

Reflection Tuesday 4th Week Advent 2021

Today's O antiphon is: *"O Rising Sun, you are the splendour of eternal light and the sun of justice: come and enlighten those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death."* The light of Christmas is very near. Jesus is almost here. We wait expectantly for Jesus' light to come and shine into the darkness of our lives and dispel it. We welcome the words of Isaiah: *"The people that walked in darkness has seen a great light; on those who live in a land of deep shadow a light has shone."*

Just as Mary carries her baby Jesus to Elizabeth, Jesus is also brought to us by Mary. Will we welcome him as Elizabeth did? Can we ever thank Mary enough??

The Advent Wreath (Revd Steve Sheridan)

First flame alight to bring us hope.

Flickering on this advent wreath.

*Lighting the dark in which we grope,
leading us on to new belief.*

*Faith is the theme of candle two,
urging us on to Bethlehem!
A child is born; the dawn breaks through,
while angels sing. Let's join with them...*

*in ringing out the sound of joy.
This is the theme of advent three,
as shepherd's wonder at this boy;
one born to set the nations free.*

*We then light candle number four,
this flame our prayer for lasting peace,
that by the love which this child brings,
all war and conflict might yet cease.*

*There is one candle left to light,
This will be on Christmas Day.
It is that one of dazzling white,
hope, faith, joy, peace be yours I pray.*

May the wisdom of the Wonderful Counsellor direct us,
the strength of the Mighty God protect us,
the **light** of the Everlasting Father shine in us,
the peace of the Prince of Peace surround us,
the Love of the Son sustain us. Amen.