

Thought for the Week
1st December 2019
1st Sunday in Advent

Today is the start of Advent and the start of the Church's Liturgical Year. Sadly the commercial world of the Christmas season has been underway for some time and each year it gets earlier and earlier.

Before we get carried away with decorations, parties and presents, the start of Advent is a real opportunity to stop and consider what Christmas is really about. Jesus is the meaning of Christmas. He is the meaning of human existence.

What can be better than making the time to escape our busyness by attending all or part of Holy Hour on Monday evenings at 7pm? In the quietness and silence before the Blessed Sacrament, we have time to listen and be prompted as to what are our real priorities. It is also a time to thank the Lord for all our blessings.

We might also be prompted to decide what proportion of our spending should go to Charity. The Parish Council has put forward "Embrace the Middle East" as our Advent Charity. The Middle East is an area where Christians are being persecuted. We will have the opportunity of hearing more about this from a Parishioner, Tim Livesey, who manages this Christian Charity (founded in 1854), but in the meantime have a look at their web site:

<https://www.embraceme.org/homeforchristmas>

So there are two thoughts not just for the week, but for Advent together with an important reminder from today's Gospel:

"So stay awake and listen, because you do not know the day when your master is coming".

Stephen and Judy