

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT - YEAR C

29th November 2009

GOSPEL: Luke 21: 25-28, 34-36

We begin this new church year by remembering the end - that someday earth will pass away; someday each of us will die and meet the Lord Jesus.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

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

Alleluia!

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

The Lord will shower his gifts, and our land will yield its fruit.

FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK

Monday 30th November	St Andrew, apostle
Thursday 3rd December	Francis Xavier, priest
Friday 4th December	First Friday, Sacred Heart
Saturday 5th December	First Saturday, Fatima

THE END, YOUR LIFE, MY LIFE

Two weeks ago, on the 33rd Sunday of Ordinary Time, the readings from Mark spoke of the end times. The words painted an image of celestial cataclysm that ends with the coming of Jesus in clouds of glory.

Today's Gospel reading is the parallel version described in the Gospel of Luke. In both readings the message leaves us hope that Jesus will come and save us from the midst of this chaos.

Our personal "end time" will come when death claims our mortal bodies. The visions of these two Gospels could easily describe our death. The sun and stars will be darkened by our own closing eyelids, the world we live in will slip away, the chaos and despair of losing life may roar in our ears as Luke described, and we may faint from fear. But then Jesus will come to us as Luke wrote: "Then the Son of Man will appear, coming in a cloud with great power and glory." And in our new life we will do as the Gospel says: "Stand up and raise your heads, because your salvation is near."

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

My friends, as we prepare for the great feast of Christmas, let us pray.

That the testimony of love offered by the saints may fortify Christians in their devotion to God and their neighbour, imitating Christ who came to serve and not to be served

Lord hear us. Lord hear our prayer.

That the Christian communities of Asia, contemplating the face of Christ, may know how to find the most suitable ways to announce Him, in full faithfulness to the Gospel, to the people of that vast continent so rich in culture and ancient forms of spirituality

Lord hear us. Lord hear our prayer.

That those with food to share will feed those with nothing to spare

Lord hear us. Lord hear our prayer

That we are faithful to our friends and welcoming to the stranger

Lord hear us. Lord hear our prayer

That children will be nurtured in loving, caring families and formed in the faith as they face life's difficulties

Lord hear us. Lord hear our prayer

That the sick will be made well, the suffering encouraged and the dying prepared for heaven remembering especially Liam O'Brien, Margaret Corrigan, Patrick Larkin, Fr Bob Leaver, Andy & Marie Carter, Catherine Flannery, Dawn Salmon, Tom Ryan, Audrey Willis, Kathy Dyball, Eileen Foley, Robert Driscoll, Russell Baude, Mat Talbot, Eileen Carroll, Lyle Jansen, Maureen Burke, Gary McLinden, Paul Trotman, Lillian Roberts, Norm & Joan McLaurin, Kevin Hynes, Vin Griffiths, Juanita Jervois, Norina Spinelli, Bishop Brennan, Nancy Gibson, Rob Deller, Mary McNamara, Ria Stumpe, James Williams, Monette Fealy, Annette Hoffman, Lionel Jansen, John McManus, Peter Cairns, Allan Dedrauth, Melva McDonald, Kristi Cassandra, Luke Heffernan, Rosel Free, Reece Valta, Yela Jankovic, Karl Grlica, Alvin Horn, Kate Cox, Patricia Hamill, Zoltan Tar, Catherine Mead, Will Carland, Maureen Fields, Patricia Barber, Ian Walters, Des O'Meara, Ben Harper, Bess Harris, Patricia Bourke, Effie Ray, Joseph Doran, Nicholas Hetherington, Sandra Varrasso and Marie Cook.

Lord hear us. Lord hear our prayer

We remember our loved ones who have died especially Gerald Gibbs, Gerald Dick, Joan Wilkinson, Brock Choate, Katarina Horvat, Vicki Bacash and Alf O'Connor. Gerald Dick, Joan Wilkinson, Brock Choate, Katarina Horvat, Vicki Bacash, Alf O'Connor and all our dear ones deceased.

Anniversaries:

Brian Tutt and all those whose anniversaries occur now.

And Also:

Anne McEachern, Bernedette Bower, Maria Kocholova, Bert Scammell and all our dear ones deceased.

Lord hear us Lord hear our prayer.

Loving God, you sent us the Lord Jesus to show us the way to you. Make ready our hearts and fill us with your presence so that we may be Christ-bearers to this waiting, needy world. We pray always in Jesus' name.

AMEN

BAPTISMS

Last weekend we welcomed into God's Church the following newly baptised:

CHLOE KEEPING

ALBURY PARISHES EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

Holy Spirit Church, Lavington, Friday 4th December from 6.00pm - 10.00pm.

Will you not watch one hour with me.

YOUTH EXPO

Please keep the young people attending Youth Expo this weekend in your prayers.

CHRISTMAS NATIVITY PLAY AND CAROLS

St Patrick's Parish Children's Christmas Nativity Play and carols will be held on Friday 18th December at 6.00pm sharp. Drinks, nibbles and a visit from Santa will follow. Flyer with rehearsal dates and information are at the rear of the church.

MASS WITH SACRAMENT OF ANOINTING THE SICK

At St Patrick's Church, Albury, on Thursday 3rd November at 10.30am.

Confessions 10.00-10.30am.

HOLY HOUR, EXPOSITION WITH ROSARY AND BENEDICTION

Wednesday 2nd December from 5.30-6.30pm in St Patrick's Church
prayer in reparation of sins against and a greater respect of all human life.

ST PATRICK'S PARISH COUNCIL

Five new members are required to join St Patrick's Parish Council. Nominations close this weekend, 28th November. Nomination forms should be placed in the white voting box at the back of the church or lodged at the presbytery front door by 9.00pm Sunday evening. Voting Sunday 6th December.

ADVENT PRAYER - AN INVITATION

Advent is marked by prayer. Advent prayer is the prayer of humble love and commitment, the prayer of preparation in faith, in hope, in trust. Advent prayer extends beyond ourselves to all in need of our 'God-Who-Comes'. St Patrick's parish invites you to join us for Advent Prayer each Tuesday in Advent - 1st, 8th, 15th and 22nd December at 10.00-11.00am and 7.00-8.00pm at Mary MacKillop Centre (come to side door of St Patrick's Church nearest the Slattery Centre and we will meet you there.) There is no cost however, we do need to ensure we have enough booklets and seating so please let us know if you will be coming.

RSVP to Sr Anne: Ph/fax 6021 7427

or email: mmckcentre@bigpond.com

ST VINCENT DE PAUL

Christmas cards are available at the church door - \$6.00 per pack of ten different cards. Columban Calendars are now available at \$7.00 each.

SNIPPET

For his faithful followers, he is the Door through which we are brought to that "face-to-face" vision of God from which limitless, full and definitive happiness flows. (Benedict XVI)