

# FIRST WEEK OF ADVENT YEAR A

## Welcome the Christ in our past.

### Reflection

We all are in continual need of spiritual preparation: do you feel that you are going to be the one who is taken or the one who is left?

What does it mean for you to stand ready?

What actions do you need to do to be ready for Christ's coming?

### Final Prayer

Lord God, when we look back we see how you have been with us everyday.

We thank and praise you Lord for being our guide and support.

May we always be grateful for all you have given to us and be willing to share our faith with those who are part of our lives.

Amen.



### Weekly challenge.

Is there someone from your past with whom you have lost touch?

Maybe it is time to write, call, or speak to them.

Welcome them back into your life.

On the teapot (on the cover of this program) is a bee, a symbol found in church art and architecture. Because bees work so unceasingly for the greater good of the others in the hive, they are a symbol of Catholics working for the greater good of the Church. Lavender is also on the teapot and cups, lavender perfume soothes and comforts, bringing peace.

**A cup of tea is the way we offer hospitality to others; it says "welcome, come in, join us, have a cuppa".**

**When we welcome others, as Christ does, we reflect the welcome Christ gives to all who seek him.**

### Prayer Focus

- \* Bible.
- \* A copy of the picture on the cover of the Advent program and/or a teapot and cup.
- \* Lavender flowers fresh or dried.
- \* The first Advent candle, can be lavender in colour.

### Prayer for lighting candle

Let us ask God to help us to welcome his son Jesus Christ with open hearts . (Light the first candle.)  
Jesus, you are the light of the world, may we follow your loving example and receive and accept others.

Amen.



### **First Reading Isaiah 2:-1-5**

The people of the Old Testament saw mountains and high places as being closer to God: a mountain was the place where the Ten Commandments were given to the people. Moses and the chosen people saw the promised land from a mountain. You can see a long way from the top of a high place; you can see friend and foe coming. People had to raise their eyes to see the top of a mountain as they would look up to one in authority and raise their eyes to the Lord. So when Isaiah used the term mountain, his audience understood the significance of a high place.

The Prophet tells the people that the God who dwells in a high place has the ability to change the whole of society, bringing about peace and joy, removing the need for war and strife.

**WE LIFT OUR EYES TO THE LORD,  
WHO MADE HEAVEN AND EARTH.**

### **Reflection on the Reading**

Where for us are the places that God dwells?  
When we look at today's world, in which way do you feel society needs to walk in "God's path"?



### **Psalm 121**

A song sung by pilgrims as they entered into Jerusalem.  
There is great joy for them as they go to meet their God.

**Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.**

### **Second Reading Romans 13. 11-14**

To put on the armour of self truth.

Welcome the daylight of understanding into your life.  
Paul with an assigned Roman soldier to guard him, uses the symbols of the differing parts of the soldier's costume to highlight the relationship we have with God.

### **Reflection on the Reading**

What are the ways that God helps you to live as a fully committed Christian?

How do you apply the protection (armour) that comes from Christ in your life?

### **Introduction to the Gospel**

*Jesus uses images from the Old Testament to warn the Jews of what will happen at the end of time. They are to be ready as we are to be, staying awake both physically and spiritually, because the coming of the "Son of Man" will be unexpected. He makes it clear that those who are prepared will be with him, the others will be left behind.*

### **Gospel Acclamation**

**Lord, show us your mercy and love, and grant us your salvation.**

### **Gospel Reading Matthew 24: 37-44**

Jesus said to his disciples: 'As it was in Noah's day, so will it be when the Son of Man comes. For in those days before the flood, people were eating, drinking, taking wives, taking husbands, right up to the day Noah went into the ark, and they suspected nothing till the flood came and swept all away. It will be like this when the Son of Man comes. Then of two men in the fields, one is taken, one left; of two women at the millstone grinding, one is taken, one left.'

'So, stay awake, because you do not know the day, when your master is coming. You may be quite sure of this, that if the house holder had known at what time of the night the burglar would come, he would have stayed awake and would not have allowed anyone to break through the wall of his house. Therefore, you too must stand ready because the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.