

A Day by Day Spiritual Journey Through Advent  
With Deacon Chris

Thursday of the First Week of Advent

*Light a candle and make sure it is safe and don't leave unattended.*

Colour of Vestments

Is Advent like Lent?

Purple or violet is the main colour of vestments during Advent. On the third Sunday pink/salmon/rose coloured vestments may be worn. This pattern follows the same pattern of Lent. This leads us to a penitential aspect that encourages us to reform. Advent, however, gives us as previously stated an *already and a not yet*. This gives us a joyful expectation. Yet, we omit the Gloria on the Sundays. This is done so that we get the full effect of the message of the angels on Christmas Day when we sing with gusto Glory to God in the highest. Just to emphasise the joy of the season we continue to use the Alleluia at the Gospel acclamation.

Colours can be a topic of disagreement: is it **purple, violet, mauve, burgundy** or what? I will wear what I have been given.

**In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen**

God, our Father, you sent your only-begotten Son into the world to be the carrier of your gift of salvation. Look favourable on those who have weighed their anchor to Him who is the rock of all rocks. Through our Lord Jesus Christ your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

### **Reading**

Matthew Chapter 7 verses 21, 24 to 27

By doing God's will, we may enter the kingdom of Heaven.

### **Reflection**

Jesus tells us that it is not those who shout out 'Lord' who will enter the kingdom of heaven. It is not those who subscribe to the saying 'He who shouts loudest'. Our Lord goes on to talk about listening to his words and acting upon them. I think most people know that buildings have foundations. Companies and organisations have foundations. The question that we have to ask is 'How firm are those foundations?' Houses built on rock should remain firm but houses built on sand have no chance.

This reading will always bring back the memory of a wedding that I conducted. The day was absolutely awful weather wise. The strong wind forced the heavy rain through cracks in the window near the front of the church. The bride and groom had picked this reading. Little did they know what the weather would have been like on their wedding day.

Our Lord is the foundation of the Church. We must put our trust in him. The hymn *The Church's One Foundation* is very aptly written by Samuel John Stone

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**Your Own Time.**

**Rosary.** Let us remember all the people who have let their faith slip because they have not got Christ at the centre of their lives. This could be because they didn't have any encouragement in their formative years or because of an incident earlier in their life or they can't be bothered.

**Concluding Prayer**

Your Word, O Lord, gives us the foundation we need to carry out your will. Help us to be true to your Word. Through Christ our Lord. Amen

**The Lord bless us, and keep us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life. Amen.**