

# St. Mary of the Angels, Geelong

Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2024

Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2024



## Daily Reflections

<http://www.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/daily.html>

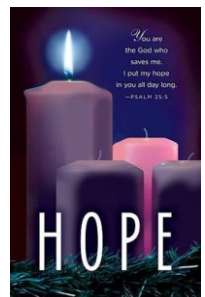
# MONDAY 2<sup>ND</sup> DECEMBER 2024

## *1<sup>st</sup> Week of Advent*

*Isaiah 2: 1-5, Psalm 121:1-2, 4-5, 6-9. R. cf. v.1, Matthew 8: 5-11*

***Reflections: And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God***

Today's Gospel provides us with a wonderful model of faith, in the person of a Roman centurion who trustingly implores the help of Jesus. 'Only say the word', he says, 'and my servant shall be healed.' We too are called to put our trust in the word of Jesus, who is himself the eternal Word of God. The centurion expresses a belief in something which he does not fully understand. Being from non-Jewish culture, the notion of redeeming Messiah was not something he could possibly comprehend. It is fair to say, therefore, that he had 'blind faith'. But perhaps all genuine faith is, by its very nature, blind. Let us listen eagerly for that word of Jesus which has the power to heal us, and our broken world. What is that word? It is the mysterious utterance which finds its perfect expression only in mercy, humility, and love.



## TUESDAY 3RD DECEMBER 2024

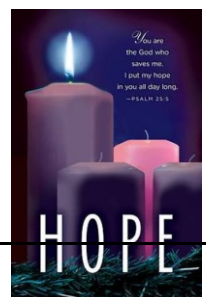
*1<sup>st</sup> Week of Advent*

*St Francis Xavier*

*Isaiah 11: 1-10, Psalm 71: 1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17. R. cf. v. 7,  
Luke 10:21-24*

*Reflection. Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace forever.*

In the prophecy of Isaiah today, we read some striking words, expressing a vision of peace and painting an image of surpassing beauty: 'The wolf lives with the lamb, the panther lies down with the kid, calf and lion cub feed together.' Every human heart yearns for such peace at the deepest level. Yet when we examine our own lives, we all-too-often find broken relationships that seem to be irreconcilable, and wounds that seem to be incapable of healing. But this should not cause us to despair or to feel guilty. For the peace which God promises us is a mysterious gift. It is not something we can achieve on our own. Let us simply open our hearts to God's grace, and trust God to do the rest.



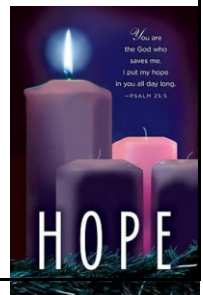
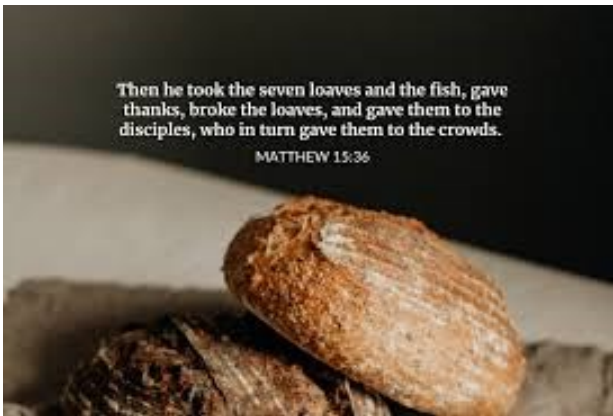
## WEDNESDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2024

*1<sup>st</sup> week of Advent*

*Isaiah 25: 6-10, Psalm 22: R.v.6,*

***Reflection: Come into my life O lord and transform me.***

Our Gospel speaks of Jesus feeding the multitude using the meagre supplies of a few fish and a little bread. Christ takes what seems utterly insufficient, and makes it go a long way. He not only provides what is needed but does so with such generosity and abundance that even a surplus is left behind. How does Jesus do this? By first taking the fish and loaves and breaking them. Very often in our own lives, we may feel that we are stretched too far, that more is being asked of us than we can possibly supply. Perhaps we, like Jesus, need to do a little breaking. Are there fears, prejudices or obsessions that shackle our hearts, that make us less than we could be? Let us permit the loving hands of Jesus to break them, so that he may transform our smallness into something of his own boundless abundance.



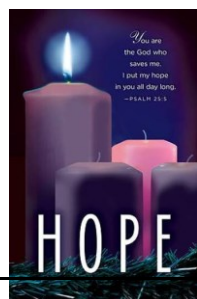
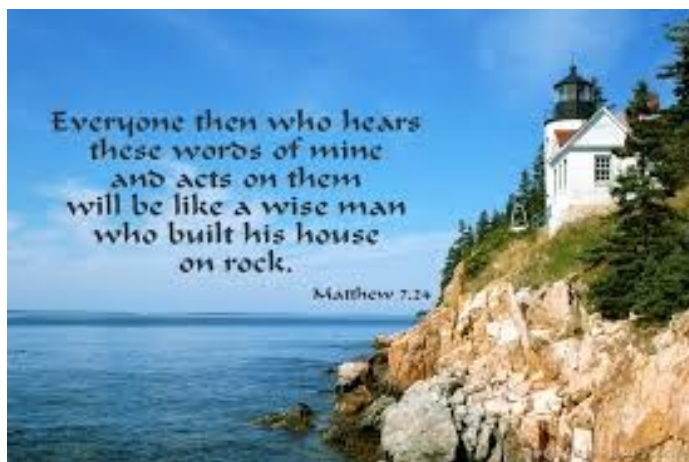
## THURSDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2024

*1<sup>st</sup> week of Advent*

*Isaiah 26: 1-6, Psalm 117 : 1, 8-9, 19-21, 25-27, R. v. 26,  
Matthew 7: 21, 24-27.*

***Reflection. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.***

Jesus tells us that it is not those who merely say, 'Lord, Lord!' who will enter the kingdom of heaven, but rather those who do the will of the Father. This principle is, of course, very clear. But we are often left with some perplexity as to how we can know what this divine will actually is. The commandments and the teachings of the Church provide useful guidelines but fall short of giving specific directions in many instances, since they deal with generalities and not particular situations. Our best resort, therefore, in discerning the will of the Father is to reflect that God is a truly loving, merciful and good parent to us, and to every human being. Therefore, God wants us, and others, to be as happy, content and fulfilled as we possibly can be. Let us be mindful of this simple truth and do our best to act accordingly.



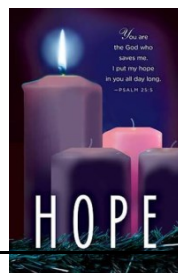
## FRIDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2024

### 1<sup>st</sup> Week of Advent

*Isaiah 29: 17-24, Psalm 26: 1, 4, 13-14, R. v. 1, Matthew 9: 27-31*

#### *Reflection. The Lord is my light and my salvation*

Today is the feast day of St Nicholas. The familiar figure of Santa Clause is derived from the ancient legend of this much-revered saint. According to tradition, he lived in the third and fourth centuries in Asia Minor. Nicholas came to know of a poor man who had three daughters. This man was in such desperation that he felt had had no choice but to sell his daughters into prostitution. So, Nicholas secretly threw three bags of gold through the window of the poor man's house, over three consecutive nights; and thus saved the daughters from dishonour. Regardless of its historical truth or otherwise, the legend of St Nicholas is a wonderful model of selfless generosity, made even more noble because it was carried out in secret. Let us strive to imitate this generosity of this saint, and in doing so, imitate the loving-kindness of Our Lord Jesus Christ.



# SATURDAY 7<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2024

1<sup>st</sup> Week of Advent

*St Ambrose*

*Isaiah 30 :19-21, 23-26, Psalm 146: 1-6, R. Isaiah 30: 18,  
Matthew 9: 35\_10: 1, 6-8.*

*Reflection It's more blessed to give than to receive.*

Our Lord declares today that 'the harvest is rich, but the labourers are few.' When many of us hear this verse, we will automatically think about the need for prayers for religious and priestly vocations. But perhaps there is a another and more universal meaning to Jesus' words. In our human life, God has provided us all with a truly rich and wonderful harvest. We see the generosity and love of God in the beauty of the created world, in the wonderful diversity of other human beings we encounter, and in the splendours of art and culture. The Lord has made an abundant crop of good things available to us, and wants us to harvest them, to make free and fruitful use of them. God doesn't want this because he needs us to gather produce for his benefit, but rather simply because he loves us.

