



Gospel Acclamation Ps 84:8

Alleluia, alleluia!

*Lord, show us your mercy and love,
and grant us your salvation.*

Alleluia!

Gospel Mk 13:33-37

Stay awake! You never know when the Lord will come.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Be on your guard, stay awake, because you never know when the time will come. It is like a man travelling abroad: he has gone from home, and left his servants in charge, each with his own task; and he has told the doorkeeper to stay awake. So stay awake, because you do not know when the master of the house is coming, evening, midnight, cockcrow, dawn; if he comes unexpectedly, he must not find you asleep. And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake!'

Reflection by Fr Michael Tate

Our Lord portrays himself as the Master who goes away on a journey. It is certain that he will return, even if no-one in his household knows exactly when. That is *our* situation. What do we do in anticipation?

Our Lord, the Master, indicates we have a choice. We can close our eyes and enter into the world of dreams where we create our own fantasy futures, or we can stay awake and alert to do what Our Lord wants us to do: 'He left his *servants* in charge, giving to each his work.'

You and me – his servants – have a particular role or work in and for this phase of human history. A deep down intuition, prompted by the Holy Spirit, indicates what this is. We must be true to this assignment.

We could take a moment to pray that, when the Lord returns, we may hear: 'Come, good and *faithful* servant, inherit the Kingdom prepared for you since the foundation of the world.'

mtate@bigpond.com

The Living Word

First Sunday of Advent, Year B

3 December 2023

First Reading Is 63:16-17; 64:1.3-8

Oh that you would tear the heavens apart and come down.

You, Lord, yourself are our Father,
Our Redeemer is your ancient name.
Why, Lord, leave us to stray from your ways
and harden our hearts against fearing
you?

Return, for the sake of your servants,
the tribes of your inheritance.
Oh, that you would tear the heavens open
and come down
– at your Presence the mountains would
melt.

No ear has heard,
no eye has seen
any god but you act like this
for those who trust him.

You guide those who act with integrity
and keep your ways in mind.
You were angry when we were sinners;
we had long been rebels against you.
We were all like men unclean,
all that integrity of ours like filthy clothing.
We have all withered like leaves
and our sins blew us away like the wind.
No one invoked your name
or roused himself to catch hold of you.
For you hid your face from us
and gave us up to the power of our sins.
And yet, Lord, you are our Father;
we the clay, you the potter,
we are all the work of your hand.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 79:2-3. 15-16. 18-19 R. v.4

*R. Lord, make us turn to you, let us see
your face and we shall be saved.*

1. O shepherd of Israel, hear us,
shine forth from your cherubim throne.
O Lord, rouse up your might,
O Lord, come to our help. (R.)
2. God of hosts, turn again, we implore,
look down from heaven and see.
Visit this vine and protect it,
the vine your right hand has planted.
(R.)
3. May your hand be on the man you have
chosen,
the man you have given your strength.
And we shall never forsake you again:
give us life that we may call upon your
name. (R.)

Second Reading 1 Cor 1:3-9

The revelation we looked for, Christ Jesus our Lord.

May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send you grace and peace.
I never stop thanking God for all the graces you have received through Jesus Christ. I thank him that you have been enriched in so many ways, especially in your teachers and preachers; the witness to Christ has indeed been strong among you so that you will not be without any of the gifts of the Spirit while you are waiting for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed; and he will keep you steady and without blame until the last day, the day of our Lord Jesus Christ, because God by calling you has joined you to his Son, Jesus Christ; and God is faithful.

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St Anthony of Padua Church

58 Arden Street, Clovelly

Ph: 9665 2711 Email: parish@stanthonyclovelly.org.au

Parish Priest: Fr Laurie Cauchi

Parish Office: 7 Fewings St, Clovelly 2031 Website: www.stanthonyclovelly.org.au

Parish School: 9665 7399 Principal: Mrs Anna Novak

School email: info@staclovelly.catholic.edu.au School web: www.staclovelly.catholic.edu.au



Weekend Masses: Saturday Vigil: 5.00pm Sunday: 9.00am

Weekdays: Tuesday to Friday 9.00am

Reconciliation: Saturday 4.00pm to 4.30pm or by appointment

1st Sunday of Advent

3 December 2023

The new Church year begins this weekend:
Cycle B for Sundays and Cycle 2 for weekdays.



PARISH MEETING

All parishioners are cordially invited to a general parish meeting this Sunday 3 December at 10.00am in the Parish Meeting Room (school library). The meeting will include morning tea and presentation of the parish financial report for 2022-23. Please come along and show your support.

Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
this Friday 8 December 9am Mass

This Mass will also be the Graduation Mass for our Year 6. You are invited to come and honour Mary on her special Feast and celebrate with the whole school in farewelling our Year 6 students.

Charitable Works fund Appeal continues this weekend.

Your donation supports vital works such as our Seminary, hospital and prison chaplaincies, CatholicCare, support and training of catechists etc

Donations made through the special envelopes are 100% tax deductible.

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.

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

First Reconciliation 2023

We congratulate our young children who received the wonderful Sacrament of God's forgiveness last Wednesday. It was a beautiful celebration thanks to the help from our teachers, catechists and support of the parents.

We pray for parents to help them keep the promises they made at their children's Baptism.

Catholic Weekly is available at church entrances.

Find out what is happening in the Catholic Church around the world.

A BIG THANK YOU

As the school year draws to a close, we thank our parish catechists who have brought the Good News of God's love to 100 students at Clovelly Public School. Special thanks go to Kay Benson, who is retiring from regular teaching after many years, and Dori Giuttari and Joanna Nash, who have each taught two classes every week. We need more catechists for next year, so if you are at all interested, please speak to Fr Laurie, Joanne Russell or visit ccd.sydneycatholic.org Lessons are for half an hour on Tuesday mornings.

Musicians/singers are needed at our weekend masses and for Christmas. If you are blessed with such a gift, come and share it to give praise to God.

READERS NEXT WEEKEND: Haddock/Nash families; J Duffy, C Jordan.

Covid-19 is still around.

Please use sanitiser when you enter our church.

Please remember in your prayers:

Recently deceased: Jeong Wook Park, Shirley Love, Monica McAuliffe, David McKenzie, Charlie Farrugia, Nola Dooley (née Vaughan), Gaye Zammit, Janice Peterson

Anniversary: All the Faithful Departed, John Burke, Jim Taylor

A message from the Archdiocese of Sydney: Child sexual abuse is a crime. The appropriate people to deal with crimes are the police. If you, or anyone you know, has been abused, please contact the police. Alternatively, you can contact the Safeguarding & Ministerial Integrity Office at (02) 9390 5810 or safeguarding@sydneycatholic.org You may also want to speak to your Parish Priest who will be able to provide support & guidance. The Archdiocese has a legal obligation to report crimes to the police.