

**Sunday between 27 November and 3 December**  
*First Sunday of Advent (Year A)*

**First Reading - Isaiah 2.2-5**

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

The time will come  
when the mountain  
of the temple  
of the Lord  
will be established  
as the greatest  
of all mountains,  
high above the hills.  
People of all nations will say,  
'The teaching of the Lord  
comes from Mount Zion,  
and the word of the Lord  
from Jerusalem.  
So let us go up  
to the mountain of the Lord,  
to the house  
of the God of Jacob,  
to learn there  
how to walk  
in the right path.'

Then the Lord  
will bring justice and peace  
to the nations.  
They will take their weapons of war,  
their swords and their spears,  
and they will re-work them  
into ploughs  
and pruning-hooks.  
No longer  
will nation  
lift up sword  
against nation;  
neither will they  
learn war  
any more.  
So come, O people of Jacob;  
let us walk  
in the light  
of the Lord.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Second Reading - Romans 13.11-14**

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

Now is the time  
to be fully awake,  
for our salvation  
is closer to us now  
than when we first  
became believers.  
The night is almost over -  
the day is near.  
So let us throw off  
the works of darkness,  
and put on  
the armour of light.

Let there be no  
drunkenness, indecency,  
quarrelling, or jealousy,  
or any other  
work of darkness.

But let us live honourably,  
as in the day,  
in the light  
of our Lord  
Jesus Christ.  
This is the word of the Lord.

**Gospel - Matthew 24.36-44**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ  
according to Matthew.

Jesus said:

'About that day,  
and that hour,  
no one knows -  
not the angels in heaven,  
nor even the Son,  
but only the Father.  
In the days of Noah,  
before the flood,  
they were eating and drinking,  
at banquets and weddings,  
right up to the day  
that Noah  
entered the ark.  
They knew nothing  
until the flood came,  
and swept them away.

So it will be  
at the coming  
of the Son of Man.  
On that day, two men  
will be working in a field;  
one will be taken,  
and one will be left.  
Two women  
will be grinding flour together;  
one will be taken,  
and one will be left.

So stay alert,  
because you do not know  
on what day  
the Lord is coming.

If you knew  
that a thief  
was coming in the night,  
you would stay awake,  
to protect your home.

In the same way,  
be ready,  
for the Son of Man  
is coming  
at an unexpected hour.'  
This is the Gospel of the Lord.