

# ADVENT DAY BY DAY

Welcome to week 2 of Advent Day by Day -a short daily Scripture reflection for the 25 days from 1<sup>st</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> December. Here again are some tips for using this weekly format. It might be helpful to read instructions for steps 1, 2 and 3 through once, before starting this daily reflection:

## STEP 1: SELECT THE SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THE DAY

Focus just on the verse given for the day, so on day 6 look only at verses for day 6. You might find it helpful to highlight the day's verse before starting your reflection for that day, and then cross it out when you move on to the next day.

<b>THEME FOR WEEK 2: Prepare the Way of the Lord, who comes in love to make all things new</b>	
<b>DAY 6</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A voice cries in the wilderness: Make a straight way for the Lord. <i>John 1:23</i></li><li>• With what gift shall I come before the Lord, and bow down before God on high?... This is what the Lord asks of you, only this, to act justly, to love tenderly, and to walk humbly with your God. <i>Micah 6</i></li></ul>
<b>DAY 7</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Lord make me know your ways. Lord teach me your paths....God's ways are faithfulness and love <i>Ps 24</i></li><li>• Love is patient and kind, never boastful, rude or selfish... It is always ready to excuse, to trust, to hope and to endure whatever comes. <i>1 Cor. 13</i></li></ul>
<b>DAY 8</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• As shoes for your feet, put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. <i>Ephesians 6: 15</i></li><li>• Come let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, that he may teach us his ways, so that we may walk in his paths <i>Isaiah 2</i></li></ul>
<b>DAY 9</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• "Let us throw off everything that belongs to the darkness and equip ourselves for the Light." <i>Romans 13: 12</i></li></ul>
<b>DAY 10</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• I give you a new commandment: love one another. Just as I have loved you you also must love one another. By this love you have for one another, everyone will know that you are my disciples. <i>John 13: 34-35</i></li></ul>
<b>DAY 11</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• "May my ways be steady in doing your will" <i>Psalms 119.5</i></li><li>• Happy those who hunger and thirst for what is right <i>Mt 5</i></li></ul>
<b>DAY 12</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Happy the peacemakers...Happy the gentle Happy the poor in spirit. <i>Mt 5</i></li></ul>

## **STEP 2: SUGGESTIONS FOR USING THE DAILY SCRIPTURE VERSES**

You may use these Scripture verses on your own, or with other family members or friends.

### ***Before Starting Each Day***

Decide on the best time to consider the texts for a given day. It may be on the morning of the day or it may be on the previous evening.

Sit comfortably, settle into a few minutes of quiet time, putting aside any distractions and tasks.

Ask the Holy Spirit to guide you.

When you are ready, read the text for that day/the following day.

If you are alone, you may wish to just turn the words over in your mind for a while, let them sink in, ponder them in prayer. Consider if one or more words strike you particularly.

If you are using the texts with other people, allow a few moments for everyone to think about the texts. If children are participating, check that they have heard and understood the text.

Then ask:

What does this verse mean for me/for us today, in this particular Advent, December 2020?

What key words or message will I/we keep in mind during today/tomorrow?

### ***During the Day***

You might want to jot a thought or action that the text prompted or keep a daily diary of this. Children might want to make an Advent calendar card or page for that day, with a key word or message, or draw a picture or write a prayer for the day or once a week for the overall theme of the week. They might choose to make a collage from nature or magazine cuttings, on the theme for the week. If you are out walking you might see something that reminds you of the day's message. Take a photo.

### ***At the end of the Day***

Take a few minutes to reflect again on what the verse meant for you.

Share with others if applicable or maybe jot in your diary.

Give a short prayer of thanks for the insights gained, and recall any ways in which you might have forgotten the message or acted against it during the day. Ask God to bless this day of your Advent journey. Turn your thoughts to preparing for the next day's journey.

## **STEP 3: SHARE YOUR ADVENT JOURNEY**

It would be great if we can encourage each other in our cluster parishes and share thoughts that struck us. If you or your family have taken any photos you can post them on a Facebook page we have set up for Advent. If children have drawn pictures or written messages or put up Advent calendar cards for each day or prepared a collage, take a photo of these and post it on the Facebook page (bearing in mind the need to safeguard children's own identities). You might also wish to post a thought that has struck you on a particular day or on the theme for the week.

<https://www.facebook.com/clusteradvent.daybyday.5/>