

Advent Resource - Year A

Lead kindly light 4th Sunday

Let the King of Glory enter (Psalm 23)

Points for prayer - Sunday scripture

*Isaiah says not to test the patience of God
In watchful hope announcing glory
The maiden will bear a son
Emmanuel: meaning 'God with us'
Paul chosen as an apostle of Good News
The Son of God took human nature
Preach the obedience of faith to all nations
Called to be saints
Joseph: unafraid takes Mary home as his wife
You will name him Jesus
He will save the people from their sins.*

Integral living

Franciscan expert, Sr Ilia Delio says that Franciscan theology permeates the environmental encyclical *Laudato Si'*. It shows a deep Franciscan understanding of creation flowing forth from the heart of God in which every creature expresses God in some way - a mirror or footprint - leading us to love and praise the creator. *God's love is the fundamental moving force in all created things (#77)*. Advent looks to the coming of Jesus as human fulfilment.



Mystery of Holism

Mutuality in the science of ecology has emerged slowly. In the last 150 years ecology debated a holistic view, an integrated view that values mutuality. Biologist, Ernst Haeckel in 1866 wrote that all earth's living organisms constituted a unified whole. Later, metrics quantified mutuality. Land ethics leader, Aldo Leopold was among those who reconsidered holism. Ethical considerations emerged and the environmental movement started. Many religions and thinkers helped regain this view. (*J Grimm and M E Tucker, Ecology and Religion, Island Press, Washington, 2014*)

“Stop and give thanks to God before and after meals. I ask all believers to return to this beautiful and meaningful custom... reminds us of our dependence on the God for life.” Pope Francis, Laudato Si’ #227

Prayers of the faithful

1. Obedient – Creative God, you reach out to all in your unconditional covenants of love. May we make the submission of faith with our lives.
2. Patient – God of history, you patiently guided your People over millennia. May we be patient with ourselves and in the service of others.
3. Search – God, Giver of Freedom, lead us to search out all that is good, entering into freely dialogue as we learn to share and work with others.
4. Gospel – Your Son presented the Gospel as good news and having the power to make a difference. Inspire us to be evangelisers.
5. Eucharist – Your Son Jesus gave us many meanings and challenges in the Last Supper. May our communities welcome the stranger as friend.

Profile

Pope Francis named Mother Teresa, Saint of Kolkata, as an icon of mercy for our age – a woman of prayer and concrete acts of charity. She understood the path to peace and invites us to draw from the source of love: Jesus crucified and risen. Her prayer led her to the extreme edges of society recognizing the poor and the marginalized as her family, witnessing to God's caress.

Missions wide embrace

I have decided to discuss at length the following questions:

- *Reform of the Church's missionary outreach;*
- *The temptations faced by pastoral workers;*
- *The Church, understood as the entire People of God which evangelizes;*
- *The homily and its preparation;*
- *The inclusion of the poor in society;*
- *Peace and dialogue within society;*
- *The spiritual motivations for mission.*

(Pope Francis *Joy of the Gospel* #17)

Action

- Invite someone who is alone to your Christmas dinner.
- Contribute to Christmas Mass celebrations - organise family and friends to dress up for the festival.