



28 November 2021
FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT



INTRODUCTION:

At Advent we prepare for the coming of Christ at Christmas, but it also reminds us of the coming of Christ again. Advent tells us that we Christians must bring God's reign in our own lives in such a way that we are salt in this sorry society and bring about change which makes a real difference. We must not become fatigued, we prepare inwardly and spiritually, but if that means anything it is demonstrated visibly in our changed lives. This Advent we are challenged not to blame others, but instead to recognise that the change must come from us as we live the new lives of the Kingdom.

READINGS:

First Reading: Jer 33:14-16
Responsorial Psalm: Ps 25:4-5ab,8-9,10,14
Second Reading: 1 Thess 3:12-4:2
Gospel: Lk 21:25-28,34-36

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL:

CELEBRANT: As we usher in the season of Advent in preparation for the coming of Jesus into our hearts at Christmas, let us humbly place our needs before God.

Our response is: **HEAR OUR PRAYER O LORD.**

1. For our Holy Father, the Bishops, Clergy and Religious; that they may guide the faithful in witnessing to the love of God in Christ through their words and actions... we pray to the Lord...
2. For political leaders; that their plans and programmes may always be directed towards the well-being of the poor, the marginalised, the depressed and those struggling to enjoy the basic necessities of life... we pray to the Lord...
3. For each one of us; that this time of grace may be spent in prayer and service of those in need... we pray to the Lord...
4. For the preparations of the Synod; that the voices of the people may be listened to while preparing the way for the Church to encourage communion and participation... we pray to the Lord...
5. For vocations to the priesthood and the religious life; that families may set the example by praying for and encouraging their children to consider serving in the vineyard of the Lord... we pray to the Lord...

CELEBRANT: To you O Lord we have lifted our souls in prayer and in need, seeking Your will in our lives. We are grateful to you for listening to the prayers we make with faith in You and in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF FROM THE CORONA VIRUS:

Almighty and merciful God, who show Your love to all creation everywhere, hear graciously the prayers we make for all those affected by the Corona Virus in various parts of the world.

We come before You asking for an efficacious control of the outbreak, for a healing of those affected, for the victims and their families.

We thank You for blessing the efforts of our research scientists working on the development of a vaccine. We pray that these vaccines will be effective in combating the virus and its mutants, and in controlling the spread of the pandemic. We pray that the vaccine be available for all our people even the poor and those in rural areas.

We pray for doctors, nurses and health workers who are in the frontline of this battle, that they be kept safe and have the strength and courage to continue their heroic efforts.

We pray for the Government and health authorities that they take appropriate steps for the good of the people. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.