

Sunday 27th November - First Sunday of Advent

The Catholic Community of All Saints Catholic Church, Hassop, and Our Lady & St Joseph Catholic Church, Matlock

First Sunday of Advent



Emmaus Hub
Bakewell, Hassop & Matlock



Lucinda Watson
Hub Administrator

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telephone: 01629 582 804
Wednesday, Thursday & Friday
Available - 8:30am - 12:30pm



Fr Robbie O'Callaghan
Parish Priest

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emergency mobile: 07449835765

Parish Deacon
Rev Richard Walsh

Newsletter



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The first Sunday of Advent in 2022 will be Sunday, November 27th. After a tumultuous year, there is comfort to be found when we pause to read, pray, and reflect over the course of the Advent season in which believers eagerly anticipate the celebration of Christ's birth. The first Sunday of Advent gives us the opportunity to centre our thoughts on **hope**. It's a beautiful chance to remember the hope God offers to our lost and dying world, and that He's given us through Jesus. On this first Sunday of Advent, as we prepare our hearts to celebrate Jesus' arrival as a gift to all humanity; let's stir up in our hearts and homes a sense of anticipation. Over this Advent, we pray that **hope** would rise-up in our spirits in a tangible and life-giving way.

The word "Advent" comes from the Latin word *adventus*, which means "coming." Advent in the 4th and 5th centuries was a time of preparation for the baptism of new Christians. Christians would spend 40 days in prayer and fasting to prepare for the celebration that accompanied the baptism of new believers. Over time, advent was connected to the coming of Christ. Originally Christians used this term to reference Christ's second coming, but by the Middle Ages, Advent was connected to Christ's first coming that we celebrate at Christmas.

Advent season is an invitation to set your mind off of the stresses of the year. We can take our focus off of the crazy hustle that can be associated with the Christmas season that often threatens to produce more hassle than delight. Advent is a chance to focus our thoughts on the gift God has given us in his son Jesus who stepped down from Heaven and took the form of a man *so that we might believe*. The tradition for the first Sunday of Advent includes lighting the candle of **hope**. This candle of hope symbolizes promises delivered through the prophets from God as well as the hope we have in Christ. God crafted a great rescue plan that he lays out in Scripture. This plan foretells years in advance the arrival of Christ. The Bible also gives us a glimpse of the future and promises that God will come down to create a new heaven and Earth.

Our Schools

St Joseph's Catholic Academy

Chesterfield Road
Matlock
Derbyshire DE4 3FT
Headteacher:
Mrs S Carr
Tel: 01629 583616
enquiries@joe.srscmat.co.uk

St Mary's Catholic High School

Newbold Road
Upper Newbold
Chesterfield
Derbyshire S41 8AG
Headteacher:
Mrs M Dengate
Telephone: 01246 201191
enquiries@stmaryschesterfield.org.uk

Our Hospitals

Chesterfield Royal Hospital

NHS Foundation Trust
Calow
Chesterfield
Derbyshire S44 5BL
Tel: 01246 277271
www.chesterfieldroyal.nhs.uk

****Shared Hub Administrator****

I have asked Lucinda to increase her hours at the Hub. Her hours have increased from 15 to 27 hours per week. We value your support and patience whilst we find our feet and to ensure you are regularly supported by us, we are allocating mornings only for face-to-face and telephone enquiries, and afternoons for strategic work, this way we can ensure dedicated time to our parishioners and to the smooth running of the administration of the Hub. **The Hub will be open** to help you **between 8:30am and 12:30pm Wednesday, Thursday and Friday** - by telephone **01629 582804** - by email info@hassopcatholic.org or info@matlockcatholic.org - or by calling in in person. The Office at Hassop will no longer be an active site. Please utilise my Wednesday and Friday Appointment system to gain spiritual/practical support from me if needed. **Thank you, Fr Robbie**

Mass Intentions

Year A - Cycle I - Eucharistic Prayer: II - Psalter: I Saturday 26th November - Weekday in Ordinary Time

10.30am to 11.30am - Hassop - Confessions

12:30pm - Matlock - Baptism - Jessica & Thea C

4.30pm - Matlock - Rosary - Joyful Mysteries

5.00pm - Matlock Vigil - Philip Tobin RIP

Sunday 27th November - First Sunday of Advent

9.00am - Hassop - Mass - Holy Souls

11.00am - Matlock - Mass - Jim O'Brien RIP (Keohane Family)

12:30pm - Hassop - Baptism - Alfie B

Monday 28th November - Weekday of Advent

No Mass/No Service

Tuesday 29th November - Weekday of Advent

No Mass/No Service

Wednesday 30th November - St Andrew, Apostle (Feast)

9.30am - Matlock - Rosary - Glorious Mysteries

10.00am - Matlock - Mass - Maria Fitzpatrick RIP (Jean Johnson)

12.00pm - Hassop - Mass - Phyllis O'Shea RIP

Thursday 1st December - Weekday of Advent

9.30am - Rosary - Mysteries of Light

10.00am - Matlock Mass - Joe Coleman RIP Anniversary

Friday 2nd December - Weekday of Advent

9:00am - Matlock 'Meet Fr Robbie' by appointment

5.30pm - Matlock - Rosary - Sorrowful Mysteries

6.00pm - Matlock - Mass - Fr Pat O'Doherty RIP (Former PP of Alfreton)

Saturday 3rd December - St Francis Xavier, Priest

10.30am to 11.30am - Matlock - Advent Confessions

12:30pm - Matlock - Baptisms

4.30pm - Matlock - Rosary - Joyful Mysteries

5.00pm - Matlock Vigil - John & Bridget McLarkey RIP &

Kathleen McLarkey RIP - Cruagh, Malin (John McLarkey & Family)

Sunday 4th December - Second Sunday of Advent

9.00am - Hassop - Mass - Holy Souls

11.00am - Matlock - Mass - James Johnson RIP Ann. (Fam)

Dear Parishioners, I appreciate we are entering very difficult times as we move now into Advent and Christmas. It is a time of worry for many, in regards to employment; finances and keeping warm and fed. As your Parish Priest I wish to let you know you are all in my thoughts and prayers during this difficult time. You are both very generous communities at Matlock and Bakewell/Hassop and it does not go unnoticed by me that you continue to support your church. I continue to strive to be frugal with spending, but Council Tax, Building Insurance, Diocesan Quota and the utilities and building maintenance still require paying. I appreciate your ongoing generosity. I will do my best to keep parish costs to a minimum. These are not times though to be proud – if you are struggling, please come to me and I will try to help, do not suffer in silence but come to me in total confidentiality and compassion. For the Lord is compassion and love, slow to anger and rich in mercy. Keeping you in my prayers. **Fr Robbie**

Hassop & Bakewell - News for the Pews

This weekend - there is a retiring collection to support 'Poor and Needy Parishes' - which have difficulty in funding their needs which can be in relation to their buildings, heating, repairs etc.

Sick and Housebound - We remember in our prayers - Marie Hopkinson, Pat Erskine-Murray, Maria Hutchinson, Peter Peel, Annalise & Shirley Plant and all our sick parishioners and friends.

A big THANK YOU - goes to everyone who joined us on Saturday for the 'Christmas at Hassop' get together. Thank you to those who donated toys, jewellery, towards the Hamper and the cakes.

Christmas Flower Collection - You will find in your newsletter this weekend an envelope for our Christmas Flower Collection. Let us be as generous as possible so that our church looks beautiful. Please return your envelope next weekend. **Thank You - The Flower Team**

**Advent Confessions at Hassop with Fr Robbie (10:30-11:30am)
Saturdays 26th Nov & 10th December – Tuesday 20th December**

LIFE AND DEATH OF ST ANDREW - Jesus was walking by the Sea of Galilee when '...he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea for they were fishermen. And he said to them, 'Come follow me and I will make you fishers of men'. At once they left the nets and followed him' (Matt. 4:18-21). In John's Gospel we learn that John the Baptist 'when he saw Jesus passing by, he said, "Look, the Lamb of God!"' (John 1:36). .. 'Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, was one of the two who heard what John had said and who had followed Jesus. The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon and tell him "We have found the Messiah" (that is the Christ). And he brought him to Jesus.' (John 1 40-42). This is how we are introduced to Andrew, who was a follower of John the Baptist and who became known as the 'First called'. As an Apostle, Andrew played a significant role in Christ's ministry. All twelve Apostles were given authority to drive out evil spirits and to heal every disease and sickness while preaching. Andrew was present during the Last Supper and in the garden at Gethsemane; he saw the risen Christ after the Resurrection, and received the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. According to tradition, Andrew left the Holy Land after Pentecost to spread the Word in Greece and Asia Minor. In 60AD, during the reign of Nero, he was working in Patras, where he baptised the wife and brother of the Governor, Aegaeus. The Governor was so incensed by this he ordered the death of the Apostle. Andrew was crucified on a cross in the shape of an X on 30 November. This day is recognised around the world as his feast day, and was a Holyday of Obligation in Scotland until 1918. The instrument of his martyrdom - the X shaped cross - has become the symbol of Andrew and appears on the Scottish national flag (the Saltire), as a reminder that he is patron saint of Scotland.

Nov/Dec - Groups and Regular Events - All welcome - Anytime!

Choir Practice	Tuesdays at 3:30pm	
Matlock Friday Bible Study Group	Friday 11:00am in Matlock	
Holy Hour & Benediction	Thursday 7pm Hassop/Matlock (alternate)	
Rotas	Hassop 27 th Nov	Hassop 4 th Dec
Sunday Wardens - Close	Volunteers	Volunteers
Welcome - Sunday	Chris & Mick	Mike W
Readers - Sunday 9am	Family Mass	Sarah M
Sunday Morning Coffee	<i>Volunteers</i>	<i>Volunteers</i>
Wednesday - Reader	Patrick C	Patrick C
Flowers	No Flowers During Advent	No Flowers During Advent

Hassop/Bakewell - Thank You so much for supporting Your Parish

Loose: £94.50 Env: £75.00 S/O: £452.07 Total: £621.57



Safeguarding Representative

Anthony Howlings

Anthony.HowlingsPSR@dioceseofnottingham.uk

'As a Christian Family, we will **meet** and **celebrate** the Holy Eucharist on the first day of the week. We will **care** for and **support** each other.

We will strive to be good examples of our Christian faith and show our **commitment** to that **faith** in our daily lives. In **love** we will **support** and **participate** with other Christian Churches in and around Bakewell.'

Make a donation to Hassop



Subscribe to the Joint Newsletter



Christmas

Carol Service - Matlock

Sunday 18th December 5:00pm

Carol Service - Hassop

Tuesday 20th December 7:00pm

Christmas Eve Family Mass Hassop - Sat Dec 24th - 4:00pm

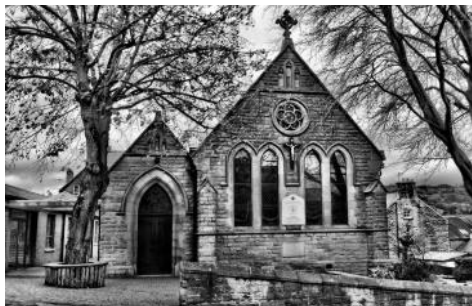
Christmas Eve Family Mass Matlock - Sat Dec 24th 6:00pm

Christmas Day - Hassop

Sun Dec 25th 9:00am

Christmas Day - Matlock Sun

Dec 25th 10:30am



Matlock - News for the Pews

Welcome to our Visitors & Parishioners this weekend

This weekend - there is a retiring collection to support 'Poor and Needy Parishes' - which have difficulty in funding their needs which can be in relation to their buildings, heating, repairs etc.

Simple Supper after the Saturday Vigil. All Welcome.

Christmas Flower Collection - You will find in your newsletter this weekend an envelope for our Christmas Flower Collection. Let us be as generous as possible so that our church looks beautiful for the coming of Our Saviour in Bethlehem. Please return your envelope next weekend. **Thank You - The Flower Team**

Sick and Housebound - We prayer for - Bob Hilton, Gordon Smythe, Lily Chapman, Imelda Hanlon, Anna Thompson, Peggy Flynn, Kath Dyson, Linda Houghton and all our sick parishioners.

Advent Confessions at Matlock with Fr Robbie (10:30-11:30am)
Saturdays 3rd Dec & 17th Dec & Thurs 22nd December

'Heating in the Hall' - Our Warm Space project

Thank you to those who have offered your support following the appeal via the newsletter last weekend.

If you would like to help in any way, please contact:

colette.hanson@btinternet.com to help in the hall on a Monday.

paulinaswanwick1947@gmail.com to offer to make or bake refreshments to be distributed on the day.

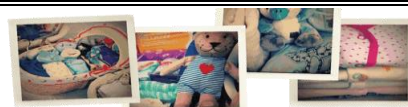
(please note this is Pauline's correct email address)

shirley.a.johnson@btinternet.com to donate books, games, jigsaws

jlangle@uwclub.net to donate items from the 'shopping list

davidswanwick@btinternet.com to offer transport for people

For information contact Lance at lancp@svp.org.uk



Advent Crib Collection - During advent there will be a collection point for Baby Basics in the Lady Chapel. Every item given away through Baby Basics is donated by someone in our local community. **Needed most are:** toiletries - for both mum and baby, maternity pads, breast pads, Moses basket sheets, baby towels, nappies and wipes. They currently have plenty of clothes, so these are not needed. If you would like to donate any of these things just place them in the collection box and we will deliver them to Baby Basics in Chesterfield at the end of Advent. (Unfortunately, they cannot accept donations of car seats, cot mattresses, breast pumps, stair gates and or electrical items)

Sanctuary Lamp – Intentions of Bob Hilton

CHURCH CLEANING - VOLUNTEERS NEEDED - CHURCH CLEANING

Nov/Dec - Groups and Regular Events - All welcome - Anytime!

Matlock Friday Bible Study Group	Friday 11:00am in Matlock	
Holy Hour & Benediction	Thursday 7pm Hassop/Matlock (alternate)	
Rotas	Matlock 26/27 Nov	Matlock 3/4 Dec
Welcome - Saturday	David & Paula	John & Denise
Readers - Saturday 5pm	Amelia & Sharon	Liz & Paul
Simple Saturday Supper	Jill & Tim	Chris & Chas
Welcome - Sunday	Phyl & Volunteer	Phyl & Volunteer
Readers - Sunday 11am	Ingrid & Sheila S	Derrick & Catherine C
Church Cleaners	Shirley & Bernard	Sheila Sheppard

Matlock - Thank You so much for supporting Your Parish

Loose: £404.65 Env: £230.50 S/O: £738.81 Total: £1,373.96

Safeguarding Representative

Paula Scully
0115 9539850

Our parish community is called to build the Kingdom of God. We gather for **WORSHIP** to strengthen our Christian unity; also included are our various ministries where you can **SERVE** those most in need with love and dignity, and opportunities to **GROW** your faith in the truth of life that Jesus provides us. We appreciate and are open to your willingness to **GIVE** of your time; treasure and talent. We want you to know, furthermore, that it is here that you have a place to **BELONG**: there is always a pew for you! This beautiful building belongs to you. Cherish your time here, as God the Father cherishes you.

Make a donation to Matlock



Subscribe to the Joint Newsletter



Christmas

Carol Service - Matlock

Sunday 18th December 5:00pm

Carol Service - Hassop

Tuesday 20th December 7:00pm

Christmas Eve Family Mass

Hassop - Sat Dec 24th - 4:00pm

Christmas Eve Family Mass

Matlock - Sat Dec 24th 6:00pm

Christmas Day - Hassop

Sun Dec 25th 9:00am

Christmas Day - Matlock Sun

Dec 25th 10:30am



Advent – Week One

Advent Begins!

First Sunday of Advent (Year C)

“Be vigilant at all times and pray.” Luke 21:36a

Advent begins with a call to vigilance as reflected in the passage above. There are numerous Scripture passages that call us to this vigilance and anticipation of the Lord’s coming. Being vigilant means, also, that we are prepared. We are not caught off guard. Imagine if Christmas morning came and you woke up suddenly realizing that you forgot to prepare! Imagine if you had no gifts, no food purchased and no plans were made. Of course you wouldn’t allow that to happen, but we do sometimes allow it to happen spiritually speaking. We often are not prepared to celebrate the birth of Christ within our hearts.

The first week of Advent also offers the focus of the Second Coming of Christ. Jesus will return again, in all splendour and glory, to judge the living and the dead. We profess that fact every Sunday in our Creed. So, even though Advent is a time for the preparation of the celebration of the first coming of Jesus in the flesh, it is also a time to acknowledge that His first coming is ultimately fulfilled in His final glorious coming. As Advent begins, reflect upon how ready you are for Jesus’ coming. Are you preparing for it with the same fervour that you prepare for Christmas through shopping, cooking, decorating, etc.? Are you looking forward to that day when He will return? Are you preparing for the spiritual celebration of His birth? Are you awake and attentive to the numerous ways that God speaks to you on a daily basis?

If you find that you are not as prepared for His return in glory as you’d like to be, make this Advent a time when you get your heart ready. Commit to prayer, spiritual exercises, reflection and attentiveness to His gentle and glorious voice.

Lord, as Advent begins, help me to put my eyes on You. Help me to open my ears to Your voice. And help me to open my heart to Your glorious presence. May I be attentive to You in every way You desire to come to me. Jesus, I trust in You.

Faith in the Most Holy Eucharist

Monday of the First Week of Advent

“Lord, I am not worthy to have you enter under my roof; only say the word and my servant will be healed.” Mt. 8:8

This familiar line is taken from the faith of a Roman centurion. He asked Jesus to heal his servant, Jesus agrees to come cure him, and the centurion exclaims this profound faith in Jesus stating two things: 1) He’s not worthy of Jesus’ presence in his home and, 2) His confidence that Jesus can heal his servant simply by saying the word.

Jesus, of course, is quite impressed with this man’s faith and obliges him with the physical healing of his servant from a distance. But Jesus does much more than a healing. He also holds this man up as a model of faith for all.

This beautiful statement of faith from the centurion is used within the Mass to speak of two matters of faith in regard to the Eucharist: 1) We are not worthy to receive Holy Communion and, 2) We invite Jesus anyway to come and heal our souls. Advent is a time when we especially ponder the great mystery of the Incarnation. It's a time when we especially ponder the mystery of God coming and dwelling with us in physical form. Though this happened over two thousand years ago, it continues to take place at each and every Mass. And at each and every Mass we are called to express the same faith as this Roman centurion.

Reflect, today, upon your faith in the coming of Christ in the Most Holy Eucharist. Each Mass is a manifestation of the God-Man who came to live among us and live within us. If we but have the faith of this centurion, we, too, will be blessed by our God beyond measure.

Lord, I do believe. Help my unbelief. Help me to see my unworthiness each time I prepare for Holy Communion. And in that humble admission, may I also invite Your healing presence in my life. Jesus, I trust in You.

Humility Before the Mystery of Faith

Tuesday of the First Week of Advent

"I give you praise, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, for although you have hidden these things from the wise and the learned you have revealed them to the childlike." Luke 10:21b

So are you "wise and learned" or "childlike?" Which better describes your life? At first, that question may be hard to answer. If we didn't know that Jesus elevated the quality of being childlike, we may be drawn to call ourselves wise and learned.

Of course there is nothing wrong with being wise or learned. The problem comes with what these qualities mean in the mind of Jesus. Jesus uses them to refer to those who think highly of themselves, are a bit pompous and are what you might call "know-it-alls." The sad truth is that a "know-it-all" does not actually know it all. They actually fool only themselves. The ideal is to be like a child in that a child is open to learn in a humble way, at least most of the time. This childlike quality of humility and openness disposes us to receive the true wisdom from above.

Jesus gives praise to the Father for hiding the mysteries of faith from the wise and learned while revealing them to the childlike. This is especially important to reflect on as we enter into Advent. Advent is a time when we need childlike faith and openness to understand and penetrate the beautiful mysteries of the Incarnation. Without this humble openness we will never fully understand the wonderful gift of God this Christmas.

Reflect, today, upon the openness within your heart. Are you ready and willing to soak in the great mysteries of God who came to make His dwelling place with us and within us? Are you willing to embrace that childlike faith necessary to penetrate the great mysteries of our faith? If so, it will be a wonderful Advent and Christmas.

Lord, give me the simple and humble faith of a child. Help me to see You as You are and to allow Your presence in our world to penetrate my life. Jesus, I trust in You.

Jesus Cares About the Details

Wednesday of the First Week of Advent

Jesus summoned his disciples and said, "My heart is moved with pity for the crowd, for they have been with me now for three days and have nothing to eat. I do not want to send them away hungry, for fear they may collapse on the way." Matthew 15:32

The first thing this passage reveals could easily be missed. It reveals Jesus' deep concern for the crowds of people. He not only cared for their souls, He also cared for their bodies in that He did not want them to go away hungry. This reveals Jesus' total care for His followers.

We know the rest of the story. Jesus multiplies the loaves and fish and feeds the multitude. And though this is an incredible miracle on a physical level, it is just as miraculous on a personal and spiritual level.

Personally speaking, the miracle is that God, the Almighty, the Omnipotent One is deeply concerned about the small detail of feeding the crowd their next meal. This reveals that God is not only concerned for our eternal salvation, He is also concerned about our daily needs.

Note that the passage quotes Jesus as saying, “My heart is moved with pity for the crowd...” And “I do not want to send them away hungry...” This very personal and human concern of Jesus should offer us great comfort in knowing that His care is deep and exhaustive. The concern Jesus has for the physical need of food for His followers also points to His spiritual concern for His followers’ souls. If He cares this much about the body, He cares all the more for the soul and deeply desires to nourish their souls with the food of eternal life.

Reflect, today, upon Jesus’ deep and all-consuming care for you. Know that there is no detail of your life that escapes His notice. Though that may be hard to believe at times, know that it is absolutely true! Surrender all to Him in trust and know that He is there to reach out to you in your every need.

Lord, thank You for Your unfailing and perfect concern for every detail of my life. Thank You for Your perfect attentiveness to my needs. May I always trust in Your perfect care for me and surrender to Your loving providence. Jesus, I trust in You.

Listen, Understand, Act

Thursday of the First Week of Advent

“Everyone who listens to these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock. The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and buffeted the house. But it did not collapse; it had been set solidly on rock.” Matthew 7:24–25

Perhaps one of the hardest things to do in life is to listen. Are you a good listener? Do you know how to listen? Most likely this is a struggle for you since it is a struggle for most people.

Listening is more than hearing. Listening implies that one hears AND comprehends. Furthermore, in this Scripture passage, Jesus makes it clear that “listening” is not enough. Once we’ve listened (heard and understood), we must act. Acting on the Word of God involves a total embrace and surrender to His Word and will. It means you allow the Word of God to dictate your actions and to set your feet “solidly on rock.” The imagery Jesus uses is quite descriptive. A house built on sand is very different than a house built on solid rock. One can only imagine the problems that await a house built on sand. Every storm that comes will cause great anxiety and worry. Fear will always be present as the sandy foundation slowly erodes away. But if the house is on solid rock, there is great confidence in the midst of a storm.

Reflect, today, upon the foundation of your life. Advent is a time when we examine whether or not the foundation of our life is Jesus. He entered our world and took on flesh so that He could be that rock foundation. And the path to that rock foundation is to listen, comprehend and act. Set your “house” on Him in this way and no storm will erode the foundation of your life.

Lord, may your human life become the foundation of my life. May my life be built upon You who are the Rock Foundation. Jesus, I trust in You.

I Want to See

Friday of the First Week of Advent

“Let it be done for you according to your faith.” And their eyes were opened. Jesus warned them sternly, “See that no one knows about this.” But they went out and spread word of him through all that land. Matthew 9:29b–31

This statement from Jesus is directed to two blind men who come to Him, beg for mercy and healing, believe in faith that Jesus will heal, and then are healed. But what's quite fascinating is that Jesus tells them not to speak about their healing to others. Why would He say this?

First of all, the request of Jesus would have been impossible to follow. Everyone who knew these blind men would have known they were blind. And then, out of the blue, they could see. How could such a thing be contained?

Jesus most certainly knew that they could not contain such a miracle but, nonetheless, spoke these words to these men. To understand why Jesus said this we must understand the motive He had for healing them.

Jesus' healing of these men was done purely out of love for them. They cried out for mercy and Jesus wanted to offer mercy. He did not do it as a way of gaining public praise or notoriety. He did it out of love for these blind men.

He also did this miracle to teach that He can heal the blindness of our hearts. He wanted these men to come to faith in Him and "see" Him for who He was. Therefore, this miracle was something deeply personal and was done out of concern for these two men to strengthen their faith.

What's interesting to note, however, is that these men could not contain the joy they had at receiving this gift from our Lord. They had to cry out in gratitude and share their story. We can be certain that Jesus was not offended at this but saw it as a necessary result of their faith.

How about you? Do you see God at work in your life and then seek to spread the joy of His work in your life? Do you regularly witness to His action and healing? Do you seek to allow others to see all that God has done for you?

Reflect, today, upon the joy in the hearts of these blind men at their healing. And ponder your own joy at God's activity in your life. If your joy is not overflowing, perhaps it's a good day to ask the Lord, with a deep faith, to help you see!

Lord, do help me to see and help me to share the joy of seeing You with others. May that joy flow from my life for all to see. Jesus, I trust in You.

The Gift of God

Saturday of the First Week of Advent

"Without cost you have received; without cost you are to give." Matthew 10:8b

What is it that we have received "without cost?" Well, we have received every good thing for free. It's true! All that is good is a gift from God. And it's a free gift from Him. There is nothing we can do to earn His blessings in our lives. Do you believe that? The above Scripture quote is part of Jesus' exhortation to His Twelve Apostles as He sends them out to preach, heal and cast out demons in His name. He reminds them that all they have received from Him is a free gift and that they must, in turn, give the Gospel free of charge to everyone.

Advent is a time when we should especially focus upon the coming celebration of the Gift of Christmas. Christmas is a time when we give and receive gifts, but it's important to understand the difference between a "gift" and a "present." A present is something that is expected. For example, your spouse or child expects a present on their birthday or on Christmas. But a gift is something that is much more. A gift is something that is freely given, unearned and undeserved. It's given out of love with no strings attached. This is what the Incarnation is all about.

Advent must be a time when we ponder the truth that God came to Earth to give us Himself in an unmerited and free way. His life is a totally free Gift to us and is the greatest Gift we have ever received. In turn, Advent must be a time when we also reflect upon our calling to bring the Gift of Christ Jesus to others.

Reflect, today, upon the giving and receiving of Jesus in your life. Let your heart be filled with gratitude this Advent so that you, in turn, can give the Gift of Jesus to others.

Lord, thank You for the Gift of Your life. Thank You for coming to Earth to enter into my life. Thank You for the joy of knowing You and loving You. May I allow this joy to so transform my life that I may continually seek to give You to others. Jesus, I trust in You.

Thank You



your local
air ambulance

Derbyshire · Leicestershire · Rutland

Warwickshire · Northamptonshire

our latest lifesaver



Our Lady & St Joseph
Catholic Church
has donated

£356.50



theairambulance.org.uk

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