

A Day by Day Spiritual Journey Through Advent  
With Deacon Chris

Saturday of the First Week of Advent

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

Vocation

When you were young what were your ambitions? What did you want be when you grew up? What do our youngsters mull over in their minds as they go through school, sitting exams, maybe going to university. Sometimes we fall into a job and stick it out. Other times we search in vain and yes there are occasions when we find a job that suits us and we stay with it until retirement.

We do, however, have a vocation in life that we received when we were baptised. It is our vocation, our calling to go and spread the Good News. The hymn talks about being sent to bring good news to the poor, tell prisoners that they are prisoners no more and so on. We do that by the way we live our lives. It is as simple as that!

We remember St. Ambrose, a Bishop and Doctor of the Church.

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

God, our Father, the disciples were told to go out and teach all nations and baptise in the name of the Trinity. Our baptism gave us that same calling. Help us to use the gifts we have received to go out and spread the news of your works. 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 9 verse 35 to Chapter 10 verse 1 and 6 to 8

He felt sorry for them

**Reflection**

Those four words in the strap line above speak volumes. Jesus has been curing all kinds of illnesses and is now looking at the root cause of them. It is a wonderful example of our Lord being able to show his own human feelings in this way.

The virus of oppression is a root of illness. Oppression takes place in all walks of life:- at home, in school, in the workplace and in social areas. Oppression is imposed by governments and the like.

Our Lord sees this and wants to do something about it. This is his social worker trait coming out. But he cannot do it on his own. (He could actually, but it would be taking our free will away.) He wants labourers to be sent to the harvest. He is asking us to be those labourers. He is asking some of us to consider the ordained ministry or religious life. But first and foremost he is asking us to follow our baptismal calling.

**Your Own Time.**

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**Rosary.** Let us contemplate how we can create an atmosphere where vocations of every kind will flourish.

**Concluding Prayer**

Lord, help us to open our hearts more fully to the call that you have given to each and every one of us so that the harvest will not go to waste. Through Christ our Lord. Amen

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