

**Thought for the week**  
**1st Sunday of Advent**  
**28th November, 2021**

Loving God,  
Creator of heaven and earth and all that is in them,  
you created us in your own image and  
made us stewards of creation.

You blessed us with the sun, water and bountiful land  
so that all might be nourished.

Open our minds and touch our hearts,  
so that we may attend to your gift of creation  
Help us to be conscious that our common home  
belongs not only to us, but to all of your creatures  
and to all future generations,  
and that it is our responsibility to preserve it.  
May we help each person secure the food and resources  
that they need.

Be present to those in need in these trying times,  
especially the poorest and those most at risk  
of being left behind.

Transform our fear and feelings of isolation  
into hope and fraternity  
so that we may experience a true conversion of the heart.

Help us to show creative solidarity  
in addressing the consequences of this global pandemic.

Make us courageous to embrace the changes  
that are needed in search of the common good.

Now more than ever may we feel  
that we are all interconnected and interdependent.

Enable us to listen and respond  
to the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor.  
May the present sufferings be the birth pangs  
of a more fraternal and sustainable world.

Under the loving gaze of Mary Help of Christians,  
we make this prayer through Christ Our Lord.

Amen.

As we head into the Christmas season, Catholics and other Christians all over the world celebrate Advent. This is a very special time, one in which we await Jesus' birth in Bethlehem.

This is an uncertain Advent I suppose, one in which we remember a year ago when the pandemic had us in its clutches and when we were unable to comfortably plan our family get-togethers and social engagements. We are indeed still in a climate of uncertainty and restrictions still cloud our plans.

Despite the constraints forced upon us last year, Advent and Christmas continued regardless, if in a slightly different way. Families embraced technology to stay connected, felt even more keenly the blessings bestowed upon them and highlighted perhaps even more effectively the lesson of the Advent season- one of waiting, anticipation, of something greater yet to come.

It also perhaps makes us think a little more of those for whom Christmas is always one of loneliness, neglect or poverty. For so many this time of year must bring with it the real worries of feeding oneself or ones family, keeping a roof over their heads, and the difficulties of booking a supermarket shop or worries about the range of luxuries available must seem a world away.

I pray that this Advent will bring joy, renewal, spiritual awakening and togetherness.

*Heavenly Father, as we begin this Advent, give light to our eyes, peace to our hearts and give strength to all those who need it. Amen*

A parishioner



**We ask you to please pray for the following people who continue to ask for your prayers;**

Please pray for Beth Selwood

Please pray for Mary Haggar

Please pray for Carmel Barker

Please pray for Vivien Kear (Krissie's friend) who has cancer

Please pray for Rita Lonsdale.

Maddy Sharman has asked for our prayers.

Vera Bird has asked for our prayers for her Great, Great Grandson Harry

Please pray for Cecilia Fung, the mother of Fr Jojo. She has had a stroke.

Prayers please for Antonita's nephew Peppin who has long covid.

Please pray for Caroline Mikhail (daughter - in - law of Jane and Ramsay Mikhail) who suffered a stroke.

Please pray for Peter Halter's sister Jean who has macular degeneration and for Jean's great grandson Rogan who is 9 and has leukemia. Rogan continues to need our prayers.

Please pray for the children and teachers of the Parish

Please pray for the residents and staff at the two nursing homes in our parish, Abbeycrest and St Luke's.

Please pray for all victims of the Coronavirus.



**Please also remember in your prayers those whose anniversaries occur at this time including;**

Frank Adams, Ron Clark, George Coulehan, Jack Hickey, Rob and Margaret Lackie, Roger and Gwen Whyte, David Ivimey Miller, Oscar Wilde, Dennis Graham, Raymond Graham, Mary Raybould, Madge Barnard Smith