

## ADVENT: WAITING

**What does it mean to wait? Why shouldn't I say Merry Christmas yet?  
What is the point in having a whole month of waiting?**

### SUNDAY MASS READINGS 1/12/19 [read them here](#)

1st Reading: Isaiah 2:1-5. **The Lord gathers all nations together into God's kingdom**

Psalm 121. **I praised when I heard them say: 'Let us go to God's house'**

2nd Reading: Romans 13:11-14. **Our salvation is near**

Matthew 24:37-44. **The Son of Man is coming as an hour you do not expect**



**This Advent please join us in the Chapel for a time of quiet guided prayer before school on Tuesday morning at 8.25am.**

**READ:** Over the next four weeks, we are preparing ourselves for the arrival of the Messiah, the birth of the Baby Jesus. The readings at Masses during Advent draw us in to the anticipation felt by those throughout history, hopefully stirring up anticipation in our own hearts. We hear from the Prophet Isaiah, about the work of John the Baptist, we'll remember Mary and reflect on how her 'yes' changed the course of history; messages of those who prepared the way for Christ. We start off, this week, with a first reading from Isaiah. The Prophets lived through real injustice, and they looked forward in hope to the coming of the "one" who would bring peace. In the second reading, St Paul reminds us that this peace that Jesus brought must reign in our own hearts as we wait for his return. He tells us that now is the chance to restore peace to all troubled hearts, families, nations. Then the Gospel is a wake up call to us all, we're instructed to stay awake, to be ready! We apply all this hope, anticipation and peace to the season of Advent each year. Jesus has promised he'll return again, and by transforming our way of thinking to be like the Old Testament prophets who had such hope for the birth of Jesus, we're able to fully embrace this season of preparation and expectation.

**REFLECT:** Every year when Advent comes around, we're reminded by Christians that it isn't Christmas yet... despite music and decorations being played on the radio and up in shops since October half term. The message of "wait" or "prepare" every single year can be monotonous. The Church though, isn't going to change her message! Each December we're given a New Year, a fresh start. It's a wake up call, and this week's readings really do reflect that. Following Jesus, committing to living a Christian life is tough, and only getting tougher as our world gets scarier and we're presented with more and more distractions. We live like those mentioned in the Gospel before the flood, who were just carrying on with their daily activities, totally inwards facing, no care for anything other than themselves, no consideration for anything greater. "Stay awake!" Jesus commands, "be ready!" This is God inviting us, year after year, mistake after mistake, Advent after Advent, day after day, to stand up and stand out as someone turning to Him constantly, being the person He created you to be, renewing ourselves and in the process, becoming a renewed group of people, a renewed Church full of hope and joy. Advent isn't a time of strict fasting or penance in the same way that Lent is. The waiting and the preparation are intended to build the anticipation of the wonder that came 2000 years ago, and the hope that is still to come.

**Friday Mass - 8.15am  
Celebrated by Fr. Peter  
Offered for the intentions of the  
Science Department**