

# focus on sunday

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT 1st December 2024

Advent calls on us, as we await the birth of Jesus to be a light for all who hunger for justice, peace and truth.



Stay awake



As we take our first steps into Advent, the message is to stay awake! In today's Gospel we meet Jesus towards the end of his ministry, instructing the disciples to be aware of the signs of the times and to stay 'alert'. It is a message designed to keep his followers on their toes.

It can be easy for us to fall into a comfortable rut, not really engaging with the wider world. And when we do look up, we notice "the worries of this life": in the natural world, in troubled countries, in our church, even our own families. But what would happen if we were to truly wake up? We can think of many people who are awake to the problems in society. One person who embodies this spirit is climate activist Greta Thunberg. Her 'School Strike for Climate' began in 2018 with her sitting alone outside the Swedish Parliament, and has grown into a worldwide movement of young people calling for action to address climate change. People like this are 'awake' to the world around them – their eyes are open, they see the injustices and they have acted. They are forging a brighter future. Countless others are reaching out, speaking against injustice, working to heal wounds in the natural world, in communities and families. We can't afford to sleepwalk through life when the Gospel challenges us to be bearers of hope and good news. This Advent, we are called to be awake. As we begin this journey, think of a time when you felt truly 'awake' to events around you. Can you become more awake to the Gospel alive and active in the world?

Awakening to the realities of the world or even of our own lives can be a painful experience. As Greta says, hope is found in action, in small steps. What small step can you take this week?

Jane Mellett

Extract from *The Deep End – A Journey through the Sunday Gospels in the Year of Luke* by Triona Doherty & Jane Mellett, Messenger Publications, Dublin 2021.

## ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

To you, I lift up my soul, O my God.  
In you, I have trusted; let me not be put to shame.  
Nor let my enemies exult over me;  
and let none who hope in you be put to shame.

## PENITENTIAL ACT

Lord Jesus, you came to reconcile us to one another and to the Father:  
Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.  
Lord Jesus, you heal the wounds of sin and division:  
Christ, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.  
Lord Jesus, you intercede for us with your Father:  
Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.  
May almighty God have mercy on us... Amen..

*(The Gloria is omitted awaiting its Christmas Proclamation.)*

## OPENING PRAYER

Grant your faithful, we pray, almighty God, the resolve to run forth to meet your Christ with righteous deeds at his coming, so that, gathered at his right hand, they may be worthy to possess the heavenly Kingdom. Through our Lord Jesus Christ.....

## LITURGY OF THE WORD

### FIRST READING Jeremiah 33:14-16

**A reading from the prophet Jeremiah**

See, the days are coming - it is the Lord who speaks - when I am going to fulfil the promise I made to the House of Israel and the House of Judah:  
'In those days and at that time, I will make a virtuous Branch grow for David, who shall practise honesty and integrity in the land. In those days Judah shall be saved and Israel shall dwell in confidence. And this is the name the city will be called: The Lord-our-integrity.'

**The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.**

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps. 24:4-5, 8-9,10,14

**R. To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.**

1. Lord, make me know your ways.  
Lord, teach me your paths.  
Make me walk in your truth,  
and teach me: for you are God my saviour. [R]
2. The Lord is good and upright.  
He shows the path to those who stray,  
he guides the humble in the right path;  
he teaches his way to the poor. [R]
3. His ways are faithfulness and love  
for those who keep his covenant and will.  
The Lord's friendship is for those who revere him;  
to them he reveals his covenant. [R]

### SECOND READING 1 Thessalonians 3:12-4:2

**A reading from the first letter of St. Paul to the Thessalonians.**  
May the Lord be generous in increasing your love and make you love one another and the whole

human race as much as we love you. And may he so confirm your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless in the sight of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus Christ comes with all his saints. Finally, brothers, we urge you and appeal to you in the Lord Jesus to make more and more progress in the kind of life that you are meant to live: the life that God wants, as you learnt from us, and as you are already living it. You have not forgotten the instructions we gave you on the authority of the Lord Jesus.

**The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.**

### GOSEPEL ACCLAMATION

**Alleluia, alleluia!  
Let us see, O Lord, your mercy  
and give us your saving help. Alleluia!**

### GOSEPEL Luke 21:25-28.34-36

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.**

Jesus said to his disciples: 'There will be signs in the sun and moon and stars; on earth nations in agony, bewildered by the clamour of the ocean and its waves; men dying of fear as they await what menaces the world, for the powers of heaven will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. When these things begin to take place, stand erect, hold your heads high, because your liberation is near at hand.'

'Watch yourselves, or your hearts will be coarsened with debauchery and drunkenness and the cares of life, and that day will be sprung on you suddenly, like a trap. For it will come down on every living man on the face of the earth. Stay awake, praying at all times for the strength to survive all that is going to happen, and to stand with confidence before the Son of Man.'

**The Gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

### NICENE CREED

**I believe in one God, the Father almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.  
I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the Only Begotten Son of God,  
born of the Father before all ages.  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made, consubstantial with  
the Father; through him all things were made.  
For us men and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,  
and by the Holy Spirit  
was incarnate of the Virgin Mary,  
and became man.  
For our sake he was crucified  
under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death  
and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance  
with the Scriptures.  
He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand  
of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge  
the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord,  
the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets. I believe in one,  
holy, catholic and apostolic Church.**

**All bow for following three lines:**

**and by the Holy Spirit  
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**I confess one Baptism for the  
forgiveness of sins  
and I look forward to the resurrection  
of the dead  
and the life of the world to come.  
Amen.**

## LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

**Pray brothers and sisters,.....  
May the Lord accept the sacrifice at  
your hands for the praise and glory  
of his name, for our good and the  
good of all his holy Church.**

### PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Accept, we pray, O Lord, these offerings we make, gathered from among your gifts to us, and may what you grant us to celebrate devoutly here below gain for us the prize of eternal redemption. Through Christ our Lord.

### AFTER THE CONSECRATION

**The mystery of faith.  
When we eat this Bread and drink  
this Cup, we proclaim your Death,  
O Lord, until you come again.**

### COMMUNION ANTIPHON

**The Lord will bestow his bounty, and  
our earth shall yield its increase.**

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

May these mysteries, O Lord, in which we have participated, profit us, we pray, for even now, as we walk amid passing things, you teach us by them to love the things of heaven and hold fast to what endures. Through Christ our Lord.

### THE ADVENT WREATH

The circle of evergreen leaves stands for God who is without beginning and without end.

The purple ribbon and three purple candles stand for penance and sorrow for sin.

The red candle stands for joy of living in God's way of love.

Today the first purple candle is lit as we begin our preparations for the coming of our Saviour Jesus Christ.