

## **Advent Sunday year C**

**Readings: *Jeremiah 33: 14-16, 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13, Luke 21: 25-36***

### **Theme: The Second Coming**

"Then they will see the 'Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and glory" In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit Amen

My dear friends, today the church begins the season of Advent. This is a season that focuses our attention on the coming of our Saviour Jesus Christ. We live between two comings of Christ. His first coming in humility and weakness at Bethlehem and his second coming in majesty and power second coming at the end of time.

All the readings today testify to this second coming.

In the first reading, the prophet Jeremiah speaking to the besieged people of Jerusalem offered a message of restoration. He looked forward to a renewed Davidic dynasty - a flourishing people of Judah and a capital city of Jerusalem whose new name would reflect the justice and righteousness of God himself. Christians believe that such prophecies found fulfilment in Jesus.

In the second reading, Paul writing to the Christians in Thessalonica who were then a young community thanked God for their faith and the love they have shown for one another. He knew that though they had begun their Christian life well, they needed to improve its quality particularly in their love for one another and in their personal holiness. He appeals to them in the person of Christ and prayed for an increase of their love. He prayed for the community to mirror the Love of God. The love that was responsible for the first coming of Christ. He appealed to them to persist in this love so as not to be found wanting in the second coming of Christ.

The Gospel describes the events at the end of time. In the language borrowed from the Old Testament, Luke describes the second coming of Christ. Christians should prepare for it with confidence and prayer. Christians should move with two implements in the hands - Hope and Love. These are the two words that resonate at this time of the year. The life of a Christian is a life full of hope. Hope gives one reason to life. In ordinary life, it is hope that carries us along. Hope that are going to get better when we are ill, hope that we are going

to find something to eat when we are hungry. Without hope we cannot survive even for a day. Coupled with hope is love. It is love urges us to be kind to one another, to be forgiving, to come to the end of those who are in need, to feed those who are hungry, to welcome the refugee in our midst and visit the sick in hospitals and Nursing home. It is for this act of Love that God sent his only Son into the world to show us how to live. This is why Paul in his letter to the church in Thessalonica urges them to mirror the love of Christ.

Advent is a time of expectation. It is a time of waiting. While people wait for an important visitor they take stock and review how things have gone so far.

Waiting is something we have all experienced and it is part of our way of life. We have all known the frustration of waiting, in a traffic jam when we are in a hurry, the anxious waiting for a hospital appointment or for the result of an exam. Nevertheless, the spirit of Advent, waiting and hoping for something better to happen touches the agonies and longings of every human heart. We witness this in lives turned upside down by the unexpected death of a loved one, in the loss of employment when a partner decides to walk out of marriage. Lives, which were before now so orderly and carefully planned, are suddenly faced with insecurity knocking at the door. For many, the end of the world talked about in today's gospel is not a future fantasy but an unhappy element of daily life. When life is rocked to its foundations and despair is setting in, Advent encourages us to hold on and keep hoping. God is at work and misery, disappointment and death do not have the last word. Whatever happens, it should comfort us to remember that Christ chose to come among us and begin his ministry on earth in a vulnerable state of a new born baby, in the humble surroundings of a table.

Advent gives us the strength to carry on.

Let us reflect on these.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit: Amen.