

Reflection Monday First week of Advent 2021

Reading Isaiah and the psalm today helps us understand why Vatican II referred to the Church as a Pilgrim People, a people on a journey together. We are clear about our destination but far from clear what will happen on the way. There is something levelling about being a pilgrim with others. We journey along the same road on the same level. Pope Francis recognised this levelling up when he invited us to reflect on our journey of faith together just as we do in the Advent season preparing for Christmas. We know what to expect at the end of Advent, the renewal or rebirth of Christ in the world, in our communities, in ourselves as if for the first time. Joining in the synodal preparations (*synod meaning journeying together*) is not only encouraging but, after each encounter, we have moved further along the road having shared something of our journey. It strengthens our relationship with each other. For those who believe they do not know how to participate or what to say. Have faith like the Centurion – a pagan – and Jesus, who heals the servant will give you the courage you desire. The synodal process and the Advent journey we have embarked on will help and inspire each other.

Dear God, help us remember we are your people and you are our God. Help us make love of God and neighbour our priority. Holy Spirit, help us choose to do what honours our creator and what shows our love for others. Father, we thank you for the gifts and talents you have given to us, to our family and friends, and to our neighbours. Lord Jesus, we wait in joyful hope for you. Come, so that we will welcome you with joyful hearts this Christmas.