



Advent Chant

Composer: Phil Porter

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Twilight then darkness, night falls and candles glow
gently surrounding us a new birth of hope.
Watching, waiting, awakening a new birth of hope.

REFLECTION

by Dianne Bergant CSA

We may be accustomed to think of Advent as the time when we prepare for the coming of God, but the readings also train our attention on our own journey to God. We see this most clearly in this first Sunday with readings that tell us the identity of the pilgrims, the destination toward which they travel, and the way of life that is required of them on their journey. As the Vatican Council has proclaimed: We are a pilgrim people.

Both the reading from Isaiah and the psalm response speak of the pilgrimage to the mountain of the Lord, the place where God can be found. Although the psalm speaks about Jerusalem and refers to the temple there, the broader theological significance of the mountain, the city and the temple is one and the same. They represent the presence of God in our midst, and this presence is the goal of our striving. There are clear directions about how we are to live while we are on this pilgrimage to God. In Isaiah we learn that we must put away our instruments of violence and hatred, our swords and our spears. Lest we pick them up again, we are told to convert them into life-producing implements, into ploughs and pruning hooks. Paul exhorts us to put away our deeds of darkness and self-indulgence and to clothe ourselves instead in the deeds of Jesus Christ. Matthew points out the need for alertness, attentiveness, a disposition that is open to a change of heart. from Liturgyhelp.com

Advent Litany

Composer: Bernadette Farrell

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Word of justice, Alleluia,
come to dwell here. Maranatha!
Word of mercy, Alleluia,
live among us, Maranatha!
Word of power, Alleluia,
live within us, Maranatha!
Word of freedom, Alleluia,
save your people, Maranatha!

Word of healing, Alleluia,
heal our sorrow, Maranatha!
Word of comfort, Alleluia,
bring us hope now, Maranatha!
Word of gladness, Alleluia,
fill our hearts now, Maranatha!
Word of wisdom, Alleluia,
Come renew us, Maranatha!

Word we long for, Alleluia!
Word we thirst for, Maranatha!
Key of David, Alleluia!
Son of Mary, Maranatha!
Promised Saviour, Alleluia!
True Messiah, Maranatha!
Cry of prophets, Alleluia!
Hope of ages, Maranatha!

Light of nations, Alleluia!
Light in darkness, Maranatha!
Risen Saviour, Alleluia!
Lord of glory, Maranatha!
You we long for, Alleluia!
You we thirst for, Maranatha!
Here among us, Alleluia!
Living in us, Maranatha!

CATHOLIC OUTLOOK

- *Bishop's Pastoral Letter for Advent →
- *New clergy appointments
- * Christmas Mass times across the Diocese
- *WYD Cross & Icon return:
Mt Schoenstatt 15-16 Dec
- * Singing group The Heartbeats - an 'Aussie Partridge Family'

In this month's CATHOLIC WEEKLY

- * Bishops, Church agencies welcome new Government
- *Kamahl sings Faith of Our Fathers – new CD
- *Schools urged to redouble efforts towards reconciliation
- *First edition of World Youth Day News – an 8-page liftout
- *How an Irish drunk became a beacon of truth, and a 'superhero'
- *Olympic Games designer will plan WYD Stations of the Cross
- *Bishops welcome skin cell discovery
- *Students showcase their E-learning
- *Knight who once missed Sunday Mass
- *More schools choosing religion in HSC
- *New vision for learning at St Mary's Primary, Concord
- *Airport parish plan for mission 'take-off'
- *A fresh vision of consecrated life – book launch
- *Young Writers Competition – prize-winning entries
- *Dollars and Sense
- *Rosary 'a mobile phone to heaven'
- *Madii's medals for vaults and bars
- *Santa's double splashdown
- *CW Catholic jobs online
- *CW Catholic gifts online
- *In the Know
- *CCD Noticeboard
- *Exploring the Scriptures

From Bishop Manning's Pastoral Letter for Advent

"We are now in the season of Advent, the season in which we prepare to commemorate the birth of Our Lord Jesus Christ, God the Son made man, Emmanuel, God with us!

Advent is a time of consolation and preparation. It is consoling insofar as it reminds us of God's love for us, and is a time of preparation, if you like, helping us to live more intensely the Christian life as we await Christ's coming.

Which coming?

First of all, the coming of Jesus, Saviour of the World, as a newborn at Bethlehem.

Secondly, His coming to us in the Church and remaining with us in the sacraments, especially in the Eucharist, in His Real Presence, and in His living with us through the Holy Spirit.

Thirdly, in Advent we turn our thoughts to His final coming at the end of time, when He will bring to fulfillment His saving work.

Preparation

And how are we to prepare? By deepening our understanding of the mystery of the incarnation. For example, you might choose to do a daily reading of the early chapters of St Luke's Gospel, or a study of the Catechism of the Catholic Church (nos. 456 to 478).

During Advent you could experience the mystery of the incarnation through more consistent prayer and fasting, or through attendance at weekday Mass, or the reception of the Sacrament of Penance."

Read more in Catholic Outlook or visit <http://www.parra.catholic.org.au/Bishop/pastoraltr.htm>

Archivist/Records Manager

The Diocese invites applications for the new position of Archivist/Records Manager (equivalent to 3 days a week.) Applicants will be suitably qualified, experienced in archival practice and archival software management. Details from Diocesan HR Officer, John Sheehy jsheehy@parra.catholic.org.au

Ordination: In the next step on his journey towards priesthood, **Andrew Bass** will be ordained a deacon in St Patrick's Cathedral on Friday, 7th December at 7.30pm. Everyone is welcome - supper to follow.