



The Meaning of Advent

Christoph Friedrich Blumhardt

It is Advent again. We call this time Advent because it reminds us of what comes from God for the creation of his kingdom on earth. We who are here have been led in a special way to keep what is coming on our hearts and to shape ourselves according to it. That which comes from God – that is what moves our hearts, not only in these days but at all times. That which is to come from God is the most important thing we have, in the past and in the present as well as in the future. It is only in God's coming that even the Bible itself has value to us, let alone all the other things we call "means of grace." Unless what comes from God is a part of it, it remains like a dead seed and does not achieve what must be achieved if God's kingdom is to be.

There are many today who sigh to heaven, "Saviour, come now!" But they are not sighing for the sake of God's kingdom. They cry out like this only when they are in trouble and want God to help them. And they don't know of any help that is more effective than to have a Savior come and put a quick end to their troubles.

When it comes to the things of God, however, we must not be concerned for what is ours, but only for what belongs to Christ. We should do this not merely for our own edification; we must become workers for God. This leads us to God's vineyard, a place where there is not a great deal of talk, but where everyone is intent on deeds.

This is what it means to prepare for Advent. Jesus says, "Be ready for action, and have your lamps lit; be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet...blessed is the slave whom his master will find at work when he arrives" (Luke 12:35-48). Here Jesus is speaking of his disciples and their preparation for his coming. Take note that God's kingdom is not formed by any human discovery or intention, however daring and noble, but by the coming of Christ. Our faith, our ardor, must be for this coming. Otherwise it would be better to put aside our meditations on Advent. The reign of God is a marvelous thing. To worldly wisdom God's kingdom seems like foolishness, and yet it gives shape to the whole world, the whole creation, making it God's eternal coming.

But look out! When someone holds a light in his hand and shines it here and there, he is immediately asked, "What business have you here?" Thus so many people let their light go out again. It is too awkward, too inconvenient to keep holding up a light and showing people the dirt and saying, "There, clean that up; the way you are doing things now isn't right in God's eyes. Cut off your hand! Tear out your eye! Cut off your foot!" – as Jesus says, figuratively, when there is something about the hand or eye or foot that stands in God's way.

This is what it means to watch. If you look for the truth in small matters you will not go astray in big ones. You will be able to recognize truth there and carry out the command that comes. Let us keep staunch in our eagerness to do whatever comes to us of the truth. Then there will be knocks on our door, over and over, and God's coming will not be hidden. For devoted hearts the light will keep dawning from him who is merciful and compassionate.

St Mary's
Parish
Haddington
Road

Serving
the
Community

Serving
the Family

Serving the
City

Contacts: Fr Fachtna McCarthy, Administrator, Fr Patrick Claffey C.C. Fr Josip Levaković Tel 01-6600075

Streaming and Website www.stmaryshaddingtonroad.ie email: info@stmaryshaddingtonroad.ie

Child Protection: <http://www.stmaryshaddingtonroad.ie/ministries/child-protection/> also www.csp.dublindiocese.ie

Streaming also at www.churchservices.tv/haddingtonroad

Funded by Living the Joy of the Gospel Campaign



St Mary's, Haddington Road Church Christmas Concert by Candlelight

Saturday, 15th December at 7:30pm

A feast of seasonal music with the musicians of St. Mary's

ANNUAL COLLECTION NEXT SUNDAY

Please give generously in support of
this parish-based world
THANK YOU



Archbishop Martin is once again seeking support for a Parish Food Appeal next weekend **TODAY** to support the work of the Crosscare Foodbanks.

This year Crosscare are asking that collections **be held TODAY**. This will allow them to distribute hampers in good time for Christmas to hundreds of families.

Advent Retreat

*A time to anticipate ...
to be aware ...
to notice ...*

'Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people.' (Luke 2:10)

This reflection day is an opportunity to explore your own inner responses to the movements that lie within the waiting period of Advent ...

Date: 8th December 2018

Time: 10.00am – 4.00pm

Venue: The Emmaus Centre, Ennis Lane, Lissenhall, Swords, Co. Dublin.

Cost: 35 Euro (Includes lunch and tea/coffee)

Advance booking is essential. Please contact Thérèse Fitzgerald on 089 967 4758 or therese Fitzgerald7@gmail.com

Masses and Confession

Sundays: Vigil, 6pm (Saturday), 9.30am, 11am, 5pm

Croatian Community Mass 6.30pm

Daily masses 10am and 12.40pm, Saturday 10am only

-Rosary daily after 10am mass

Adoration Blessed Sacrament, Weds 10.30-12.40

Church Collections

W/e 25th November 2018

1st Collection: €985

Share Collection: €940

Weekday collections: €527

THANK YOU

Christmas Reflections

An hour of wonderful Christmas classics
with the

Celtic Choristers Male Voice Choir

Monday 10th December 7.30pm €10

The Chapel, Mercy International Centre,
64A Baggot Street, Dublin 2

All welcome

In Memoriam

This weekend's intentions

5pm: Seamus Daly (Anniversary)

Masses on 8th/9th December 2018

6pm: Annie Curran (Anniversary)

9.30am: John and Laura Cunningham
Relations and Friends

11am: Kathleen and Ned Barrett (Anniv)

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