



THE PARISH OF ST. LUKE

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Dear Friends:

Advent is a special time of the year. In this season, God wants to speak to us. Advent is a gift from God and the church. The word Advent from Latin means “coming” or “arrival”, especially of a king or pagan god. The violet in the vestments, candles and banners is the colour of clothing royalty wore in Jesus’ day. It was expensive. The colour symbolized hope. Advent is a time of expectant, joyful hope as we await our coming king. Jesus is the messiah from the tribe of Judah, in the line of King David. He is the Saviour of the world; the light of the world, shining his light into the darkness of the world.

Besides joy and hope, violet is a somewhat sad, penitential colour. So Advent is also a time for preparing ourselves spiritually for Christ’s coming. In Advent we will celebrate his first coming as a baby, his second coming at our death or the world’s end (whichever comes first) in judgment and his coming to us at every Mass through God’s Word and the Eucharist.

Jesus will return the same way he left. Our response is faith and hope in God. We believe he’s in control of history and will end it all. We need to be watchful and ready. We don’t know the day or the hour he’ll return. We can’t be found asleep, unaware, unprepared like the five foolish virgins who lacked oil for their lamps. When the bridegroom came, they were locked out of the wedding feast. We need more of the Holy Spirit to live God centred lives as children of the light.

How should we wait and get ready for Christ’s coming? To be ready is walking in faith, hope, and love in a close personal relationship with God. God especially wants from us our love. God so loved the world he sent his only son to take human flesh, to live, suffer, die, rise, and save us. As you prepare for Christ’s return, seek a deeper love, thanking him for all he’s done for you. We’re created to love God and each other. We first love God by putting him first in our lives, to make our relationship with God stronger by spending more time in prayer, devotions, repenting, confessing, and turning from our sins, devoutly receiving the Eucharist. We then show our love for others, producing good works of physical and spiritual acts of love and care for others.

To be ready is looking forward to hear Jesus say: “well-done, good and faithful servant, take the place God has prepared for you.” Let’s be ready so we can pray with joyful hope: “Come, Lord Jesus.” We’ll rise to enjoy the full presence of the Lord, the presence of the saints and loved ones in our heavenly home. God bless you all.

Yours in Christ,

Father Edwin