

Saturday of the Second Week of Advent

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

The Sick

Who are the sick? What is it that makes a person sick? The people in hospital are some of the sick. It doesn't matter why they are in hospital but some part of their body is not right and needs treatment. It is the whole person that needs treatment not just the particular symptom. People may have a mental problem which is not always easy to see or diagnose. Morale and general well-being may not be top notch. Last but not least is spiritual well-being. There is a vast array of things that can make us sick as well as over indulgence.

When we know that someone is sick we pray for them. We don't always broadcast across the parish because the sick person may want to keep it quiet. What do we pray for? That the person will get better? Yes, that is what we do. How do we define 'better'? Principally that the person will make a full recovery. Then we start to put conditions into it. How old is the person, what is the prognosis, what do they want the outcome to be? There is a whole plethora of considerations isn't there.

Jesus said that it is not the healthy who need the doctor but the sick. He came to cure us and he is with us continually carrying out that mission.

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

God our Father, to prepare the way for your Son's coming to us, you sent many prophets. The last one was John the Baptist whose zeal was like a burning fire. Help us to recognise you in other people so that we can live up to the hope that you place in us. Through our Lord Jesus Christ your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

Gospel

Matthew chapter 17 verses 10 to 13

Did you recognise him?

If you have the time have a read of Isaiah chapter 48 verses 1 to 4 and 9 to 11. They fit so well with the gospel. Elijah was a prophet who had the God of Israel at the heart of everything he did and said. We read that he was taken up to heaven in a fiery chariot or a whirlwind of fire. The thought was that he was destined to return at a later date.

In the gospel our Lord agrees that Elijah has to come again. This second coming is to ensure that everything is just so. Our Lord says that Elijah has already come again but he wasn't recognised. Here there is an assumption that Jesus is referring to John the Baptist.

Advent gives us the time to reflect on all aspects of Jesus' coming again. We understand from scripture that he will come with his angels and he will be sitting on his throne of glory. Will there be a big fanfare, will a throng of angels announce his coming like they did at his first coming? Questions that have answers that are hidden from us. If we knew the answers how would we feel? How would we cope? Would we be like children who are impatient for Father Christmas to come? Would we be like a person waiting to undergo an operation, an interview or an examination? God is sparing us that by not letting us know the when, the where and the how. The \$64,000 question is 'Will we recognise him?'

A Day by Day Spiritual Journey Through Advent
With Deacon Chris

Your Own Time.

Rosary. Let us ask God to help us recognise him in the people we meet, the Word that we listen to and in our actions and words.

Concluding Prayer

Let our desire to do the right thing in our relationship you Almighty Father and our neighbour burn away the stubble that we allow to get in our way. Through Christ our Lord. Amen

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