

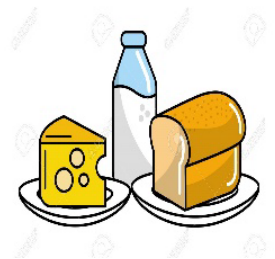


TABLE SERVICE
Sunday 30th November 2025
First Sunday in Advent
Let us sit and watch Songs of Praise together
on the ABC and then set the table for our
Parish meal.



Prayerful and intentional preparation for a meal

Today is the first Sunday in Advent, a time for reflection, preparation and anticipation of the coming of Jesus. Often Advent is a time of prayer, fasting and giving. So, as we worship at home today let us define the occasion by adding something special to our table, acknowledging the importance of the time we are setting aside for worship. If you are celebrating this meal without people physically present, please be aware that **God Is With You**.



The Greek meaning for the word "taken" and in context to other scriptures, implies that one is swept away by the things of the world while the other remains steadfast in the things of God. This makes better sense in the context of the reading. 'As in the days of Noah' and 'one remains awake waiting for the thief to come'. Noah was the one that was prepared. Today we do not build arks of wood, but ones within our souls able to carry us through the troubled waters of the world.



opening prayer — consciously drawing together in our mind our Parish community around our table.

Be still and silent.

Visualise in your mind, those whom you invited to share with you. Pray:

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

Here, and throughout the world, We adore you O Christ, and we bless you, because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world. Amen

Bless this food, both physical and spiritual. Bless all who gather at your table, both seen and unseen, In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

A reading from the prophet Isaiah Chapter 2, verses 1-5

The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. In days to come the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it. Many peoples shall come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths." For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for



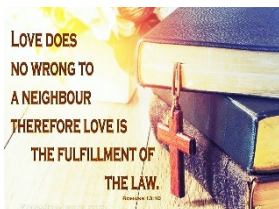
many peoples; they shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!
Hear the word of the Lord, **thanks be to God.**

Psalm 122

1 I was glad when they said to me:
'Let us go to the house of the Lord.'
2 And now our feet are standing:
Within your gates O Jerusalem.
3 Jerusalem which is built as a city:
where the pilgrims gather in unity.
4 There the tribes go up the tribes of the Lord:
as he commanded Israel, to give thanks to the name of the Lord.
5 there are set thrones of judgement:
the thrones of the house of David.
6 O pray for the peace of Jerusalem:
may those who love you prosper.
7 Peace be within your walls:
and prosperity in your palaces.
8 For the sake of my kindred and companions:
I will pray that peace be with you.
9 For the sake of the house of the Lord our God:
I will seek for your good.



A reading from the letter to the Romans Chapter 13, verses 9-14



The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet"; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, "Love your neighbour as yourself." Love does no wrong to a neighbour; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law. Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is

nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armour of light; let us live honourably as in the day, not in revelling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarrelling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Hear the word of the Lord, **thanks be to God.**

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew Chapter 24, verses 36-44 Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ

Jesus said to his disciples: "But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah



entered the ark, and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.

The Gospel of the Lord, ***praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.***

Sentence

Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths. Isaiah 2.3a

Let us now engage in some quiet reflection, or conversation and sharing, responding to the passages of scripture. We may like to write down some key thoughts for further reflection.

**Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armour of light
Put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh.**



A thousand generations have waited for Christ's return. Still, they have met him in two ways. First, Jesus tells his disciples to ask the Father for the impartation of His Spirit. As the trinity is one, so it is the Holy Spirit the Spirit of Christ. Then when they died they were caught up with Christ in His glory. It is up to the Father when Jesus does return to our world, but in the meantime, we do not take His salvation for granted but as Jesus instructed we are called to remain prepared within our hearts as if

He will return this very moment. Have you thought, that in being prepared in our souls, we also become an ark of spiritual sanctuary for others.

prayer-time

Now let us continue to offer our prayers and thanksgiving. Merciful Lord, we offer a prayer for your peace to be with all those who have suffered and continue to do so as a result of injustice, conflict and war. We pray for peace and hope to abound in all these places. We pray for family, for members of the parish and wider community, for the life and ministry of the Church, for encouragement in our journey of faith.

We pray alongside those in our parish asking for prayer, We give thanks for the success of Cathys surgery we pray for success in Jo's treatment and continue to pray for freedom from pain and healing for them. Margaret P, Trish S Kay & Chris DeVries Lynn H, Jean T, Sue and family, Stephen, Anne, Ken, Neville B, Lisa W, Jan Y, Michael, Andrew, Colin C, Pratibha K, Jeanette B, Barbara A, Jo M, Sue Mc, Griselda, Patrusca, Lorraine, Rachel, Steve, Ebony, Nicole, David, Takoohi, Glenda, Margaret, Wendy, Gweneth, Jo and Ginne, Matthew, Ann, Kathryn and Keiran, Ruth, Jean N, Georgia, Pat V, Brenda, Joanie, Jan, Joy I, Jac B; Eileen, Ursula P, Nicholas & Ben; Sue & Frank G, Emily and her family; Christina and any others we wish to remember, either silently or aloud.

Let us say the Lord's Prayer Together.

Our Father

The Collect

Faithful God,
whose promises stand unshaken through all generations:
renew us in hope, that we may be awake and alert
watching for the glorious return of Jesus Christ,
our Judge and Saviour,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. Amen.



Conclude the meal with the following prayer



***May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God and the
fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be amongst us
and remain with us always.
Amen.***

Intentional connection beyond your home

After our Table Service spend some time reaching out to others. You can do this in prayer or by contacting them directly. It can be a member of your family, or someone who does not have family, or a friend, someone in your community who may be alone and would welcome a call or message from you. Let God guide you to the person or persons with whom you should connect. Contact them. Start a conversation: How have you been keeping, what about this changing weather or hope you are keeping well, or I was just thinking of you and decided to call.

