

A Day by Day Spiritual Journey Through Advent  
With Deacon Chris

Monday of the Second Week of Advent

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

Be careful what you think

There is an old story that football fans may like. A footballer asked the referee, 'If I call you (an unprintable word) \*\*\* will you send me off?' 'Yes,' said the referee. The player came back, 'If I think you are that same unprintable word, will you send me off?' 'No,' said the referee, 'because I don't know what you are thinking.' 'In that case,' said the player. 'I think you are an unprintable word.'

Seriously, there are some thoughts that should remain thoughts and never see the light of day. Nobody knows what we are thinking. Yes, we can guess and often we are right. But that happens because of the situation we are in at that moment.

Our gospel today gives us a good example of this.

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

O Lord, our thoughts can harbour both good and bad about you or our neighbour. Our neighbour will never know our thoughts unless we put them into spoken words. You know our thoughts no matter how hard we try to keep them hidden. Your wisdom can help us think good thoughts and banish bad thoughts from our minds. 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.

### **Gospel**

Luke Chapter 5 verses 17 to 26

Jesus is teaching and in the audience are Pharisees and doctors of the Law. They are in a crowded house when a party arrives carrying a man on a stretcher. To get to Jesus they come through the roof.

Let's just ponder on that last bit. The men carrying the stretcher must have had hope that Jesus could cure their companion. When the situation seemed lost they came up with a solution. Quite a drastic one but one that they believed would work. The man on the stretcher must have faith in our Lord and in the men who were carrying him. He had to believe in them.

It would have been so easy for Jesus to tell the man to get up. But, instead, he said that his sins were forgiven. This riles the Pharisees and the doctors of the Law but only inwardly Our Lord knew what they were thinking so he challenged them. Then he demonstrated his true power.

When we pray for people who are ill, what are we actually praying for? That they will get better? Yes, but what is getting better? Our Lord demonstrated that his first action will help us spiritually, which is something what we want irrespective of whether the second action takes place.

Sometimes our spiritual wellbeing has an amazing influence on our physical wellbeing.

### **Your Own Time.**

**Rosary.** Remember all who are ill in mind, body or soul and for those who literally cannot pray for themselves.

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**Concluding Prayer**

Lord, you know all our needs even before we think of them or even speak them. Grant us what is good for us. Through Christ our Lord. Amen

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