

**ADVENT DAY OF RECOLLECTION - "A LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS" ISAIAH 9:2
A CONTAGION OF HOPE**

Christ Be Our Light! Your Light rises in the darkness and assures us that you are present with us and that your powerful closeness to us transforms our fear into hope.
May we join with our Holy Father, Pope Francis in spreading a "contagion" of hope from "heart to heart".

Event Details:

Date / Day : **5 December 2020, Saturday**
Time : **9am to 1pm (safe measurement check-in begins at 8.30am)**
Venue : **Church of the Holy Family Main Church**
Presented by : Fr Adrian Yeo



Programme: Adoration / Talk / Reflection / Mass

Scan QR code to register or register at <https://tinyurl.com/AdventDOR20..>

Attendees MUST be registered under MyCatholic.sg to attend mass in Church of the Holy Family. No walk-in allowed. Limited to 100 participants only.

Live streaming is available on Church of the Holy Family's Youtube if you are unable to attend this Day of Recollection in church.

ADVENT TO CHRISTMAS 2020 REFLECTION E-BOOKLET

The Office for the New Evangelisation has produced a reflection e-booklet to journey with you throughout Advent & Christmas.

They are available in English, Chinese and Tamil. The reflection themes for Advent & Christmas are "The Coming Word" and "Word Among Us" respectively.

Please download the e-booklet at: bit.ly/AdventChristmas2020

Short weekly videos that complement the e-booklet will also be uploaded on Mon 8pm, starting 23 Nov 2020 at tinyurl.com/oneyoutubechannel

MASS OFFERINGS

You can make your mass offerings by:

- Cash**—drop your envelopes in the donation boxes in Church or at Parish Office
- Cheque** favouring Church of the Holy Family with the time, date of mass, intention and name(s)
- Paynow** T08CC4048E Unique Entity Number (UEN) for "Church of The Holy Family" and in the reference, type **Mass Offering**. Send a screenshot of the acknowledgement of transfer by email to chf.secretariat@catholic.org.sg with time, date of mass, intention and name(s).

DONATIONS TO CHURCH OF THE HOLY FAMILY

Parishioners who wish to continue their weekly donations may consider sending your cheque favouring **Church of the Holy Family**.
Alternatively you may also send via PayNow. Please enter **T08CC4048E** Unique Entity Number (UEN) for "**Church of The Holy Family**" and in the reference, type **Mass Collection**.

COLUMBARIUM

The Columbarium is open on Mondays to Fridays, 9.30am to 5.30pm except 12.30—2.30pm. Entry will be restricted to a maximum of 5 per group. Please book online minimum **48 hours in advance** via this link: <http://calendly.com/holyfamilysg/columbarium>.



CHURCH OF THE HOLY FAMILY

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Mass Times

Weekdays:

6.30 pm (Mondays to Fridays)

8.30 am (Public Holidays)

Saturday Sunset Masses:

4.00 pm & 5.30pm (English)

Mandarin Mass

8.00 pm (1st & 3rd Saturdays)

Sunday Masses:

8.00, 9.30 & 11.00 am

5.30 pm

Columbarium	Mon—Fri: 9.30am to 5.30pm except 12.30—2.30pm. Online booking only, Please check with the Secretariat Office for dates.
Infant Baptism	
Weddings	Apply at Parish Office at least 1 year in advance
Adoration Room	Mon – Sat 7am to 10 pm, Sun Public Holidays: 7am to 8.30pm
Liturgy of the Word for Children	Every Saturday, 6pm Mass or Evening Mass 7.30am Mass
Elders Catechism (Dialect)	Every Thursday, 1pm to 3pm @ Adoration Hall
Meditation Classes	Tuesdays/Thursday 9am to 10am @ Adoration Hall
Divine Mercy	Every Friday, 7am to 8am @ Adoration Hall
Family Rosary	1st Saturday of each month, 3.30—4pm @ Main Church
Family Eucharistic Adoration	1st Saturday of every month, 4—5pm @ Adoration Room



1st Sunday in Advent
November 29, 2020 – Year B
Sunday Missal Page No: 617

STAY AWAKE

“The Lord is coming, but you know not the day or the hour.”
This season makes us all aware of time’s movement and our place in its fragile duration. Now is the time to sort things out, look around and get ready, for at the Lord’s presence the mountains melt. Advent means: He’s coming soon!
Heads up! Don’t expect someone else to alert you. Be ready!

Sunday Missal Readings for next weekend – 6 December
Is 40:1-5, 9-11 2 Pt 8-14 Mk 1:1-8

MESSAGE FOR FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT, YEAR B, 2020

Today we begin Cycle B in the three-year cycle of Sunday Scripture readings. The gospel passages during the 'ordinary' Sundays of this year will follow the Gospel according to Mark. Clearly the theme of today's Mass is that of 'coming'. The word 'Advent' (from the Latin *adventus*), as we know, means 'coming'.

Each year, the First Sunday of Advent makes a clear link in continuity with the final Sundays of the previous liturgical year. We saw at the end of Cycle A that there were many readings about the final coming of Jesus at the end of time and of the need of each one of us to prepare to come face to face with Jesus our Lord and King and "give an account of our stewardship".

More than one 'coming'

That theme, in the context of Advent, is continued today. It is clear that at this time the word 'Advent/Coming' is being understood on more than one level. First of all, of course, we are preparing ourselves during what is basically a penitential period (the vestment colours are violet, as in Lent) to celebrate in a fitting manner the coming of Jesus and the manifestation of God among us as a human being.

But secondly, we are also being reminded of the reason why Jesus was born among us in the first place, namely, to be our salvation, our wholeness. He comes now so that we may be equipped and ready to meet him when he comes again at the end of time "to judge the living and the dead". Then we hope to hear his words of welcome, "Come, O blessed of my Father, inherit the Kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world" (Matthew 25:34). It is this coming which features in today's Gospel passage.

A third coming is when God enters into our daily life and calls us to follow him and be with him. God not only came in Jesus at Bethlehem; he not only will come at the end of time to gather us all to himself; he comes into our lives at every moment, through every person and every experience.

First coming

Each of these three comings interacts with the others. The coming of Jesus at Bethlehem is the foundation for our present and future life with him. The so-called final coming is that for which our whole life is a preparation. We have been called into being for one reason only, to become totally united with our Creator God. The only failure in life is not to be in a position to answer that final call. Everything else, absolutely everything else, is relative. To realise this is the greatest grace we could ask for or receive.

The daily coming of Jesus into our lives is the process by which we deepen our understanding of who Jesus was and is and become more and more identified with his vision of God and of the meaning of life. With this identification we are not only ready but eager to meet and be one with our God. "As a deer longs for a stream of cool water, so I long for you, my God" (Psalm 42); "I was glad when they said to me, 'Let us go to the Lord's house!'" (Psalm 122).

By keeping all these comings in mind at the same time, we can make our celebration of Christmas more meaningful.

Today's Gospel, then, is speaking on the level of the future and present comings of Jesus. The key word is 'readiness'. "Be on your guard, stay awake, because you never know when the time will come."

Being ready

Jesus gives a parable about a man travelling abroad. He does two things: he gives various responsibilities to his servants to be carried out while he is away; and he warns the doorkeeper

to be vigilant. This, in a way, covers the two Matthean parables we read towards the end of the previous cycle's readings: the parable of the 'talents', when the servants were told to make productive use of what they had been given by their master, and the parable of the wise and foolish virgins about readiness for the coming of the bridegroom.

"Stay awake, because you do not know when the master of the house is coming, evening, midnight, cockcrow, dawn. If he comes unexpectedly, he must not find you asleep... Stay awake!" And, as we have pointed out before, in practical terms we are not really talking about the end of time but of the end of our own time. It is not likely, without any warning, that our planet or our solar system, or the universe at large will be snuffed out. It is very likely, however, that many of us will be called to meet our Lord at any time without the slightest warning. We see it happening every day.

This should not be any problem for those who live permanently in a state of awareness of the closeness of God in their lives. It is not really difficult for us to develop the habit of living our day with a sense of his closeness to us, although it is a habit that can only come with practice. It can make such a difference to the quality of our life, apart altogether from being ready for the end, to spend each day seeking and finding God in the people around us, loving and serving him in them and being loved and served by him in them.

Finding Jesus all around us

Readiness is not only for the end but also for the daily stream of experiences that make up our ordinary day. Jesus is there. Do not fight him. Let him mould you into his likeness, into the likeness of God, to become a person of integrity and truth, of love and compassion, of freedom and peace.

Finally, we are not on our own in all of this. With Paul, in the Second Reading, we never stop thanking God for all the graces we have received through Jesus Christ. "I thank him," says Paul, "that you have been enriched in so many ways, especially in your teachers and preachers." We need not be without any of the gifts of the Spirit "while [we] are waiting for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed". And "he will keep [us] steady and without blame until the last day, the day of our Lord Jesus Christ". ***Maranatha! Come, Lord Jesus!***

- *Living Space*

THRIFT SHOP

Due to upcoming renovation of Emmaus House, the Thrift Shop will be closed indefinitely.

Please do not leave your pre-loved items in the Church compound.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Those seeking Sacrament of Reconciliation are requested to make an appointment by sending an email directly to: Fr Adrian Yeo (adrian.yeo@catholic.org.sg) or Fr Stanislaus Pang (stanislaus.pang@catholic.org.sg).

GIFT 2020—PASSING THE BATON OF FAITH.

This weekend, the Catholic Foundation is renewing its annual appeal for the GIFT (Giving in Faith & Thankfulness) programme to build a more vibrant, evangelising and missionary Church. Share the gift of faith and support the organisations and projects of the archdiocese by making a monthly giving pledge – the most reliable source of funding for the archdiocese. Or, give via PayNow (UEN: 201231391K). Pick up the GIFT 2020 brochure or visit catholicfoundation.sg for more info.