Come, Lord Jesus!

SUNDAY Plus

29 NOVEMBER 2026

First Sunday of Advent **Divine Office Week I** Year B

When a life begins

Just for now let us assume that you are a first-time mother with a newborn baby. If not, just backtrack to the birth of your first child and remember how you felt at the time. For most mothers it is a combination of physical exhaustion and a rush of joy, peace and the most overpowering love.

Along with a new person in your life, and your new identity as a mother, you have a whole new set of challenges to face – challenges that will last a lifetime and need time to settle into your heart, your daily life and your faith. So go easy on yourself, recognise the enormity of what has happened, and above all pray – and keep praying – for God's guidance over the coming days, weeks, months, years and decades.

Motherhood is a journey into the unknown. Once conception has taken place there is no knowing what will happen. Will my baby be healthy? Will I cope once he arrives? There's really no getting away from just how awesome a responsibility motherhood is – which is what makes it one of life's great faith adventures.

Yet for all the uncertainties, motherhood also brings unparalleled joy, delight and awe. After the sight and smell of a newborn, come the sticky wet toddler kisses and the heavy sweetness of sleepy children, the exhilaration of birthdays and Christmas (once the work is done!), and the journey through many firsts – friendships, boyfriends, jobs and homes – until suddenly the day dawns when we realise our children are independent adults.

Elizabeth Davies,
Catholic Motherhood



Jesus is God's song of love for humanity. Let us listen to this song! Let us learn it well, so that we too can sing it with our lives.

Pope Leo XIV

Advent values

A four-year-old child lived next door to an elderly man who had recently lost his wife. On seeing the man cry, the little boy went into the old man's garden, climbed onto his lap and just sat there. When his mother asked him what he had said to the neighbour, the little boy said, 'Nothing. I just helped him to cry.' The Spirit continues to lead us to the truth. Faith in God brings about a change of heart. Values will be changed when God is allowed to be active in life. Growth in holiness does not have room for grumbling and complaining but is about learning to be content in our current circumstances. It awakes in us a sensitivity to the needs of those around us and a desire to respond to them. What is God teaching me this Advent about my priorities, my values?

Lord, as Advent begins, awaken our hearts to hope, prepare us for Christ's coming, and guide us in faith and love. ✠ Amen.

Feast of the week
Tuesday 1 December

St Edmund Campion SJ (1540-1581)

'My charge is, of free cost, to preach the Gospel, to minister the sacraments, to instruct the simple, to reform sinners, to confute errors: in brief, to cry alarm spiritual against foul vice and proud ignorance.'
Edmund Campion knew these words would seal his fate and that he would be executed at Tyburn, alongside Ss Ralph Sherwin and Alexander Briant. During the year since his return to England in 1580, he had secretly celebrated Mass and the sacraments, encouraging believers who risked punishment for their faith.
At his trial, Campion was asked to raise his right hand and take the Oath of Supremacy. Unable to obey or disobey because of recent torture, the Lord Chief Justice, Sir Christopher Wray, determined that the proceedings should continue, physically lifted Campion's arm and enforced the oath. On the scaffold, Campion forgave his captors and prayed for Elizabeth I. Priest and shepherd to the end, he died a martyr.

READINGS

Today:
Isaiah 63:16b-17; 64:1. 3b-8
1 Corinthians 1:3-9
Mark 13:33-37

Monday:
Romans 10:9-18
Matthew 4:18-22

Tuesday:
Isaiah 11:1-10
Luke 10:21-24

Wednesday:
Isaiah 25:6-10a
Matthew 15:29-37

Thursday:
Isaiah 26:1-6
Matthew 7:21. 24-27

Friday:
Isaiah 29:17-24
Matthew 9:27-31

Saturday:
Isaiah 30:19-21. 23-26
Matthew 9:35–10:1. 5a. 6-8

Next Sunday:
Isaiah 40:1-5. 9-11
2 Peter 3:8-14
Mark 1:1-8

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