

## Whispers of God: Humbly Seek and Find

1st Sunday Advent B 30<sup>th</sup> November

### LIGHT

#### Let us see your face Ps 79

##### Prayers -Scripture

Our minds are searching  
 The dawn of his coming  
 Welcoming the light  
 Tear open the heavens  
 We all wither like leaves  
 We the clay, you the potter  
 Teachers and preachers  
 Stay awake  
 Hope guide our way

##### Search

In every age wisdom figures looked and prayed for a light to live by. Some rightly looked to nature as a teacher and praised the Creator. Modern Social movements focus on the rights of those pushed to the fringes. There are multiple whispers of God. Jesus was born into this world as the light of God. Many who search recognised the child of Mary as God-with-us, Emmanuel.



##### Advent

In Advent we focus on the multiple revelations of God over eons. The four coloured candles remind us that God acts in different ways. Scientists and theologians tell us that the universe itself is the first revelation. Many spoke of the longings of the human heart that can only be filled by an Ultimate Being. It is up to us to search and find God present in our lives and our planet home.

##### Prayers of Faithful

- That we follow our curiosity and look for signs of God.
- That we never become so busy and distracted as to pass over important moments in our lives.
- That we listen to the wisdom of experience that parents and teachers want to pass on to us.
- That we will be open to the positive messages given by scientists.
- That we be discerning about whom we read and our use of Social Media.

##### Profile

The Dalai Lama is the spiritual leader of Tibetan Buddhists. Born in 1935 he was formed in prayer and studies until his early twenties when he also assumed political leadership. Escaping Chinese control in Tibet he went into exile. He became a wander for peace embracing dialogue and preaching non-violence. A symbol of gentle living on earth. [www.dalailama.com](http://www.dalailama.com)

##### Big History

The Big History Project was created at Macquarie University. Students situate themselves and their studies within the history of the universe. This frees them to break out of boxes of specialisation and be in awe at their place on their wonderful blue planet. [www.bighistoryproject.com](http://www.bighistoryproject.com)

*I invite all Christians, to a renewed personal encounter with Jesus Christ, or at least an openness to letting him encounter them.*

Pope Francis Joy of the Gospel No.3

##### Action

- What religious history question do you want to search.
- Subscribe to a Catholic News service online. [www.ucanews.com](http://www.ucanews.com)
- Teach Religious Education in a government school (CCD) [www.dbb.org.au](http://www.dbb.org.au)
- Explore interfaith dialogue through ecology (FEN) [faihetectology.net.au](http://faihetectology.net.au)
- Explore Christian-Muslim Relations [www.columban.org.au](http://www.columban.org.au)

**A donation for the use of this resource is appreciated**

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[www.columban.org.au](http://www.columban.org.au)

## Whispers of God: Humbly Seek and Find

2nd Sunday Advent B 7<sup>th</sup> December

### Prepare the Way

#### A way in the wilderness Is 40

##### Prayers -Scripture

*Radiant in a waring world  
May darkness not blind us  
May greed not impede us  
Let every valley be filled in  
Justice and mercy have embraced  
Wanting nobody to be lost  
The Lord will come like a thief  
Living holy and saintly lives  
The new heavens and the new earth  
Beginning of the Good News  
Baptise you with the Holy Spirit  
Food from heaven*

##### Fully Human

The human fully alive is the glory of God said St Irenaeus. Growth for the human person means embracing our God given physical, mental and spiritual self. As a person moves through the stages of life – childhood, adolescence, young adult, maturity, wisdom and old age – they mature. It is to God pleasure that every person has the chance to grow to fulfilment. This is our human calling.



Image: goo.gl/f9WT5S

##### Pilgrimage

A pilgrim takes a spiritual journey. Companions on the journey are essential. Traditionally pilgrimage was physically trudging along the road to a holy place. [www.newadvent.org/cathen/12085a.htm](http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/12085a.htm) In modern times pilgrimage is often seen as an inner journey.

##### Prayers of Faithful

- That we care for our bodies as a gift of God and temples of the Spirit.
- That we imagine ways to be fully alive as human and spiritual children of God.
- That we work at relating to others with justice and compassion.
- That we curb the greed that pushes us into frantic lifestyles and exploiting the earth.
- That with judgement we carve out a role in life with meaning for ourselves.

##### Advent

Advent is a time of being awake, preparing ourselves as human beings to welcome the coming of God as Emmanuel. Like a sports person, if we want to be a spiritual person we have to do the exercises. We hear the Baptist's call to prepare the way. Choosing to act out of goodness and searching for meaning in life takes effort.

*renewed encounter with God's love ... we are liberated from our narrowness and self-absorption. We become fully human when we become more than human.*

*Pope Francis Joy of the Gospel No.8*

##### Profile

On the grave stone of Caroline Chisholm (1808-1877) are the words "The emigrant's friend". She was a wife, convert and mother of six. Born in England she arrived in Australia with her husband in 1838. She helped settle immigrant girls. She moved around the country to settle families on farms. Back in England she wrote and lobbied the House of Lords for better conditions for Australian settlers.

##### Action

- Find a style of prayer that suits your personality [www.heartoflife.abundance.org.au](http://www.heartoflife.abundance.org.au)
- Join a club that practices care for the earth [www.bushcare.org.au](http://www.bushcare.org.au)
- Enrol in a Distance Learning Theology Course [www.bbi.catholic.edu.au](http://www.bbi.catholic.edu.au)
- Volunteer with Catholic Immigration [www.acmro.catholic.org.au](http://www.acmro.catholic.org.au)

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## Whispers of God: Humbly Seek and Find

3rd Sunday Advent B 14<sup>th</sup> December

### DAY BY DAY

#### Hold to what is good I Thess 5

##### Prayers -Scripture

Await birthday of Christ  
 Earth rejoices  
 Sent to bring good news  
 The cloak of integrity  
 In the sight of the nations  
 Fills the starving with good  
 Be happy at all times; pray  
 Never suppress the Spirit  
 Lord will not fail you  
 Witness, speak for the light  
 Our Eucharist and salvation

##### Ordinary

Generation Y (16-30 year olds) are under pressure to value the individual, consumption and global pluralism. What seemed like ordinary family and work values a few years back have to be reformulated. It means effort and negotiating. Advent offers a time in listening and refection to seek what is good for us, those around us and our world. We pause.

##### 7 Day Retreat

The Readings for the Masses 17-24<sup>th</sup> December can be used as a 7 day retreat. Genesis and the Prophets offer us the big picture. The human calling is compared to a love affair with God in the Song of Songs. Nature images are plentiful. The birth of Jesus lead us to sing with Mary the Great Magnificat in praise of what God has done for us.

*categories of the marketplace...*

*When these latter are absolutized,  
 God can only be seen as uncontrollable,  
 unmanageable, even dangerous,  
 since God calls human beings to  
 their full realization.*

*Pope Francis Joy of the Gospel No 57*

##### Prayers of Faithful

- That we will look for the presence of God in the actions of our families.
- That we will work with diligence knowing that it a gifted moment within human history.
- That we will accept sickness and failures, being bent out of shape, as opportunities to grow as human and spiritual people.
- That we will look for chances to serve others as catechists or in a service club.
- That we be open to ecological conversion and follow our ecological vocation.

##### Profile

Jorge Mario Bergoglio (Pope Francis) was born 1936 in Argentina. At the age of 22 he entered the Jesuit Novitiate. Deeping his prayer and study he worked as a teacher and guide to young Jesuits. As bishop of Buenos Aires, he became a leader in the Conference of Latin American Bishops (CELAM). He knew first hand the suffering of the poor and of agricultural practices that abuse the land. The way he acted became symbolic of a new way of being church in the joy of the Gospel - trying new roads in a permanent state of mission. [www.usccb.org](http://www.usccb.org)

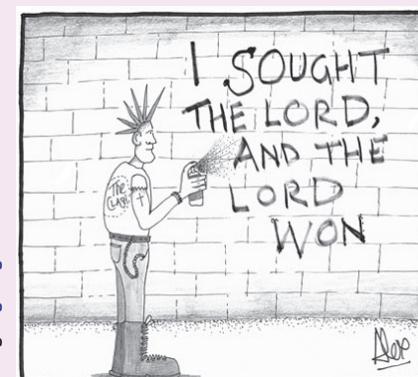


Image: goo.gl/KHfau

##### Action

- Join the local St Vincent de Paul Society [www.vinnies.org.au](http://www.vinnies.org.au)
- Catholic Youth Ministry [youthministry.catholic.org.au](http://youthministry.catholic.org.au) [csyma.com.au/membership/youthministry/](http://csyma.com.au/membership/youthministry/)
- Become a member of Marriage Encounter [www.wwme.org.au](http://www.wwme.org.au)
- Search Catholic Eco-centres like Earth Link [www.brisbanemercy.org.au](http://www.brisbanemercy.org.au)

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## Whispers of God: Humbly Seek and Find

4th Sunday Advent B – 21<sup>st</sup> December

### Surf Not Drown

#### Revelation of mystery Rm 16

##### Prayers -Scripture

Eternal Word took flesh  
 Prepare us for his coming  
 I will be a Father to him  
 Sing the goodness of God  
 My God the rock  
 Strength to live the revelation of mystery  
 broadcast to the pagans  
 Nothing is impossible with God  
 I am the handmaid of the Lord  
 She will call him Emmanuel

##### Incarnation

Carols by Candlelight have become an Australian secular ritual. Everyone feels comfortable as they hold a candle and sing. Even the great outdoors is like a comforting blanket. The wonderful mystery revealed in the person of Jesus is that we find the world of God in our lives and in this world. Life on earth is sacred.



##### Joy In Human Family

Every family has a member who does not seem to 'fit' but they belong. Even the physical place on earth where we live invites us to belong, 'country'. In the give and take of the extended family and family friends, it takes effort to live positively with messy situations. Stories of testing surround the birth of Jesus – a census; escaping a jealous ruler; being lauded by foreign visitors.

##### Prayers of Faithful

- That we tell our family, extended-family members and friends that we value them as gifts in our lives.
- That we help grow the vitality of our parish community by committing to service roles.
- That we reach out to the lonely and shut-ins in the wider community.
- That we show love for God's earth by caring for a local part of it where we live.
- That we be open to truth and goodness wherever we find it in the dialogue of life.

##### Profile

Mary McAleese was born in Belfast in 1951. Her family were tested as a Catholic family in a militant Protestant neighbourhood. She became a lawyer and journalist, and campaigned for more recognition of women in the Catholic Church, even ordination. She was President of Ireland 1997-2011. A figure of integrity she urged the Church to face abuses and cover-ups. Her commitment to promoting goodness continues.

[en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mary\\_McAleese](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mary_McAleese)

##### Action

- Personally make a Christmas card or prepare a bunch of flowers.  
[www.bhg.com](http://www.bhg.com)
- Go cycling as a family to visit the country side.  
[www.australiancyclingholidays.com.au](http://www.australiancyclingholidays.com.au)
- Do backyard gardening as a family or join a local community garden.  
[communitygarden.org.au/](http://communitygarden.org.au/)
- Volunteer to help the physically and mentally challenged.  
[www.catholiccommunityservices.com.au](http://www.catholiccommunityservices.com.au)

*The Church which “goes forth” is a community of missionary disciples ... take on the “smell of the sheep”.*

Pope Francis Joy of the Gospel No.8

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