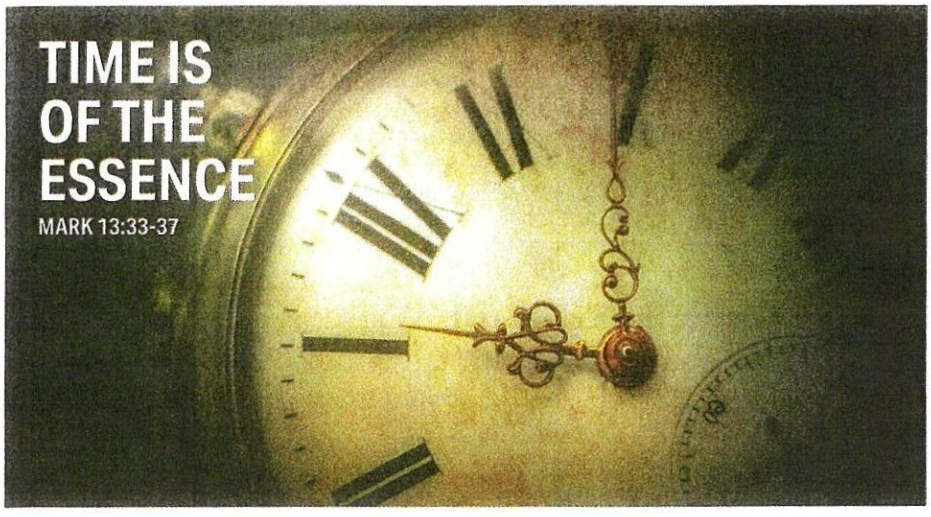
Sunday Message
FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
THE WORD
Year B • 29 November 2026 • Psalter Week 1



TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE

MARK 13:33-37

The word Advent is derived from the Latin adventus, meaning "coming," and refers to the four-week period of preparation for Christmas. Adventus is, in turn, a Latin translation of the Greek word parousía, which refers to the future coming or return of Jesus.

During the Season of Advent, we contemplate two different comings of Jesus into our world. The first refers to his birth over 2000 years ago in Bethlehem. The second refers to his future return in glory as judge at the end of time.

The theme of the readings during Advent is the preparation for Jesus' second coming at the end of time, while remembering his birth in Bethlehem.

There are many things in life that keep our attention fixed on the here and now – economic challenges, war and conflict in many parts of the world, our efforts to make ends meet, along with all the other day-to-day cares of living.

The Season of Advent calls for our hope-filled attention. It reminds us that, as daunting as our day-to-day worries are, we ultimately place our hope in the ever-loving and compassionate God. That is why with all Christians down through the ages we can cry out yet again in the Aramaic language of Jesus: "Maranatha, Come, O Lord!" ■

DO

Make Advent a special time for your family. Prepare an Advent wreath. Decorate it. Pray around it each day.

SAY

"Lord, help me to be aware of your presence with me today and every day. Amen."

PRAY

Pray that throughout the Advent season the Lord will open your heart to the real meaning of Christmas, so that when Christ comes, you will be filled with a joy so strong it will remain with you for ever.

LEARN

The season of Advent offers us an opportunity to stand back from the regular routine of life to reflect on our relationship with God and with each other. It is a time to be more conscious of God's presence, so that he will find us ready and waiting when he comes.

Being a faithful disciple does not simply happen. It requires care, attention, prayer, penance and constant watchfulness.



REFLECT

One of the wonderful things about the seasons of the liturgical year is the sense of time, of journey, of pilgrimage.

Christianity has a particular sense of time. We journey. We move through the seasons of Advent and Lent with our eyes firmly fixed on Christmas and Easter.

For Christians committed to the celebration of the liturgical calendar, time has a spiralling dynamic that invites us to recall the past, abide in the present, and hope for a future in God's heavenly kingdom. You could say that for us time is supple and elastic, bending and folding, reaching back and stretching forward, proceeding towards its climax in an unimaginable eternity.

The season of Advent conjures up a special kind of triple waiting. We wait for the Christ who appeared in an obscure town in a faraway corner of the Roman Empire 2000 years ago. We wait for his coming in this in-between time to draw us ever more closely to him. And we wait for his return in glory as judge at the end of time. Advent, you could say, is a veritable school for Christian waiting.

The Advent wreath and Advent calendar symbolise this Advent waiting. Each newly lit candle, each newly unveiled day, is a symbol of time passing, a visual reminder of our journey through these four weeks, and the manifestation of our hope, born in a stable, sealed with Mary's kiss.

The liturgical seasons remind us that we Christians have a different way of viewing time, of measuring history. We work to build God's kingdom, but the complete transformation of humanity will not happen during history but only at its culmination in the embrace of God at the end of time. Only then will everything be subjected to Christ.

Our journey through these four weeks is an opportunity to reflect on how we use time and whether we use it wisely. Notwithstanding how young, old, or fit we are, we should live each day with the end in mind, asking how we wish to spend the time that is remaining to us.

Do I live each day purposefully? Are there obstacles or distractions that prevent me from putting God first? It's a call to always remember Advent's admonition: Stay attentive! Stay focused! Don't get distracted! Remember what's truly important. ■

TAUNTON VALE CATHOLICS

NEWSLETTER

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

WE REMEMBER ALL THOSE WHO HAVE DIED RECENTLY:

WE REMEMBER ALL THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR AT THIS TIME: Michael Simon-Norris, Gordon Phelan, Ronald Cunningham, Mr Rooker, Maurice Clasby, Stella Moir, Olga Audsley, Kathlyn Thomas, Angela Pacey, Henry Davey, Alan Thistlethwaite, Sara Frounks, Pam Richards, Kathleen Wright, Owen Piper, Janet Lindsay, Joseph Alkins, Phyllis Hill, Terence O'Rourke, Jerzy Komarnicki, Sheila Pietraz, Jean Cope, Norman Austin Spear, Irene Sheerin, Michele Del Grosso, Hannah Carey, Lorna Kellett, Joy Mathilda Brown, Josephine Armitage, Jenny Richards, Jessie Popple, Violet Larkin, Lucy Whitfield, Simon Sloane, Stella Moir, Nora Carey, Jim Elson, Franciszka Dziekan.

AND THOSE WHO ARE SICK & HOUSEBOUND:

Eileen Strickland, Elizabeth Smart, Brian Smart, Julia Tucker, Catherine Twomey, Sister Theresa Smythe, Madeleine Page, Alma Hamilton, Jill Tansley, Anna Hradil, Penny Watson, Michael O'Connell, Paul Thorpe, Maureen Hughes, Anna Bingham, Mary Hutchings, Margarita Gibson, Anne King, Graham King, Mavis Parsons, Marie Mackay, Richard Fairfax, Roger Dore, Sandra Jones, Christopher Browne, Eveleen O'Farrell, Jane Tolfree, Sean Carroll, Martin Connolly, Joseph Hughes, Imogen Jenkins, Paul Jones, Riza Carol Khan, Marguerite Walker, Larry Kirton, John MacNeice, Vlad, Paul White, Elizabeth Surridge, John Irwin, Elisabeth Collingridge, Jacqueline Park, Maria Margarita Gregorio, Alan Finley.

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK:

Sat	28th	9.30am	St George	Weekday in Ordinary Time	Dolores Scorgie, RIP
Sat	28th	5.30pm	St John Fisher	First Sunday of Advent	People of the Parish
Sun	29th	8.00am	St George	First Sunday of Advent	Margaret & Timothy Butler, RIP
Sun	29th	9.15am	St George	First Sunday of Advent	Dennis Phillips, RIP
Sun	29th	11.00am	St Teresa	First Sunday of Advent	For all of Jackie Connolly's Godchildren
Sun	29th	3.00pm	St George	Advent Service	
Mon	30th	9.30am	St George	Feast of St Andrew, Apostle	Minnie Crossman, RIP
Wed	2nd	9.30am	St George	Weekday of Advent	Thressia Thoma Parecattil, RIP
Wed	2nd	6.30pm	St George	Youth Mass	For the Young People of the Parish
Thurs	3rd	9.30am	St John Fisher	Memorial of Saint Francis Xavier, Priest	Lorna Kellett, RIP
Thurs	3rd	12.30pm	St George	Memorial of Saint Francis Xavier, Priest	Neil Amor, RIP
Fri	4th	10.00am	St Teresa	Memorial of Saint Osmund, Bishop	Gerrard & Kathleen McStay
Sat	5th	9.30am	St George	Weekday of Advent	Sue Atkins, RIP
Sat	5th	5.30pm	St John Fisher	Second Sunday of Advent	Suzanne & David Alexander, RIP
Sun	6th	8.00am	St George	Second Sunday of Advent	Richard Samuel, RIP
Sun	6th	9.15am	St George	Second Sunday of Advent	Majella Walsh, RIP
Sun	6th	11.00am	St Teresa	Second Sunday of Advent	Tony & Lisa Marie, RIP

PRAYER GROUPS:

Charismatic Prayer Group: Every Wednesday 10am-11.30am St. George's Centre

Led Holy Hour: St George's on the last Wednesday of the month 7:30-8:30pm

Mother's Prayer: Every other Thurs 8-10pm Parish Centre.

Prepare for Sunday praying the Mass readings together: 1st & 3rd Thursdays at 1pm in the Parish Centre.

Pray the Rosary: (For World Peace): St George – Tuesdays 6pm, St Teresa - Fridays after 10am Mass, St John Fisher - 1st Tuesday of the month at 10:30am.

Healing Prayer Ministry: 1st weekend each month after all Masses except 8am & after Mass on 3rd Sat at St. George. At other times by appointment: healing@tauntonvalecatholics.com

Legion of Mary: Meet Thursdays 6:00pm in the Catholic Centre.

Men's Fellowship & Ladies Fellowship Groups: Meet at 8pm on alternate Tuesdays to each other in the Catholic Centre.

CONFESSION TIMES: At St George's: Sat 10am-10:30am; Thurs 12 noon -12:30pm
At St Teresa's: Fri 9:30am -10am at St John Fisher: Sat 5pm-5:25pm

ADORATION TIMES:
St George: Tue-Sun 6:30am - 7:30am;
Wed 6:30am - 9.25am; Thurs 12 -12:25pm; Fri 6:00am – 5pm and 1.00pm – 6.00pm; Sat10am - 11am.
St John Fisher: Wed 4pm - 7pm; Thurs10 -12pm

BENEDICTION: 6:30pm on Wednesdays at St George's Church

PARISH YOUTH MASS: 6.30pm First Wednesday of the Month at St George's Church

IMPACT GROUP: Temporarily suspended.

AFRICAN CATHOLIC FELLOWSHIP: Meet the first Sunday of every month from 10:30am in the Parish Centre.

NOTICES

Diocesan Prayer Link: Our Lady of the Rosary, Lawrence Weston, St Bernard, Shirehampton

Standing Orders: 22/11/2026
St George: £155, St Teresa: £75,
St John Fisher: £60.

Offertory Collection: 15/11/2026
St George: £221.73, St Teresa: £330.40,
St John Fisher: £226.23.

Fairtrade at:
St George's on Sun 13th Dec.
St John Fisher's on Sat 19th Dec.
St Teresa's on Sun 20th Dec.
As always thank you for your support to the De La Salle project to Malawi.

Foodbank: With the cold weather setting in, the foodbank needs your help more than ever. Tins of soup, meat or curry, pasta and pasta sauces cost little and will go a long way to helping those in need. Please consider the Foodbank's needs each time you shop. With grateful thanks.

Jesse Tree: The Jesse tree will be up for Advent at St Teresa's. Please take a tag and purchase a gift for the Foodbank.

Parking at St Teresa: Work will commence on **Monday 23rd November** at St Teresa's to tarmac the grass area. As a result, there will be limited parking spaces so please seek alternative places to park if possible and be mindful not to block roads or neighbourhood driveways. With thanks.

The Jesse Tree will be in St Georges Church from Sunday 29th November.
As is our tradition we will be donating to 'Open Door Charity' for the homeless in Taunton. Please take a tag and return your present and place under the Jesse Tree by Sunday 20th December. Many thanks for your support.

Exodus 90: Men, are you searching for a way to grow deeper in your Catholic faith, your relationship with God, and to become a better man? Join Exodus 90 this new year! Exodus 90 is daily spiritual formation for men, founded on the pillars of prayer, asceticism and fraternity. It incorporates daily disciplines like holy hours, fasting, regular exercise, and has helped more than 300,000 men find space for God in their lives. The Exodus 90 Challenge starts **January 11 2027**. You're invited to join our fraternity here at St George's. Please contact Jacob at 07464123974 to learn more

Caretaker and Cleaner required: St George's School are seeking a caretaker and cleaner on a part time basis. For further information please contact: office@stgeorgestaunton.uk.

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

An Advent Service of Readings, Reflections & Music
3.00pm
Sunday 29th November

St George's Church,
Billet Street,
Taunton TA1 3NN

Following the Service
Refreshments will be served
in the Parish Centre
All are welcome

The Book Group: will meet on **Wednesday 2nd December** at 12.30 pm at Taringa Trull. We will be reading 'Decline and Fall' by Evelyn Waugh, a late member of the Parish. New members are welcome. Details from Mary Flight 07837 796480.

Advent Soups: You are Invited to the parish Advent Soups which will be held in the Parish Centre following the 12.30pm Mass on Thursdays on **December 3,10 and 17**. Donations to Charity greatly appreciated. We look forward to seeing you there.

THE CHRISTMAS STORY IN RENAISSANCE ART: Saturday 5th December 11:00 to 12:00 at the Parish Centre.
Mary Chisholm will be giving a talk relating the Christmas story through a selection of works of art from the European Renaissance. The talk begins with the Annunciation and travels through the Visitation, the Nativity and the Adoration of the Magi, before ending with the Flight into Egypt. The beauty of these works, and the rich Christian symbolism the artists employed, deepen our appreciation of how this period brought the Gospel narratives to life.

St John Fisher, Sat 12 December - mulled wine and mince pies after the Vigil Mass. All are welcome.

Join us on **Sunday 20th December at St Teresa** for Mulled wine, Apple juice, mince pies and gingerbread figures

St Teresa – Psalm Response:

Save us O Lord, carry us back
Rouse your power and come.
Rescue Your people; show us your face.
Bring us back.

CONTACT US
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Parish Office: 01823 272700 Mon, Wed, Thurs and Fri 9-1:30, Tues 9-3
SAFEGUARDING REPRESENTATIVE:
John Twomey psr.taunton.stgeorge@cliftondiocese.com
DIOCESAN SAFEGUARDING safeguarding@cliftondiocese.com [illegible]

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

To you, I lift up my soul, O my God.
In you, I have trusted; let me not be put to shame.
Nor let my enemies exult over me;
and let none who hope in you be put to shame.

COLLECT

Grant your faithful, we pray, almighty God,
the resolve to run forth to meet your Christ
with righteous deeds at his coming,
so that, gathered at his right hand,
they may be worthy to possess the heavenly Kingdom.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

FIRST READING Isaiah 63:16b-17; 64:1. 3b-8

A reading from the Prophet Isaiah.

You, O LORD, are our Father,
our Redeemer from of old is your name.
O LORD, why do you make us wander from your ways
and harden our heart, so that we fear you not?
Return for the sake of your servants,
the tribes of your heritage.

O that you would rend the heavens and come down,
that the mountains might quake at your presence.
You came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.
From of old no one has heard
or perceived by the ear,
no eye has seen a God besides you,
who acts for those who wait for him.
You meet him who joyfully works righteousness,
those who remember you in your ways.
Behold, you were angry, and we sinned;
in our sins we have been a long time, and shall we be saved?
We have all become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment.
We all fade like a leaf,
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.
There is no one who calls upon your name,
who rouses himself to take hold of you;
for you have hidden your face from us,
and have made us melt in the hand of our iniquities.

But now, O LORD, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.
The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Psalm 80(79):2ac. 3b. 15-16. 18-19. R. 4

R: ***Bring us back, O God;***
let your face shine forth, and we shall be saved.

1. O shepherd of Israel, hear us,
enthroned on the cherubim, shine forth.
Rouse up your might and come to save us. R.

2. God of hosts, turn again, we implore;
look down from heaven and see.
Visit this vine and protect it,
the stock your right hand has planted,
the son you have claimed for yourself. R.

3. May your hand be on the man at your right hand,
the son of man you have confirmed as your own.
And we shall never forsake you again;
give us life that we may call upon your name. R.

SECOND READING 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

A reading from the First Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians.

Brothers and sisters: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I give thanks to my God always for you
because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus, that in every way you were enriched in him in all speech and all knowledge – even as the testimony about Christ was confirmed among you – so that you are not lacking in any gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ, who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

ACCLAMATION BEFORE THE GOSPEL Psalm 85(84):8

R: ***Alleluia, alleluia.***
Show us, O Lord, your mercy,
and grant us your salvation.
R: ***Alleluia.***

GOSPEL Mark 13:33-37

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark.

At that time: Jesus said to his disciples: 'Be on guard, keep awake. For you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his servants in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to stay awake. Therefore stay awake – for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or when the cock crows, or in the morning – lest he come suddenly and find you asleep. And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake.'
The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Accept, we pray, O Lord, these offerings we make,
gathered from among your gifts to us,
and may what you grant us to celebrate devoutly here below,
gain for us the prize of eternal redemption.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

The Lord will bestow his bounty,
and our earth shall yield its increase.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

May these mysteries, O Lord,
in which we have participated,
profit us, we pray,
for even now, as we walk amid passing things,
you teach us by them to love the things of heaven
and hold fast to what endures.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

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