

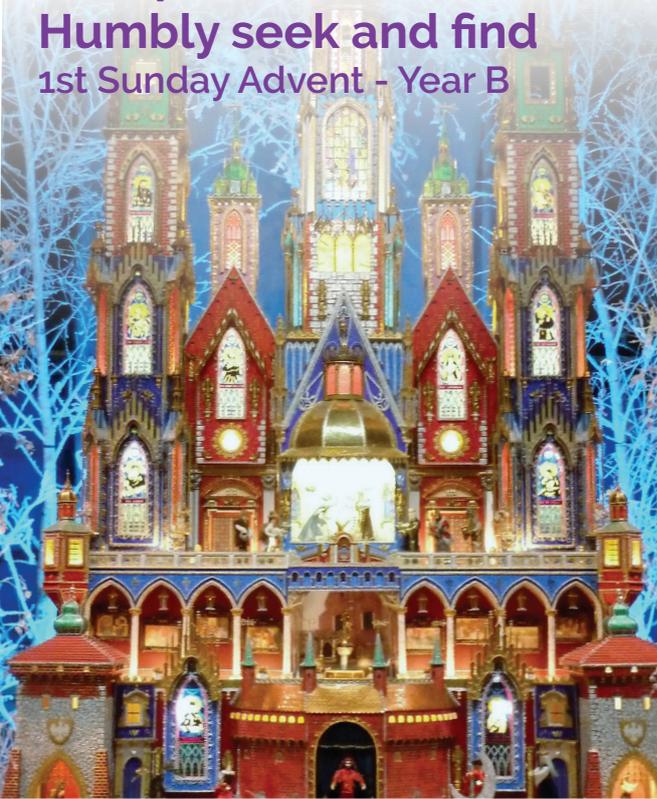


**COLUMBAN MISSIONARIES**

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# Online Resource

## Whispers of God: Humbly seek and find 1st Sunday Advent - Year B



*Let us see your face (Ps 79)*

### Points for prayer – Sunday scripture

*Our minds are searching  
The dawn of his coming  
Welcoming the light  
Redeemer is your ancient name  
Tear open the heavens  
We all wither like leaves  
We the clay, you the potter  
Grace and peace  
Teachers and preachers  
Stay awake  
Hope guides our way*

### Searching

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

*We ourselves are dust of the Earth (cf. Gen 2:7); our very bodies are made up of her elements, we breathe her air and we receive life and refreshment from her waters. Pope Francis Laudato Si' #21*

### Advent season

In Advent we focus on God and the multiple revelations of God over eons. The four coloured candles remind us that God acts in different ways. Scientists and theologians both tell us that the universe itself is God's first revelation and helps us interpret these signs. Many speak 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. We have the clues to write our own story with our lives.

### Prayers of the faithful

1. Signs – God embedded wisdom in the natural world. That we follow our curiosity and look for signs of God in all gifts of creation ... we pray
2. Busyness – The People of Israel patiently pondered the acts of God. That we never become so busy and distracted as to pass over important moments in our lives ... we pray
3. Wisdom – God led his People with prophets. That we listen to the wise experience of parents and teachers as we mould our future ... we pray
4. Movements – The Spirit led the church to reach out to the pagan nations. That we will be awake to the positive messages given by new social movements ... we pray
5. Discernment – Jesus warned about false prophets. That we be discerning about what we choose to read and in our use of the Social Media ... we pray

### Mahatma Gandhi

Born in India in 1869 he studied law in London and practiced in South Africa. He trusted the power of the law. Returning to India he worked for Indian independence from British colonialism. He chose the pathway of non-violent civil obedience to advance this cause. He lived simply with deep compassion for poor farmers and urban poor, women and untouchables. A vegetarian he often fasted for both personal purification and public protest. He was assassinated in 1948 but is known as the Father of India.

### Action

- Make a list of questions you have about the Earth-Faith link and research them.
- Subscribe to an online Catholic News service or enrol in Religious Studies.

### Mission's wide embrace

*I invite all Christians, to a renewed personal encounter with Jesus Christ, or at least an openness to letting him encounter them ...the Lord does not disappoint those who take this risk ... always capable of restoring our joy, which impels us onwards. Pope Francis Joy of the Gospel #3*

**St Columbans Mission Society**  
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