

## Saints Days this Week... 23<sup>rd</sup> - 30<sup>th</sup> November

**SATURDAY – ST. ANDREW** Was born at Bethsaida (Galilee). He was a fisherman and perhaps a disciple of John the Baptist. He introduces his brother Simon Peter, to Jesus and became one of the first to follow Christ. He is mentioned a couple of times in the Gospels, for example, in introducing some gentiles to Jesus. Widely venerated since ancient times, he is remembered as one of the twelve who bore witness to the life, death and resurrection of Jesus.

### PARISH PRAYER GROUPS AND PRAYER TIMES

**Monday Exposition & Rosary** ~ St Wilfrid's, 7.30–8.30pm

**St Bede's Prayer Group** ~ Meets in church, Tuesday 7.30–9.00pm

**Exposition & Reconciliation** ~ Saturday at St Wilfrid's 11.00-11.50am

### **\*\*\* Interactive online Advent Calendar \*\*\***

Access a great resource throughout Advent: [cafod.org.uk](http://cafod.org.uk)>  
**Advent Calendar** - Daily Scripture Readings, Reflections, Prayers and an Action to undertake. Not to be missed!

### Prayer In Preparation for the General Election

*Lord God, as we prepare for the General Election, we seek to better understand the issues and concerns that confront our Country, and how the Gospel compels us to respond as faithful citizens in our community.*

*We ask for eyes that are free from blindness so that we might see each other as brothers and sisters, one and equal in dignity, especially those who are victims of abuse and violence, deceit and poverty.*

*We ask for ears that will hear the cries of children unborn and those abandoned, Men and women oppressed because of race or creed, religion or gender.*

*We ask for minds and hearts that are open to hearing the voice of leaders who will bring us closer to your Kingdom. We pray for discernment so that we may choose leaders who hear your Word, live your love, and keep in the ways of your truth as they follow in the steps of Jesus, the Lord, and guide us to your Kingdom of justice and peace.*

Parish: [www.stjohnvianney.co.uk](http://www.stjohnvianney.co.uk)

# Preparing to hear God's word...

**Next Sunday's Readings:**  
*First Sunday Of Advent. YrA*  
**1<sup>st</sup> December 2019**



Advent is a rich season when we prepare not just for Christmas, when Christ's first coming to us is remembered; but when we also direct our minds and hearts to await Christ's Second Coming at the end of time. It is the Lord's 'Second Coming' that is at the centre of this Sunday's readings, the First Sunday of Advent.

In the **First Reading**, Isaiah has a vision of the end times, of all nations ascending the mount to the Temple of the Lord

**Psalm :121** *I rejoiced when I heard them say: 'Let us go to God's house.'*

In the **Second Reading** : (Romans 13: 11-14) Paul's message, is that we should live in the consciousness of the coming light, purging ourselves of all dark actions and motives which we are ashamed to allow to be seen in the light of Christ's day. We are to live, therefore, motivated by the prospect of Christ's return.

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

The Vision of Isaiah son of Amoz concerning Judah and Jerusalem. In the days to come the mountain of the Temple of the Lord shall tower above the mountains and be lifted higher than the hills. All the nations will stream to it, peoples without number will come to it; and they will say: 'Come let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the temple of the God of Jacob that he may teach us his ways so that we may walk in his paths; since the Law will go out from Zion, and the oracle of the Lord from Jerusalem. He will wield authority over the nations and adjudicate between many peoples; these will hammer their swords into ploughshares, their spears into sickles. Nation will not lift sword against nation, there will be no more training for war. O House of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord.

As I settle to pray, I ask the Lord that I may open to His word today.

Each year, the season of Advent is enriched with readings from the Prophet Isaiah. His ministry began in Jerusalem in 740 B.C., 'the year King Uzziah died'. Israel and Judah were living under the threat of Assyrian invasion and there was pressure on them to enter into a military alliance with their neighbours. Isaiah's mission was to announce the fall of Israel and Judah, as the due punishment for the whole nation's unfaithfulness. However, God would not abandon them. Isaiah foretells a future age in which a remnant of the people will survive to rebuild peace and justice under a future descendant of David. This theme is picked up in today's reading, which comes early on in his work. Isaiah has accused Judah of unfaithfulness and hypocrisy and then, whilst at prayer, he has this prophetic vision of the end times. He sees all nations gathering in Jerusalem to worship the Lord - the Lord God will reign over all and war will be no more.

***What can I do this Advent to create peace... in my life,  
in my family, in the world?***

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

Jesus said to his disciples, 'As it was in Noah's day, so it will 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 them all away. It will be like this when the Son of Man comes. Then 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 householder had known at what time of 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 must stay ready because the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.'

I come to my place of prayer. I gently become aware of God's presence. When I am ready, I slowly read and re-read the Gospel.

Today's Gospel from Matthew is at the very heart of Advent. Jesus is teaching that his coming cannot be doubted and he insists that it will be completely unexpected. Therefore, we must be constantly living in a state of watchfulness, ready to greet him when he comes again. Throughout the gospels, Jesus affirms that the kingdom of God is already present in his person, and yet it is still to come. Through his life, death and resurrection, all things have been fulfilled and yet, they are not yet manifest. We are called to 'Stay Awake' in a state of watchfulness. 'This vigilance is not a vague disposition of the soul. It is, rather, an active force, a dynamic prompting that makes one act, always and everywhere, with full reason. It is a question of faithfully doing one's work, of assuming our daily responsibilities with the conviction that we will not be surprised by the unforeseen arrival of the Lord'. *(Days of the Lord Advent)*

***Do I live each day in the Lord's presence?***

