

# ADVENT DAY BY DAY

Welcome to week 4 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, don't be tempted to read them all in one go. 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 4: God's Covenant of Love</b>	
<b>DAY 20</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, his love is everlasting. Ps118: 1</i></li><li>• <i>If you love me you will keep my commandments, and I will pray the Father and he will give you another Counsellor, to be with you forever. I will not leave you desolate. John 14: 15-16</i></li></ul>
<b>DAY 21</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God and trust in me... I am the Way, the Truth and the Life John 14: 1, 6</i></li><li>• <i>They will neither harm nor destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the sea is full of water. Is 11: 9</i></li></ul>
<b>DAY 22</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>It is God himself who called you to share in the life of his Son. 1Cor 1: 9</i></li><li>• <i>Lift up your eyes to the heavens, look down at the earth. The heavens will vanish but my salvation will last and my justice will have no end. Is 51</i></li></ul>
<b>DAY 23</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>I will celebrate your love for ever O Lord, age to age my mouth will proclaim your faithfulness. Of this I am sure; your love lasts forever Ps 88</i></li><li>• <i>God will wipe away all tears from their eyes.' Revelation 7.17</i></li></ul>
<b>DAY 24</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>O Lord, the God of Israel, there is no God like You in heaven above or on earth beneath, keeping covenant and showing loving kindness to Your servants who walk before You with all their heart 1 Kings 8:23</i></li></ul>
<b>DAY 25</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. On those who live in a land of deep shadow a light has shone. Unto us a child is born, unto us a saviour is given. Isaiah 9</i></li><li>• <i>I bring you news of great joy. Today a saviour has been born to you. Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace on earth to all. Luke 2</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.

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