

# & ST IGNATIUS ST LUKE'S

1 December 2019



*The Wise and Foolish Virgins* [William Blake, 1826]

“Take ye heed, watch and pray; for ye know not when the time is.” *Mark xiii. 33.*

## WATCHING

OUR Saviour gave this warning when He was leaving this world,—leaving it, that is, as far as His visible presence is concerned...He foresaw the state of the world and the Church, as we see it this day, when His prolonged absence has made it practically thought, that He never will come back in visible presence: and in the text, He mercifully whispers into our ears, not to trust in what we see, not to share in that general unbelief, not to be carried away by the world, but to “take heed, watch, pray,” and look out for His coming.

Surely this gracious warning should be ever in our thoughts, being so precise, so solemn, so earnest. He foretold His first coming, yet He took His Church by surprise when He came; much more will He come suddenly the second time, and overtake men, now that He has not measured out the interval before it, as then He did, but left our watchfulness to the keeping of faith and love.

Let us then consider this most serious question, which concerns every one of us so nearly;—What it is to *watch* for Christ?...

Do you know the feeling in matters of this life, of expecting a friend, expecting him to come, and he delays? Do you know what it is to be in unpleasant company, and to wish for the time to pass away, and the hour strike when you may be at liberty? Do you know what it is to be in anxiety lest something should happen which may happen or may not, or to be in suspense about some important event, which makes your heart beat when you are reminded of it, and of which you think the first thing in the morning? Do you know what it is to have a friend in a distant country, to expect news of him, and to wonder from day to day what he is now doing, and whether he is well?...To watch for Christ is a feeling such as all these; as far as feelings of this world are fit to shadow out those of another.

He watches for Christ who has a sensitive, eager, apprehensive mind; who is awake, alive, quick-sighted, zealous in seeking and honouring Him; who looks out for Him in all that happens, and who would not be surprised, who would not be over-agitated or overwhelmed, if he found that He was coming at once.

And he watches *with* Christ, who, while he looks on to the future, looks back on the past, and does not so contemplate what his Saviour has purchased for him, as to forget what He has suffered for him. He watches with Christ, who ever commemorates and renews in his own person Christ's Cross and Agony, and gladly takes up that mantle of affliction which Christ wore here, and left behind Him when he ascended....

This then is to watch; to be detached from what is present, and to live in what is unseen; to live in the thought of Christ as He came once, and as He will come again; to

desire His second coming, from our affectionate and grateful remembrance of His first. And this it is, in which we shall find that men in general are wanting... For they consider they have faith, if they do but own that the Bible came from God, or that they trust wholly in Christ for salvation; and they consider they have love if they obey some of the most obvious of God's commandments...[T]hus it accidentally happens that watching is a suitable test of a Christian, in that it is that particular property of faith and love,... the way in which faith and love, if genuine, show themselves.

...[W]hen we reflect how rarely [watching] *is* found among professing Christians, we shall see why our Lord is so urgent in enforcing it;—as if He said, “I am not warning you, My followers, against open apostasy; that will not be; but I foresee that very few will keep awake and watch while I am away. Blessed are the servants who do so; few will open to me *immediately*, when I knock. They will have something to do first; they will have to get ready. They will have to recover from the surprise and confusion which overtake them on the first news of My coming, and will need time to collect themselves, and summon about them their better thoughts and affections. They feel themselves very well off as they are; and wish to serve God as they are. They are satisfied to remain on earth; they do not wish to move; they do not wish to change.”

Year passes after year silently; Christ's coming is ever nearer than it was. O that, as He comes nearer earth, we may approach nearer heaven! O, my brethren, pray Him to give you the heart to seek Him in sincerity. Pray Him to make you in earnest. You have one work only, to bear your cross after Him. Resolve in His strength to do so... [W]ithout waiting, begin at once to obey Him with the best heart you have... You have to seek His face; obedience is the only way of seeking Him... Every act of obedience is an approach,—an approach to Him who is not far off, though He seems so, but close behind this visible screen of things which hides Him from us. He is behind this material framework; earth and sky are but a veil going between Him and us; the day will come when He will rend that veil, and show Himself to us. And then, according as we have waited for Him, will He recompense us. If we have forgotten Him, He will not know us; but “blessed are those servants whom the Lord, when He cometh, shall find watching ... He shall gird Himself, and make them sit down to meat, and will come forth and serve them...”...

Life is short; death is certain; and the world to come is everlasting.



excerpted from *Plain and Parochial Sermons*, Volume IV, 1839  
by St. John Henry Newman

## REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

All who are suffering or sick and all caregivers who minister to the sick: Wesley Jackson, Sister Constance Ward, George Cochran, Mark Anthony Turner, Rachel Fisher, Joyce Doyle, Patricia Ransom, David Hoppe, Jacqueline Chancio, Victoria P.; C. M., C.A., E.D., E.G., W.B., J.M., and J.G.

*Please call or email the office to add a name to the prayer list. Before calling, please be sure you have spoken to the person [or a member of his family] about adding the name—we do not want to inadvertently disregard someone's desire for privacy.*

Names of those who are sick or suffering will be kept on the list for one month; to keep a name on the list for longer, you must email the parish office.

## MASS READINGS THIS WEEK

**1 December** *The First Sunday of Advent*

Isaiah 2: 1-5; Psalm 122: 1-2, 4-9;

Romans 13: 11-14; Matthew 24: 37-44

**2 December** *Advent Feria*

Isaiah 4: 2-6; Psalm 122: 1-9; Matthew 8: 5-11

**3 December** *Francis Xavier, Priest*

Isaiah 11: 1-10; Psalm 72: 1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17; Luke 10: 21-24

**4 December** *John Damascene, Priest and Doctor of the Church*

Isaiah 25: 6-10a; Psalm 23; Matthew 15: 29-37

**5 December** *Advent Feria*

Isaiah 26: 1-6; Psalm 118: 1, 8-9, 19-21, 25-27ab;

Matthew 7: 21, 24-27

**6 December** *Nicholas, Bishop*

Isaiah 29: 17-24; Psalm 27: 1, 4, 13-14; Matthew 9: 27-31

**7 December** *Ambrose, Bishop and Doctor of the Church*

Isaiah 30: 19-21, 23-26; Psalm 147: 1-6; Matthew 9: 35—10:1, 5a, 6-8

**8 December** *The Second Sunday of Advent*

Isaiah 11: 1-10; Psalm 72: 1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17;

Romans 15: 4-9; Matthew 3: 1-12

## MASS INTENTIONS

**Saturday, 30 November**

*Andrew, Apostle*

*Anticipated Mass for Sunday*

4:30 pm Douglas Seward + [Marie Charlot]

**Sunday, 1 December**

*The First Sunday of Advent*

8 am Pro populo

9:30 am Grace Dellinger and family [Joseph Conklin and Dagny Rughin]

11 am Jeanne Lamontagne + [Rosemary Coller]

**Monday, 2 December**

*Advent Feria*

9 am *no public mass*

**Tuesday, 3 December**

*Francis Xavier, Priest*

9 am Alfred Mirring [Maria Cacas]

**Wednesday, 4 December**

*Ember Wednesday in Advent*

9 am Patricia LaValley + [Lorraine LaValley]

**Thursday, 5 December**

*Advent Feria*

9 am Alice Kruse [Lorraine LaValley]

**Friday, 6 December**

*Ember Friday in Advent*

9 am Madeline's intentions [George Hickey, Jr.]

**Saturday, 7 December**

*Ember Saturday in Advent*

*Anticipated Mass for Sunday*

4:30 pm Guadalupe Manlapaz [Susanna Martinez]

**Sunday, 8 December**

*The Second Sunday of Advent*

8 am Pro populo

9:30 am Max Cacas (4th anniversary) [Maria Cacas]

11 am Carol Jo Elron and family [Joseph Conklin and Dagny Rughin]

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**Rev. John Vidal**  
Administrator, St. Ignatius  
Pastor, St. Luke's

The logo for Saint Luke's at Ignatius Church features a large, stylized, decorative letter 'S' on the left. To the right of the 'S', the words 'Saint Luke's at' are stacked above 'IGNATIUS CHURCH' in a serif font.

**Saint Luke's at**  
**IGNATIUS CHURCH**