turbulent times, Jeremiah’s preaching was full of warnings, laments and threats of disaster, but there are also splendid oracles of hope. Today’s short passage is one of these.

It is a message of encouragement for God’s downcast people. The prophet speaks God’s promise to them. A new leader will bring honesty and integrity to the land. Readers should use a style of delivery that is both authoritative and reassuring.

Emphasise all the positive expressions: “fulfil”, “promise”, “virtuous”, “honesty”, “integrity”, “saved” and “confidence”. The tone is buoyant.

This very first reading of the time of Advent strikes a thrilling note of spirited hope that will keep sounding throughout the season. Already we catch glimpses of the birth story of Jesus, son of David. Readers should enjoy launching the season with this prophetic promise.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 24:4–5, 8–9, 10, 14

R. To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.

Lord, make me know your ways.

Lord, teach me your paths.

Make me walk in your truth, and teach me:
for you are God my Saviour. **R.**

The Lord is good and upright.

He shows the path to those who stray,
he guides the humble in the right path;
he teaches his way to the poor. **R.**

His ways are faithfulness and love
for those who keep his covenant and will.
The Lord’s friendship is for those who revere him;
to them he reveals his covenant. **R.**

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 24/25 is the prayer of an individual who pleads for guidance and who lauds the loving God who provides it.

In the psalm response, we hear an echo of the start of the Eucharistic Prayer, when the presider urges the assembly to “Lift up your hearts”, and all reply, “We lift them up to the Lord.” Because God is “faithfulness and love”, we can trust in God’s help.

The psalm reinforces the message of hope proclaimed by Jeremiah. The cantor/reader should announce the psalm and its response slowly and prayerfully. This will prompt the assembly to make of it a prayer of peaceful trust.

Notice the distinct character of the first verse in comparison with the other two. It is a prayer of petition addressed to God. The second and third are reassuring words about God’s goodness. They should strike a tone of grateful wonder. Let your face and voice express this good news.

**A reading from the first letter of St Paul
to the Thessalonians 3:12 – 4:2**

May the Lord be generous in increasing your love and make you love one another and the whole human race as much as we love you. And may he so confirm your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless in the sight of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus Christ comes with all his saints.

Finally, brothers, we urge you and appeal to you in the Lord Jesus to make more and more progress in the kind of life that you are meant to live: the life that God wants, as you learnt from us, and as you are already living it. You have not forgotten the instructions we gave you on the authority of the Lord Jesus.

**A reading from the holy Gospel
according to Luke 21:25–28, 34–36**

Jesus said to his disciples: 'There will be signs in the sun and moon and stars; on earth nations in agony, bewildered by the clamour of the ocean and its waves; men dying of fear as they await what menaces the world, for the powers of heaven will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. When these things begin to take place, stand erect, hold your heads high, because your liberation is near at hand.'

'Watch yourselves, or your hearts will be coarsened with debauchery and drunkenness and the cares of life, and that day will be sprung on you suddenly, like a trap. For it will come down on every living man on the face of the earth. Stay awake, praying at all times for the strength to survive all that is going to happen, and to stand with confidence before the Son of Man.'

Second Reading

When Paul wrote this letter to the community at Thessalonica, he was in Corinth. Earlier he had spent some time with the Thessalonians establishing the Christian community there. Now he is writing as their mentor to encourage them.

Written around the year 51, it is the earliest part of the New Testament. The main concern Paul addressed was the community's worry about those who had already died because they expected Christ's imminent return in glory to complete his saving mission. Paul calls on them to remain calm and quietly live the life that God wants of them so that, when the Lord comes, they will be ready.

The first half of the reading is a prayer of blessing upon the community. Read it like a prayer. Paul is impressed with the life they are living and asks that God will confirm them in holiness.

The rest of the reading is an exhortation for them to keep up the good work. Read it with a little more emphasis, for Paul is making a heartfelt appeal that the Thessalonians grow in the Christian life.

The sentences are quite long and will require careful preparation to get the emphases in the right places. It is a letter: keep it personal in tone. "Brothers" should be read as "brothers and sisters".

Gospel

The title "Son of Man" has been much discussed by Scripture scholars. This enigmatic phrase may have been used by Jesus himself and was perhaps developed by the New Testament writers to refer to Jesus, the man destined for resurrection and a second coming in glory.

The reading begins with fearsome signs of upheaval. There is agony, fear, bewilderment. The world will be shaken. It is the end of the world when Christ will come again. The vivid descriptions highlight the power of Christ at his return.

Luke's overall interest in this passage is in how Jesus' disciples should live in the interval between now and the end time. The disciples must stay awake and pray for strength. And then they will be able to stand with confidence in the presence of the Lord.

The time of trauma will end with great dignity. It is a liberation! This sentence should be given a certain majesty in its proclamation to contrast with the turmoil of the opening lines. The overall message is one of hope and expectation.

The colourful imagery invites dramatic (though not melodramatic) declamation but the strongest emphasis should be on the positive declarations. The word "men" in the first paragraph could be read as "people" and the word "man" in the second could become "person".

CONCLUDING PRAYER

Solemn Blessing for Advent

May the almighty and merciful God,
by whose grace we have placed our faith
in the First Coming of his Only Begotten Son
and yearn for his coming again
sanctify us by the radiance of Christ's Advent
and enrich us with his blessing.

Amen.

As we run the race of this present life,
may he make us firm in faith,
joyful in hope and active in charity.

Amen.

So that, rejoicing now with devotion
at the Redeemer's coming in the flesh,
we may be endowed with the rich reward of eternal life
when he comes again in majesty.

Amen.

And may the blessing of almighty God,
the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
come down on us and remain with us for ever.

Amen.

(Adapted from the Solemn Blessing for Advent, *The Roman Missal* p. 709)

An alternative translation of the scripture readings is given here from the New Revised Standard Version (NRSV). This may be particularly useful for those in parishes which use the NRSV Lectionary.

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

FIRST READING (NRSV)

A reading from the book of the prophet Jeremiah 33:14–16

The days are surely coming, says the Lord,
when I will fulfil the promise
I made to the house of Israel
and the house of Judah.

In those days and at that time
I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David;
and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land.

In those days Judah will be saved
and Jerusalem will live in safety.
And this is the name by which it will be called:
"The Lord is our righteousness."

RESPONSORIAL PSALM (NRSV)

Psalm 25.4-5a, 8-9, 10+14 (R.1b)

R. To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.

Make me to know your ways, O Lord,
teach me your paths.
Lead me in your truth and teach me, for
you are the God of my salvation. **R.**

Good and upright is the Lord,
therefore he instructs sinners in the way.
He leads the humble in what is right,
and teaches the humble his way. **R.**

All the paths of the Lord are steadfast love and faithfulness,
for those who keep his covenant and his decrees.
The friendship of the Lord is for those who fear him,
and he makes his covenant known to them. **R.**

SECOND READING (NRSV)

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Thessalonians 3:12 – 4:2

Beloved:

May the Lord make you increase
and abound in love for one another and for all,
just as we abound in love for you.
And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness
that you may be blameless before our God and Father
at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

Finally, brothers and sisters,
we ask and urge you in the Lord Jesus that,
as you learned from us how you ought to live and to please God,
as, in fact, you are doing,
you should do so more and more.
For you know what instructions we gave you through the Lord Jesus.

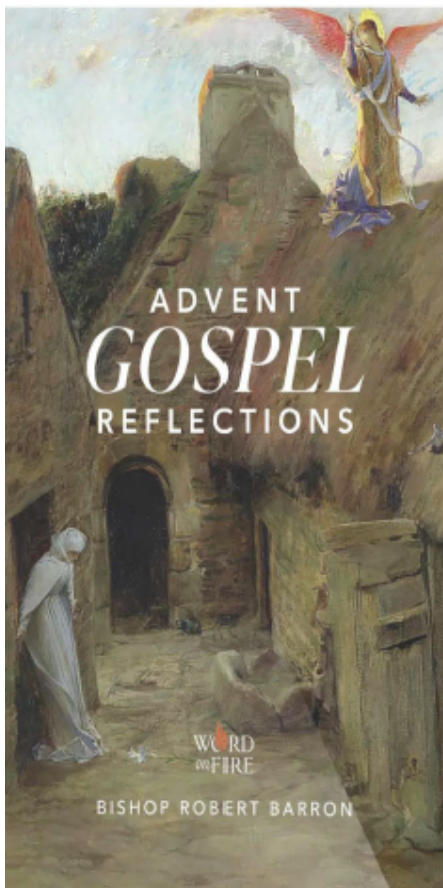
GOSPEL (NRSV)

A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke 21:25–28, 34–36

Jesus spoke to his disciples about his return in glory.
"There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars
and on the earth distress among nations
confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves.
People will faint from fear and foreboding
of what is coming upon the world,
for the powers of the heavens will be shaken.

"Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud'
with power and great glory.
Now when these things begin to take place,
stand up and raise your heads,
because your redemption is drawing near.

"Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down
with dissipation and drunkenness
and the worries of this life,
and that day catch you unexpectedly, like a trap.
For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth.
Be alert at all times,
praying that you may have the strength
to escape all these things that will take place,
and to stand before the Son of Man."



For Christians, Advent is not meant to be a time of passive waiting, but rather of hopeful preparation for the coming of the Lord. In this devotional booklet, Bishop Robert Barron invites readers to enter more deeply into the prayerful nature of the season. Advent Gospel Reflections features the full Gospel reading for each day of Advent, a daily reflection from Bishop Barron, space for journaling and answering reflection questions, and more! Beautiful, practical, and affordable, this booklet is ideal for both individual meditation and group study on a family or parish level.

What You'll Find Inside:

- An introduction from Bishop Barron
- The full Gospel reading for each day of Advent
- A daily reflection from Bishop Barron
- Questions for further discussion and reflection
- Space for journaling and answering reflection questions
- The Rosary prayers with sacred artworks depicting the Joyful Mysteries
- Reflections on each of the Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary

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Saturday, 14th December 2024

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St Dominic's Parish

816 Riversdale Road, Camberwell

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