

We Respond

www.majellan.media

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON (or a hymn) To you, I lift up my soul, O my God. In you, I have trusted; let me not be put to shame. Nor let my enemies exult over me; and let none who hope in you be put to shame.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Ps 79)

ANTIPHON: Lord, make us turn to you, let us see your face and we shall be saved.

RESPONSE: Lord, make us turn to you, let us see your face and we shall be saved.

LECTOR: O shepherd of Israel, hear us, shine forth from your cherubim throne. O Lord, rouse up your might, O Lord, come to our help. **R.**

LECTOR: God of hosts, turn again, we implore, look down from heaven and see. Visit this vine and protect it, the vine your right hand has planted. **R.**

LECTOR: May your hand be on the man you have chosen, the man you have given your strength. And we shall never forsake you again: give us life that we may call upon your name. **R.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Alleluia, alleluia! Lord, show us your mercy and love, and grant us your salvation. Alleluia!

COMMUNION ANTIPHON (or a hymn) The Lord will bestow his bounty, and our earth shall yield its increase.

TODAY'S READINGS Isaiah 63:16-17, 64:1, 3-8; 1 Corinthians 1:3-9; Mark 13:33-37

NEXT WEEK (2nd Sunday Advent, Year B) Is 40:1-5, 9-11; Ps 84; 2 Pet 3:8-14; Mk 1:1-8

*Brighten up
your day with
The Majellan*

Figuring out Families

Listen to our latest podcasts where we talk to marriage counsellor Derek Boylen in a special Focus Series about families and issues affecting couples and families. The podcasts cover a range of topics including the importance of Communication, Setting Goals, Dealing with Difficult Family Members, Faith and Spirituality and and Keeping Fun and Romance Alive. To listen go to: www.majellan.media/figuring-out-families/

majellan

*Living in the
time of waiting*

29 November 2020 1st Sunday Advent Year B

When COVID-19 began to impact negatively on all aspects of our lives, we questioned when the situation would turn around for the better. We heard a lot of predictions but, in reality, no one knew when the pandemic would end. And we still don't.

Today, we begin the Advent journey of waiting for the coming of our Saviour Jesus Christ. In today's gospel Jesus speaks of a man who travels abroad, leaving his servants in charge, warning them to stay awake, always prepared and ready for his return. Jesus reminds us that we should stay awake, ready for his return: "Be on your guard, stay awake, because you never know when the time will come."

So, we await the coming of the Lord. But no one knows when it is going to happen. This should not frighten or confuse us. Our faith tells us that the Lord will come and he will come unexpectedly. During his earthly life, Jesus showed us that God is all loving and merciful, faithful to His people and to His promises. So, we wait in readiness and with a sure hope and joyful expectation for the Lord's coming.

The pandemic and other struggles we encounter day-to-day might lead us sometimes to doubt and question the presence of God in our lives and our world. It is sometimes especially hard to wait for the Lord's coming while we are facing the

fear and the difficulties life brings. But the first coming of the Saviour – as a babe, born like us and sharing in our human experience, its joys and its sorrows – assures us that our faith and our hope for his return is well-founded.

Jesus left us with a simple commandment, yet a challenging one. "Love God and love your neighbour." It really is as simple – and as difficult – as that. The length of the period of waiting for his coming does not matter, but the quality of our discipleship does matter. We are called to live "the time of waiting" by loving and placing our trust in God, and by caring for one another - especially the poor, needy and vulnerable in our world - and for the whole of God's creation.

But we must stay awake! We do not know the time, but we must prepare and be ready for his coming! This is vital. We can be sure, through it all, that God cares for us and continues to love us. The Holy Spirit, our advocate, guides and teaches us to live the life of discipleship to which we are called as followers of Jesus, our Saviour.

Let us be joyful and join with Saint Paul by saying, "I never stop thanking God for all the graces we have received through Jesus Christ."

Redempt Jawa CSsR
© Redemptorists 2020