

A Day by Day Spiritual Journey Through Advent
With Deacon Chris

Tuesday of the Second Week of Advent

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

The Immaculate Conception

The doctrine concerning the Immaculate Conception has been in existence since the seventh century in the East and ninth century in the West. By the time of the Council of Trent in the sixteenth century the teaching of this had become commonplace. It was not until December 8th, 1854 that Pope Pius IX declared it as dogma. There were some opponents to the doctrine because they said it detracted from the truth of her natural conception. Her parents Anne and Joachim are both saints and we have a church at Westby named after Mary's mother. Many hymns have been written in honour of our Lady and the words '*the one spotless womb wherein Jesus was lay.*' (O purest of creatures by Frederick William Faber) spring to mind. We have a lot to thank our Lady for because her 'Yes' opened the world to salvation.

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

Heavenly Father, you create a picture where everything is 'just so'. We don't deserve what you give us. It is through your love that we are able to receive these gifts. Help us to return your love with our love. 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

Matthew chapter 18 verses 12 to 14.

Our gospel tells us about a man who has a hundred sheep and one strays away. It is amazing that he knows that one has gone off. I am sure the same applies to today's stockspeople. The man has a dilemma: does he go in search and risk more going astray or does he stay put with the ninety nine? Our Lord gives us an 'if'. If he finds the sheep the man will be more joyous over that than the rest staying put.

God doesn't want anybody to get lost or go astray. It is hard for us to imagine but when we think of people of notoriety we probably don't consider what God thinks. From this gospel it is plain to see that God wants us all to stay in the flock.

Your Own Time.

Rosary. Let us offer this decade for all the people who work on the land. For some that is every day of the year..

Concluding Prayer

Lord, you are the Good Shepherd and you welcome back anyone who has gone astray. Help us to send a message that there will always be a welcome for those who come home. Through Christ our Lord. Amen

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