

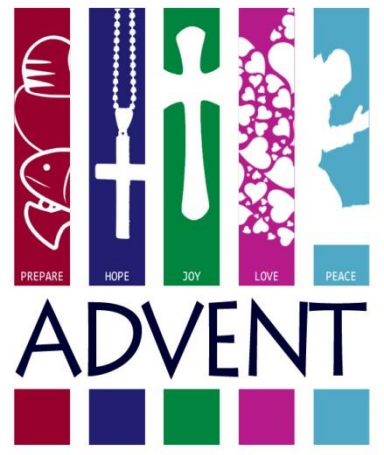


**This Sunday's Gospel Reading**  
**1st Sunday in Advent Year A**  
**(Matthew 24: 37-44)**

**As were the days of Noah, so will be the coming of the Son of man. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark, and they did not know until the flood came and swept them all away, so will be the coming of the Son of man. Then two men will be in the field; one is taken and one is left. Two women will be grinding at the mill; one is taken and one is left. Watch therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But know this, that if the householder had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have watched and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready; for the Son of man is coming at an hour you do not expect.**



**This is the Gospel of the Lord**



# Prayer One

## The Sign of the Cross

Let us remember that everything we do is  
In the name of the Father, and of  
the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

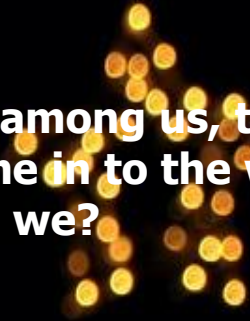


***Reflection: This week is the start of advent and, with it, the beginning of a new year in the life of the Church. At the end of Advent we celebrate the season of Christmas.***



**In the Church a time of celebration normally follows a short time of preparation, so that we can ask ourselves if we're ready for everything that the celebration means.**

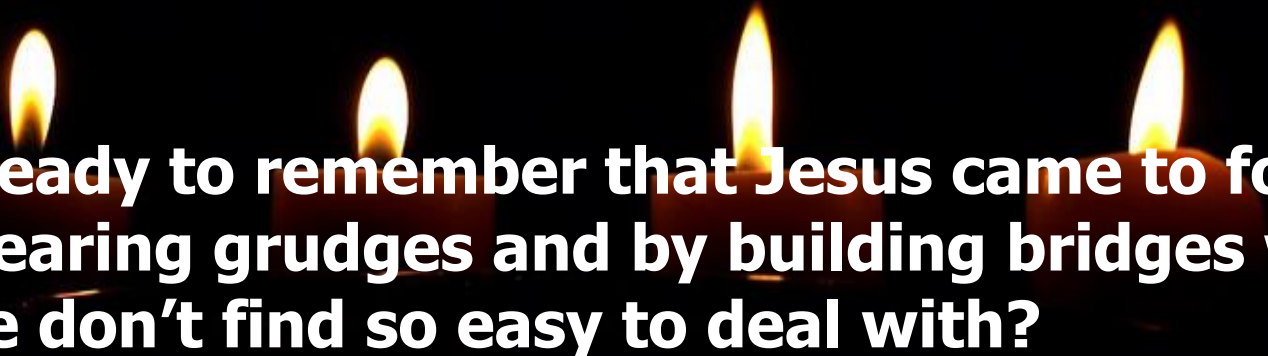
**In advent we remember that Jesus came into our world to be among us, to teach us, to heal us and to die for our salvation. But when Jesus came in to the world, most people weren't ready to receive him, so... how ready are we?**

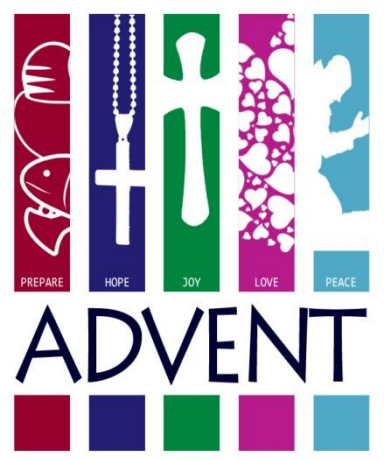


**Are we ready to receive the love of Christ, by loving those around us?**

**Are we ready to remember that Jesus walked among us, by spending time with others and coming to their aid?**

**Are we ready to remember that Jesus came to forgive, by not bearing grudges and by building bridges with those we don't find so easy to deal with?**





# Final Prayer



**Loving Father,**

**Help us to remember that Jesus came in to our world so that we might become like him: loving, king and full of the presence of God. As we begin this season of Advent, help us to strip away everything that stands in our way.**

**We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.**



# Prayer Two

## The Sign of the Cross

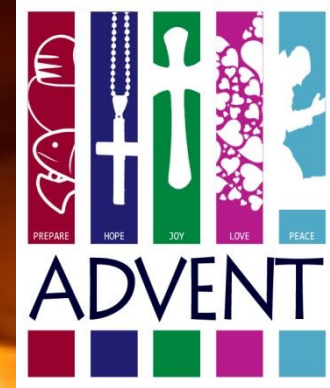
**Let us remember that everything we do is  
In the name of the Father, and of  
the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen**

### *Reflection*

*Our theme this week is Advent, and it's a time to watch and wait. Have you ever missed something really important just because you weren't concentrating hard enough?*



**There is nothing worse than when we are talking to somebody and we suddenly realise that they're not paying attention to us. It makes us feel deflated and unimportant. It makes us feel as though we're not that important to the other person.**



**The idea of watching and being ready is associated with Advent because it is a time when we prepare for the coming of Christ. We remember the time when Mary and Joseph were expecting the birth of the Baby Jesus, and we also remember the fact that we are waiting for Christ to one day return to us.**

**We are asked to stay awake as we do not know the hour that Christ will return. This doesn't mean that we can't sleep or relax. Rather, what it means is that we need to be ready by making sure that we are living good lives and being the best people that we possibly can be.**

## **Final Prayer:**

**Help us to remember that we have responsibilities as Christians. We are called to live in a good way and to be kind, loving, caring people.**

**It's not always easy, and we need your help. Give us the grace and the strength to always do the right thing.**

**In the name of the Father and of the Son...**





# Prayer Three

## The Sign of the Cross

Let us remember that everything we do is  
In the name of the Father, and of  
the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen



### *Reflection*

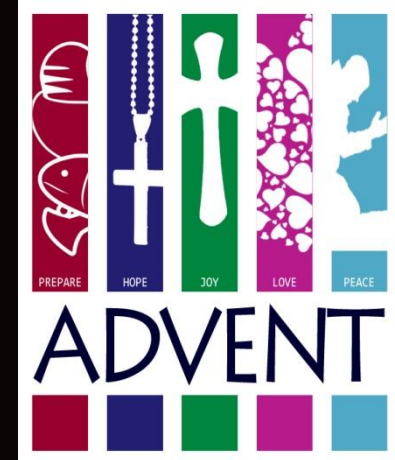
*This is the first week of the Season of Advent. In Catholic terms, this is the New Year... The start of a brilliant journey.*



**During Advent we get to restart the story of our faith. From now until Pentecost, we celebrate and remember the birth of Jesus, his life, his death, his resurrection, the coming of the Holy Spirit and pretty much everything in between.**

**The story of our faith is an amazing one. Each part of it teaches us something and each part of it needs to be remembered and cherished. That's why the Church makes us replay it again every year.**

**During Advent we begin the Church's year by reminding ourselves of the things that happened before the birth of Christ.**



# Final Prayer



**Loving Father,**

**As we hear the stories of our faith once again, help us to remember that they are true and that they are still speaking to us today.**

**Help us to be grateful for the things that they teach us.**

**In the name of the Father and of the Son...**



# Final Thought...



Seeing is believing, but sometimes the most real things in the world are the things we can't see. – the Polar Express

*Next weeks theme: **Mary***