



1 December 2013: The First Sunday of Advent

AN ADVENT MEDITATION

by Blessed John Henry Newman



Men sometimes ask, Why need they *profess* religion? Why need they go to church? Why need they observe certain rites and ceremonies? Why need they watch, pray, fast, and meditate? Why is it not enough to be just, honest, sober, benevolent, and otherwise virtuous? Is

not this the true and real worship of God? Is not activity in mind and conduct the most acceptable way of approaching Him? How can they please Him by submitting to certain religious forms, and taking part in certain religious acts? Or if they must do so, why may they not choose their own? Why must they come to church for them? Why must they be partakers in what the Church calls Sacraments?

I answer, they must do so, first of all and especially, because God tells them so to do. But besides this, I observe that we see this plain reason why, that they are one day to change their state of being. They are not to be here for ever. Direct intercourse with God on their part now, prayer and the like, may be necessary to their meeting Him suitably hereafter: and direct intercourse on His part with them, or what we call sacramental communion, may be necessary in some incomprehensible way, even for preparing their very nature to bear the sight of Him.

Let us then take this view of religious service; it is "going out to meet the Bridegroom," [see Matt. 25: 6] who, if not seen "in His beauty," [Isaiah 33: 17] will appear in consuming fire. Besides its other momentous reasons, it is a preparation for an awful event, which shall one day be. What it would be to meet Christ at once without preparation, we may learn from what happened even to the Apostles when His glory was suddenly manifested to them. St. Peter said, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord." [Luke 5: 8] And St. John, "when he saw Him, fell at His feet as dead." [Rev. 1: 17]

This being the case, it is certainly most merciful in God to vouchsafe to us the means of preparation,

and such means as He has actually appointed. When Moses came down from the Mount, and the people were dazzled at his countenance, he put a veil over it. That veil is so far removed in the Gospel, that we are in a state of preparation for its being altogether removed. We are with Moses in the Mount so far, that we have a sight of God; we are with the people beneath it so far, that Christ does not visibly show Himself. He has put a veil on, and He sits among us silently and secretly. When we approach Him, we know it only by faith; and when He manifests Himself to us, it is without our being able to realize to ourselves that manifestation.

Such then is the spirit in which we should come to all His ordinances, considering them as anticipations and first-fruits of that sight of Him which one day must be. When we kneel down in prayer in private, let us think to ourselves, Thus shall I one day kneel down before His very footstool, in this flesh and this blood of mine; and He will be seated over against me, in flesh and blood also, though divine. I come, with the thought of that awful hour before me, I come to confess my sin to Him now, that He may pardon it then, and I say, "O Lord, Holy God, Holy and Strong, Holy and Immortal, in the hour of death and in the day of judgment, deliver us, O Lord!"

Again, when we come to church, then let us say: – The day will be when I shall see Christ surrounded by His Holy Angels. I shall be brought into that blessed company, in which all will be pure, all bright. I come then to learn to endure the sight of the Holy One and His Servants; to nerve myself for a vision which is fearful before it is ecstatic, and which they only enjoy whom it does not consume.

John Henry Cardinal Newman. "An Advent Meditation." excerpt from "Worship, a Preparation for Christ's Coming." In Parochial and Plain Sermons vol. 5 (London & New York: Longman, Green, and Company, 1891).

It is with sadness that we learned of the death, on Thursday evening, of Jean Steers. Her funeral will take place on Saturday 14th December at 11:00. We offer our sympathies to Ian and her family.

Requiescat in pace

COMING UP: AT A GLANCE...



DECEMBER 2013

1 Sun	ADVENT SUNDAY Family Mass at 09:00 High Mass at 11:00 Parish Lunch 13:00 Advent Carol Service 18:00
<p>Daily in December, from Monday to Saturday: Morning Prayer at 09:00 and mass at noon</p> <p>In the afternoon and evening the church is in use for charity events, which with other extra events are noted below.</p>	
2 Mon	19:00 Prostate UK Carol Event
3 Tue	07:30 Silent Meditation 18:30 FOUNDATION CAROL SERVICE
4 Wed	19:00 Alzheimers Society Carol Event
5 Thu	18:00 Rainbow Trust Carol Event
6 Fri	19:30 Stillbirth and Neonatal Death Society Carols
7 Sat	from 09:00 Advent Quiet Morning
8 Sun	SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT Family Mass at 09:00 High Mass at 11:00
9 Mon	19:00 UNICEF Carol Event
10 Tue	18:30 GOSH Carol Event
11 Wed	19:30 The Haven Carol Event
12 Thu	19:30 Macmillan Carol Event
13 Fri	19:30 BBC Singers Christmas Concert
14 Sat	11:00 The Funeral of Jean Steers 19:30 St Paul's Festival Choir Concert
15 Sun	THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT Family Mass at 09:00 High Mass at 11:00
16 Mon	19:30 St George's Kidney Patients Carol Event
17 Tue	15:00 The Wedding of Della Green and Sheridan Swallow
18 Wed	19:00 St Paul's Parish Carol Service
19 Thu	19:00 STOLL Carol Event
20 Fri	Parish Office Closed from lunchtime
21 Sat	
22 Sun	THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT Family Mass at 09:00 High Mass at 11:00
23 Mon	
24 Tue	CHRISTMAS EVE Crib Service at 17:00 Midnight Mass at 23:00
25 Wed	CHRISTMAS DAY Family Mass at 09:00 High Mass at 11:00

Forthcoming events

THE HOLY SEASON OF ADVENT



In December, as part of our commitment to the wider community, we join in partnership with a large number of charities to help to raise money for good causes. It means that life in St Paul's is challenging! Thanks – in advance – to our team.

However, we also keep a good Advent. The church is open daily from 09:00 till lunchtime for quiet prayer; morning prayer is said daily at 09:00 and there is a Low Mass at noon.

On the Sundays of Advent the themes of the season expounded in Scripture are explored through music and preaching. Join us at 09:00 for the Family Mass or at 11:00 for the Solemn High Mass.

Today, at **18:00** here is the beautiful **Advent Carol Service** – a sequence of words and music to lead us into the holy season. There is no charge for this event. All are welcome. Please plan to join us.

FOUNDATION CAROL SERVICE Tuesday 3rd December 2013 at 18:30. Tickets £50 adults and £25 children from www.spkfoundation.org

ST PAUL'S FESTIVAL CHOIR: Handel's Messiah, Saturday 14th December 2013 at 7.30pm in St Paul's Church

AN ADVENT QUIET MORNING: "TIME TRAVEL" on Saturday 7 December with Fr. Andrew Sloane; "Time Past, Time Present and Time Future" with the help of T.S. Eliot's Four Quartets. The morning begins with Morning Prayer at 9 am in the church and the silence will commence immediately afterwards. Three meditations in the chancel at 9.45, 10.45 and 11.45. Mass at noon and conclusion.

IN OUR DAILY PRAYERS

Almighty God, give us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness and put upon us the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which thy Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the quick and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. Amen.

COLLECT FOR ADVENT SUNDAY

We pray daily for:

- The keeping of a good Advent
- our Bishop, Richard
- our sister parish, St Paul's K-Street, Washington, USA
- the peoples of Egypt and Syria
- the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, and for the unity and health of the Anglican Communion (*the daily cycle of prayer for the Anglican Communion is to be found at: www.anglicancommunion.org/acp*)

Among the bereaved, the sick and those in any kind of need:

John Soderquist; Jenny Cochrane; Pepper Clarita Pay; Sara Carroll-Parker; William Humbert; Maggie Millbourn; Christiane Dupont Nangle; Sal Allen; Peter Brook; Michael Cook; John King; Daphne Nugent; Jean Steers; Katherine Davis; John Willmington; Andrew Westwood; Alexandra Holesh; John Millbourn; Diana Kemp Welch; Jean Marc Lehut; Marijo Bergé

We pray for the bereaved, and all the faithful departed, among them especially:

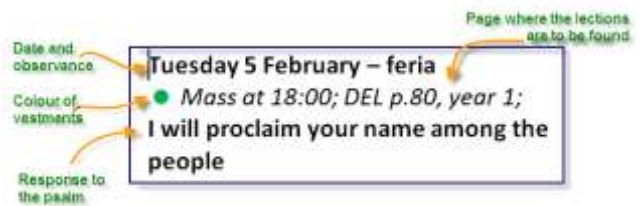
Jean Steers; June Poland ; Guna Ligere; James Taylor; all who died in the Glasgow helicopter disaster

and those whose Year's Mind is at this time:

Peter Buckley	2 December
Millicent Worrall	2 December
Margaret Moore	2 December

MASSES & PSALM RESPONSES

There is a mass daily at St Paul's and all are welcome to attend. Service papers are available outside the Chapel or Chancel.



Sunday 1 December – Advent Sunday

- Masses at 09:00 & 11:00

Monday 2 December – feria of Advent

- Mass at noon DEL p. 22 (year A);
- Let us go to the house of the Lord***

Tuesday 3 December – feria of Advent

- Mass at noon DEL p. 24;

Righteousness and peace shall flourish

Wednesday 4 December – feria of Advent

- Mass at noon DEL p. 26;

I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

Thursday 5 December – feria of Advent

- Mass at noon DEL p. 27;

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord

Friday 6 December – St Nicholas

- Mass at noon CW p.547

Let the righteous be glad and rejoice before God

Saturday 7 December – Ambrose of Milan

- Mass at noon CW p. 549;

You are my servant, I have chosen you

Sunday 8 December – Advent 2

- Masses at 09:00 & 11:00

BAPTISM & CONFIRMATION

Anyone who is interested in or who may have any questions about being baptized and/or confirmed in the coming months is asked to please contact Fr. Andrew Sloane (AndrewSloane@spkb.org - or by phone: **0207201 9999**) at your earliest convenience so we can organize some appropriate and enjoyable preparation!

PARISH CONTACTS



THE PARISH OFFICE

32a Wilton Place, London SW1X 8SH

Telephone 020 7201 9999 • Fax 020 7201 9997

THE PARISH CLERGY



Vicar

Fr Alan Gyle

alan@spkb.org

020 7201 9999 • 07939 805970



Associate Vicar

Fr Andrew Sloane

AndrewSloane@spkb.org

020 7201 9996 • 07429 806173

Honorary Assistant Clergy



(l-r) Fr Nick Mercer; Fr Andrew Norwood;
Fr Graham Palmer

A priest is available before or after the daily Eucharist for confession and spiritual guidance, and also by appointment. A member of the parish clergy is always available in pastoral emergencies and we will be glad to be contacted at whatever hour, seven days a week; however, as a general rule, Fr Alan is unavailable on Mondays and Fr Andrew Sloane on Fridays.

THE MUSIC DEPARTMENT



Director of Music

Stevie Farr

stephen.farr@yahoo.co.uk

07930 542555



Organ Scholar

Georgina Sherriff

LAY OFFICERS & OTHER STAFF



Churchwarden

John Tweddle

john.tweddle@bidwells.co.uk

020 77363878



Churchwarden

Caroline Docker

dockercaroline@gmail.com

020 7384 1165

Deputy Churchwardens

2013-14

Noel Craven

Phil Davies

Nicky Lindsay

Susie Thornton

Treasurer

Phil Davies

philip@spkb.org

07989 387198

Lady Verger & Churchwardens' Deputy

Veronica Scott

veronicamscott@hotmail.com

020 7603 7680

Vicar's PA



Felicity Cranfield

felicitycranfield@spkb.org

020 7201 9999



Parish Administrator

Dimitrios Dalageorgos

pa@spkb.org

020 7201 9999

www.spkb.org

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