

newbee

**SALT OF THE EARTH AND LIGHT OF THE WORLD:
CELEBRATING, LISTENING AND WALKING TOGETHER IN A SPIRIT OF
COMMUNION, PARTICIPATION AND MISSION (MATTHEW 5: 13-16).**

“We can therefore hope in the glory of heaven promised by God to those who love him and do his will.”

(CCC, 1821)



the Lord promises a new shoot. This new shoot, the descendant of David is the One who will execute justice and righteousness. He is the one whom we await this Season of Advent.

As we await in earnest, St Paul exhorts us to increase and abound in love for one another and for all. He desires for our hearts to be strengthened so as to be blameless in holiness before our God, Our Father. **During this penitential season, let us take steps to intensify our prayer life in contemplation and other spiritual exercises.** This is so important for us to grow in strength and in holiness – spiritual nourishment of our faculties. The Church in calling us to prepare for the celebration of Christmas is also awakening in us through the liturgical readings for the Second Coming at the end of time, and for the final judgment, which brings us to the gospel reading taken from Luke.

Jesus speaks to his disciples for the need to be vigilant as no one knows when the day of the Lord is coming. This is a perennial call to us too. St Luke gives us a dramatic account of this final coming, of roaring seas and frightful sights. But, when the Lord comes in glory, we are to stand erect and raise our heads, for our redemption is at hand. We have read year after year, Advent after Advent, to look out for the signs that will take place, and to be ready.

Do not fall prey to the trappings of the world, but look to the counsels and lives of the saints who have gone before us. They experience the mystical coming of Christ in the ordinariness of their lives while on earth and they have already claimed their inheritance in heaven.

BE PREPARED AT ALL TIMES! ✦

SCRIPTURE of the DAY

Jeremiah 33: 14-16

Psalms 24: 4-5, 8-10, 14

1 Thessalonians 3: 12-4:2

Luke 21: 25-28, 34-36

MONTHLY FOCUS PILGRIMS OF HOPE

Be Prepared

Advent is a time of preparations. A time to be watchful for Christ. A time to respond to live a life of holiness. As we unpack the readings, let us allow the Holy Spirit to speak to us.

Jeremiah reaches out to the people of God devastated by loss. *“The days are coming,”* the Lord speaks through the prophet. *“I will fulfil the promises I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah.”* While all seem bleak, with the house of David to be cut down,

