



**10 DECEMBER 2023**  
**SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT -B**



**Introduction:** The readings on the second Sunday of Advent, in metaphorically speaking of ‘preparing the way’ and ‘making straight the path’, are implying that we need to remove from our lives anything that stand in the way of us encountering the Lord. And since the ‘day of the Lord’ (which is the time when we will stand face to face with our Maker), will come like a thief in the night (implying the uncertainty of its arrival), we need to begin ‘preparing the way’ now!

**Readings:**

First Reading:	Is 40:1-5, 9-11
Responsorial Psalm:	Ps 84: 9-14
Second Reading:	2 Peter 3:8-15
Gospel:	Mk 1:1-8

**Celebrant:** Father, we come before You with a humble and contrite spirit, beseeching Your help in this our earthly pilgrimage, so that we may always be ready for the ‘day of the Lord’.

**Our response is: *Hear our prayer O Lord***

For Pope Francis, our Bishops, Priests and Religious – that like the prophets of old, they may be the voice that leads the faithful to undergo a change of heart and prepare for the coming of the Lord *...(brief silent pause)...* we pray to the Lord.

For world leaders – that their promises of a better tomorrow may be visible in their works of development for all citizens and the upliftment especially of the less fortunate *...(brief silent pause)...* we pray to the Lord.

For those who have given up and lost the desire to live because of serious illnesses, financial crisis, unemployment, or various other reasons – that they may be renewed in hope as they receive God’s consolation and help through those who reach out to them *...(brief silent pause)...* we pray to the Lord.

For each of us – that we may come to realise that God’s apparent silence at times is actually His patience, in the hope that we will change from the folly of our ways *...(brief silent pause)...* we pray to the Lord.

For our personal intentions and for those who have asked us to pray for them, we pray in silence *... (longer silent pause)...* we pray to the Lord.

**Celebrant:** Father, open our eyes to anything that has become an obstacle to us experiencing Your presence in our lives, that we may straighten our lives to walk along the path that leads to You. We ask this through Christ our Lord ... Amen.