

From Sunday's Gospel

Stay awake, for you know
neither the day nor the
HOUR

Jesus said to his disciples, "Be on your guard, stay awake, because you do not know when the end time will come. It is like a man

travelling abroad; he leaves his house and puts his servants in charge, each with his own task, and orders the doorkeeper to stay awake. So, stay awake—because you do not know when the Master of the house is coming, it may be evening or midnight, cockcrow or dawn. If he comes unexpectedly, he may find you still sleeping. What I am saying to you now, I say to everyone: Stay awake!"

Adapted from Mark 13:33-37, 1st Sunday of Advent, Year B (Mark's Gospel)



Pope Francis writes, "My dear young people, Christ asks you to be wide awake and alert, to see the things in life that really matter!" Today's word is **Advent**. Pope Francis also says, "**Advent is a time to**

prepare our hearts to receive Jesus." Advent is a time to slow down and try to remember the real meaning of Christmas—giving thanks to God for Jesus. This Sunday is the first Sunday of Advent, a time of waiting and preparation. We are invited to look forward to Jesus' birth and also to his return in the future. In this Sunday's gospel the Master represents Jesus and the servants represent us. So the question is are we waiting eagerly, with our fingers on the door handle, ready to open the door? We are also to 'stay awake' and not to day dream our way through life. So maybe we could ask ourselves at the beginning of Advent, are there any ways that we could make a change for the better, e.g. spend some time in prayer each day, or increase our good deeds?



Sacred Heart & St William

31 High Street

Uppermill OL3 6HS

www.sacredheartparish.org.uk

Please visit the website above.

For Daily Mass Readings, Video reflections and any updates go to Sunday Mass in the Newsletter

The First Sunday of Advent

November 29th 2020 (Mark's Gospel)

**PLEASE NOTE THAT THE CHURCH WILL BE OPEN FOR THE 6.00pm
MASS NEXT SATURDAY DECEMBER 5th**

The intentions are as follows:

Sunday: People of the Parish
Monday: Judith Suddaby
Tuesday: Albert Berdin
Wednesday: November Dead List
Thursday: Mary Oakes
Friday: Sr Agatha Collopy
Saturday: Nora Crowley **(Church open for 6.00pm Mass today)**

Booking essential as before lockdown.

Sunday: Caryl Pereira
There will be only ONE Mass each day
Confessions by appointment.

Contact Details:

Parish Priest: Fr Bernard Bickers Tel: 01457 872603

Permanent Deacon: Revd Peter Rudd Tel: 01457 876559

Safeguarding Officers: Mrs Tessa Spalding Tel: 01457 873515

Mrs Michelle Moore

The Season of Advent



This Sunday, November 29th, is the First Sunday of the Season of Advent, and the beginning of a new Liturgical Year. This year the Gospel of Mark will be our guide and during Ordinary Time it will be Mark's gospel that we will normally hear. Mark's gospel was the first to be written and influenced Matthew and Luke significantly. It was written in the mid 60's for the Christians who were suffering persecution during the reign of the Emperor Nero.

There is a symmetry to the four Sundays of Advent each year. The first Sunday always refers not to the birth of Christ but to the end time. The middle two Sundays have John the Baptist as the main character. The fourth Sunday deals with preparation for the birth of Christ. Mark does not have an infancy narrative so the gospel on the fourth Sunday when using Mark is taken from Luke and is the very well known account of the Annunciation. (Notice, too, that the gospel on the 3rd Sunday is from St John because Mark does not have a great deal to say about John the Baptist.)

I love the season of Advent and really invite you to check the daily readings, if you don't have a daily missal to hand go to the Newsletter or to Universalis where you will find them. There is a twofold aspect to Advent, the first inviting us to reflect on the 2nd coming of Christ from the 1st Sunday to December 16th, the 2nd in preparation for the solemnity of Christmas from December 17th onwards. The point of reference in the first aspect is the prophet Isaiah who provides most of the first readings and is read semi-continuously. There are some beautiful passages which we all know well and some more obscure and challenging passages. The point of reference in the second aspect is the account of Our Lord's conception and preparation for his birth as found in the two infancy narratives of Matthew and Luke. As we will see Luke has the lion's share.



"Carefully watch your thoughts, for they become your words.

Manage and watch your words, for they will become your actions.

Consider and judge your actions, for they have become your habits.

Acknowledge and watch your habits, for they shall become your values.

Understand and embrace your values, for they become your destiny."

Mahatma Gandhi

Celebrating Christmas in our Church



From Thursday December 3rd, churches can be open for Public Worship. Our Church will be professionally steam cleaned next Thursday 3rd, and then **open on Saturday 5th December for the 6.00pm Mass.** If you wish to **book a place** for this Mass please contact Susan Gibson on 01457 878055 or 07778856089 on **Friday 4th December between**

4.00-6.00pm. With the current restrictions not everyone who would want to celebrate Mass in church on Christmas Eve/Day will be able to do so. As seen last week Bishop Marcus has proposed that we remind ourselves of the Octave of Christmas. He writes: *"Like Easter, the Nativity of the Lord is one of two solemnities...which has its own Octave. The Church regards each day in the Octave as if it were the solemnity itself...Despite having days within the Octave that are feasts...each of these days is as the Roman Missal states, a 'day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord.' This means that, liturgically, each of the days from the 25th December to the 1st January is 'Christmas Day'."*

Hopefully the arrangements for Christmas Eve/Day and the Octave will be available for publication in the near future. Please watch this space.

Christmas Angels 2020



CTIS has asked each church to design and display a large eye-catching angel or angel picture to display in such a way that the public will easily see it. (The one at the side of this notice is ours thanks to Susan Gedzielewski) In addition families and children are asked to draw/paint a picture of an angel and put it in one of the windows at home, again, so that people can see it— like the NHS rainbows. Please display these from Sunday 6th De-

Sustainable Global Gardens



Last reminder to contact Mary Farmer about her soup and desert offer to raise funds for the above. Suggested donation: £5. This can be collected from her doorstep or can be dropped off at yours **ON: WEDNESDAY 2nd DEC and THURSDAY 3rd DECEMBER.** Please e mail or ring to put in an order. Please indicate your preferences by Monday 30th November. Contact: **01457810189** mickandmaryframer@btinternet.com **You can donate via me by cash or cheque (sustainable Global Gardens) or via their website**