

TRINITY NEWS

WEEK 49
December 04, 2022

Since last Sunday, we have entered the season of Advent. This word means “coming”. This period that prepares us for Christmas also reminds us that the Lord will return at the end of time. We await this coming and we are invited to prepare for it. On this 2nd Sunday of Advent, we take a step further: this Jesus who will return is also the one who comes. He meets us every day in our lives and in our trials. He is counting on our welcome. His plan is to bring us back to him.

The first reading sends us a message of hope. It speaks to believers who live in a time of trouble and uncertainty. But the prophet announces better days. He uses the image of the dying tree. When that happens, offspring spring up all around; it is a way of saying that evil and death will not have the last word.

In the second reading, Saint Paul shows us what behavior to adopt towards this free initiative of the gift of God. He points out three fundamental imperatives: to meditate on the Scriptures, to live in humility and to practice mutual welcome. This unity should not be built around our ideas and our certainties but around God. To serve this unity, it is important that we know how to welcome one another as he himself welcomed all men. We will only be truly credible if we are welcoming.

In the Gospel we find John the Baptist addressing the crowds in the desert. He announces to them that the kingdom of God is at hand. The urgency is to prepare for the coming of the Lord and to smooth his way.

Advent reminds us that Jesus is coming today. The best way to welcome him is to withdraw far from the noises of this world, far from the advertising solicitations which tend to take an increasingly intrusive place in our lives. True conversion comes through the self-emptying of our hearts and minds.

This call to conversion is expressed through very concrete choices: “Make the road smooth for God”, John the Baptist recommends to us. This means that we must remove all the obstacles that keep us away from him, the ambient indifference, the fear of criticism, the impression that evil is always triumphant. When we read the newspapers or when we watch television, we often only see what is going wrong, the violence, the racism, the economic crisis. This season of Advent invites us to return to the gospel to relearn how to see the world with God’s gaze, a gaze full of love and hope. With Christ, we can be sure that evil will not have the last word. It is love that will win.

“Produce a fruit that expresses your conversion” says John the Baptist again. Praying every day and going to church is good. It is even essential. But the fruits that God expects from us are also respect for others, it is sharing with those who are hungry and cold, it is also the courage to forgive those who have hurt us; it is also to fight against everything that destroys a person, a group, or a society. We think of selfishness, indifference, social injustice, financial scandals that plunge the poorest into misery. Preparing for the coming of the Lord in our life and our world requires gestures of welcome, sharing and reconciliation. - *Fr Bert*

Search Committee - UPDATE

Over the past couple of months the Vestry has been in talks with, Brent International School, about how together we might join forces to fulfill our common mission as institutions of the Church.

Brent has offered to help find, fund, and house the new rector and his/her family in return for use of some of our facilities here at Holy Trinity. This arrangement

would greatly expand the scope of our search to include international as well as local candidates, and of course affects the timeline the Search Committee had envisaged.

The details of the arrangement are currently being worked out, there are several meetings planned before the year's end to have things more or less in place by the new year, and we will be updating you as we go.

SAINTS:

Nicholas Ferrar, Deacon, Founder of the Little Gidding Community, 4 December. Born in London in 1592, Nicholas Ferrar was educated at Clare Hall, Cambridge and elected a Fellow there in 1610. From 1613, he travelled extensively on the continent for five years, trying his hand as a businessman and then as a parliamentarian on his return. In 1625, he moved to Little Gidding in Huntingdonshire, then a derelict manor-house with a chapel which was being used as a hay barn. He was joined by his brother and sister and their families and by his mother, and they established together a community life of prayer, using *The Book of Common Prayer*, and a life of charitable works in the locality. He was ordained to the diaconate by William Laud the year after they arrived. He wrote to his niece in 1631, "I purpose and hope by God's grace to be to you not as a master but as a partner and fellow student." This indicates the depth and feeling of the community life Nicholas and his family strove to maintain. After the death of Nicholas on this day in 1637, the community was broken up in 1646 by the Puritans, who were suspicious of it and referred to it as the Arminian Nunnery. They feared it promoting the return of Romish practices into England, and so all Nicholas's manuscripts were burned.

Nicholas, Bishop of Myra, 6 December. Nicholas was a fourth-century bishop of Myra in Asia Minor (southern Turkey). His reputation as a worker of wonders was enhanced by a ninth-century author of his hagiography and he is now best known through these stories. Many of them concern his love and care for children, how he fed the hungry, healed the sick and cared for the oppressed. He saved three girls from a life of prostitution by providing them with dowries and so developed the tradition of bearing gifts to children on his feast day, a practice appropriated by the Christmas celebrations. Nicholas is also one of the patron saints of Russia.

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:

OT: Isaiah 35:1-10

Epistle: James 5:7-10

Gospel: Matthew 11:2-11

COMING UP:

December 5-10.

- *THEA nightgown inventory sale*

December 17.

- *Wedding, 2:30p.m.*

December 18.

- *Wedding, 2:00p.m.*
- *Advent Lessons & Carols, 6:00p.m.*

December 24.

- *Family Service, 4:30p.m.*
- *Midnight Service, 10:00p.m.*

December 25.

- *Christmas Morning, 10:00a.m.*

January 01, Feast of the Holy Name.

- *Eucharist, 7:30a.m. & 9:30a.m.*