



All Saints' weekly email: Advent 1

Dear Friends

'What I say to you I say to all: Keep awake'. A text to gladden any preacher's heart, though in fact a warning against sleepwalking through our lives, so as to participate in that enhancement which Jesus calls 'eternal life'. So Mark urges us In Sunday's gospel, 'keep awake! the time is fulfilled'.

This keeping watch for God's coming among us, his Emmanuel moment, may seem a false note to strike as Advent begins: we all know that this month is the prelude to Christmas, and does not Christmas fall, with all-too predictable reliability, on the same date every year? Why do we need to be awake to something which is entirely routine, even in a year like 2020? That sense of routine is precisely the problem Mark is concerned about. The 25th of December can easily come and go without our encountering the Lord in the 'now' of our lives and our history. I don't usually complain about Christmas beginning too early or being too commercial: at least all that hype gives us an excuse to remind the world that we are here. But we can allow the busy-ness to get in the way of Christmas truly being what our second reading calls 'the day of our Lord Jesus Christ': Christmas may come and go without what Paul calls the 'testimony of Christ' being 'strengthened' in us. That is why we have this season: 'keep awake!'

We are called to be awake like that, now (and now, and now, as Mark is always saying to us), not stagnating in a Christian life we think we have acquired once and for all. Now is the moment of challenge, and now, and now, throughout his gospel on which we focus during the coming year, beginning on Sunday: there is always something new to be seen and grasped and enjoyed.

As often, I fall back on Austin Farrer's sublime 'paragraph for the Holy Sacrament' to put this thought more eloquently. For Advent Sunday he writes:

Our journey sets out from God in our creation, and returns to God at the final judgement. As the bird rises from the earth to fly, and must some time return to the earth from which it rose; so God sends us forth to fly, and we must fall back into the hands of God at last. But God does not wait for the failure of our power and the expiry of our days to drop us back into his lap. He goes himself to meet us and everywhere confronts us. Where is the countenance which we must finally look in the eyes, and not be able to turn our head? It smiles up at Mary from the cradle, it calls Peter from the nets, it looks on him with grief when he has denied his master. our judge meets us at every step of the way, with forgiveness on his lips and succour in his hands. He offers us these things while there is yet time. Every day opportunity shortens, our scope for learning our Redeemer's love is narrowed by twenty-four hours, and we come nearer to the end of our journey, when we shall fall into the hands of the living God, and touch the heart of the devouring fire.

Happy Advent!

Fr Michael



Click on the following links for mass on **SUNDAY**:

[Propers](#) for Advent 1

[YouTube link](#) for live stream

We are delighted that we can reopen for worship on Wednesday 2nd December and look forward to welcoming regular communicants back to church. The same protocols about masks, distancing and recording attendance will apply.

On Advent 2 there will be Sung Mass at 11am as usual and Evensong and Benediction will resume, at 3pm.

Prayer List

Prisoners and captives: Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe, Ismaeil Maghrebinejad, Nasrin Satoudeh, Ahmed Almour, Mayshee Eyob.

Thanksgiving for release: *Kylie Moore-Gilbert*

The sick:

David Fettke, Joan Cooper, Vallery Tchukov, Sara Vice, Katherine Lee, Chris Gudgeon, Nicky Yeo, Lorna Smith, Beth Klausung, Hilary Porter, Keith Peers, Marg Ferguson, Bruce Ross-Smith, Benjamin Woolf, James Shrimpton, Tony Rodger, Rachel Pereira, Victor Sharp, Fr Michael Gudgeon, Audrey Williams, Chris and Carole Radley, Fr Harry Hodgetts, Simon Little, Ellie Lyon, Rosemary Orr, John Sibbald, Pat Hawkins, Andrew Rodger, Christine Vaughn Lillie, Martin Berka, Sylvia Samien, Abu Rama.

Those known to us recently departed:

Anniversaries of death:

29th - John Clough

30th - Walter Ward, Archibald Ward *Pr*, Emily West, Katherine O'Neil

December 1st - Sarah Eynstone *Pr*

2nd - David Prior

3rd - Margaret Rodger, Douglas Lawson, Kenneth Armstrong

4th - Pamela Freer, Robert Fletcher

5th - Mary Skelton, Mary Burton, Florence Duggan



Supporting All Saints

Parish Giving Scheme:

Thank you to all who give in various ways to support the work of All Saints. While we regret that the previous online registration facility for the **Parish Giving Scheme** is no longer available, our Treasurer recommends that this remains our preferred option for giving: it allows contributions to be anonymous and deals with GiftAid, which saves our office a lot of time.

It is no longer possible to register for the scheme online.

There are now two options, for each of which you need the parish code: 230623075.

You can join the scheme either

by phoning [0333 002 1271](tel:03330021271) and quoting the code

or

by requesting a form from the parish office.

The following link will take you to a page which explains how the scheme works:

www.parishgiving.org.uk/donors/how-it-works

Donations for general Church purposes: To give by BACS please use the following details, advising the Administrator to collect Gift Aid:

PCC All Saints (Charity # 1132895)

Sort Code 60-09-15.

A/C # 04559452

Parish Legacy Policy We are always delighted to hear from anyone who wants to support us with a donation. Our PCC Legacy Policy encourages people to leave bequests specifically to one of our two related charities to be used for purposes of lasting value (rather than day to day costs):

All Saints Choir & Music Trust (Charity # 802994) or

The All Saints Foundation (Charity # 273390).