

Homily 2nd Sunday Advent Year C 2021

The prophet Baruch offers us great encouragement: *"take off your dress of sorrow and distress, put on the beauty of the glory of God for ever, wrap the cloak of the integrity of God around you, put the crown of the glory of the Eternal."* Baruch writes of hope and glory to his people, who are in exile facing degradation and desperation, to lift the hearts of the people. Paul's words of encouragement and affirmation were written by him from prison. We can look at all the difficulties in the world, greed, corruption, injustice, terrorism, climate crisis and more and believe there is no hope. When Jesus began his public ministry, almost immediately he faced opposition from the authorities and leaders of the day. His country was occupied by the all-powerful Romans, but he did not say to himself the task for me is impossible. He did not dwell on the difficulties of the world or focus on the opposition. He preached in a way to inspire confidence in people. Told them how much God loved them. He helped people understand that, whatever their place or role in society, they were capable of great things. They were affirmed, encouraged and strengthened by his presence which was so positive people felt better about themselves and everything else just because they had spent time in his company. Advent is an opportunity to spend time reflecting on the importance of Jesus in our lives, be uplifted and recognise Jesus' confidence and belief in us to give an uplift to others. We can affirm and encourage others and let the love of God, of Jesus, that we experience shine on their lives by our presence. It can take just a small helping of hope, of good will, of compassion, of affirmation to change the life of anyone we meet. Isn't it wonderful to see a flower of plant growing out of a rock face or the wall of a house because it had found a small amount of nourishment to give it life?

The crimson-purple vestment we wear in Advent symbolizes yearning and longing. When we recognise this yearning and longing in ourselves and what it means for us, we are more able to recognise it in others and want to respond.

Advent *John Bell*

Light looked down and saw the darkness.

"I will go there," said the light.

Peace looked down and saw war and terrorism,

"I will go there," said Peace.

Love looked down and saw hatred.

"I will go there," said Love.

So, he, the Lord of Light,

the Prince of Peace,

the King of Love,

came down and crept in beside us.

A teacher said to her class, "Suppose you were all millionaires, write what you would do"...

Everyone immediately began to write furiously, except little Johnny, who kicked back and put his feet on the table. The teacher walked over to him. "Why aren't you writing Johnny?" she asked. Johnny looked up. "I'm waiting for my secretary."