

HOLY CROSS AND ALL SAINTS MONDAY MISSION

THIS WEEK'S WORD:

Matthew 24:37-44

At that time: Jesus said to his disciples: 'For as were the days of Noah, 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 when Noah entered the ark, and they were unaware until the flood came and swept them all away, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. Then two men will be in the field; one will be taken and one left. Two women will be grinding at the mill; one will be taken and one left.'

Therefore, stay awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But know this, that if the master 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 hour you do not expect.'

REFLECT

Jesus wants us all to be prepared. He clearly doesn't expect us all to literally stay awake all Advent or be worried about being caught out – but he does want us to be ready to welcome love into our lives. And we don't always notice the love in our lives. In the Gospel, the master leaves each of his servants with their own job to do. It wouldn't be any good if the man got back home and found the servants asleep - they all have to be ready. Jesus wants us all to be ready too. How will we get ready to welcome Jesus this Advent? If the things we do and say are full of love and kindness, then we are preparing our hearts for Jesus. We are awake and ready to welcome Jesus if we are alert enough to show respect to the people in our lives. What 'job' do you think Jesus is asking you to do this Advent?

There is so much bad and depressing news around at the moment, but we are blessed to have hope and know that love is coming into the world in a new way at Christmas. Our hope is not just wishful thinking. We know that God became one of us as Jesus and that he brings love and hope into our world. Where do you find your hope? How is love made real in your life – and how will you make love real in other people's lives this Advent?

LET US PRAY

Thank you, Lord Jesus, for being with us in the rubble.

We know you are with us in our difficulties. Help us to hold onto hope and belief that you will bring goodness out of all our hurt and difficulties.

Help us to stand in solidarity with all who suffer and work to build a better, fairer world. Amen.

MISSION

Advent is about preparing our hearts for Jesus' birth at Christmas, but also about living in hope for His coming again. Hope means trusting that God's love and light will always break through the darkness.

"Be a light of hope for others."

Each day, do one small act of kindness that brings hope to someone else.

- o Smile at someone who looks sad.
- o Share with a friend who has forgotten something.
- o Say "thank you" to teachers and helpers.
- o Pray for someone who is struggling.

