

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON**

**To you, I lift up my soul, O my God. In you, I have trusted; let me not be put to shame. Nor let my enemies exult over me; and let none who hope in you be put to shame.**

**PENITENTIAL ACT**

Lord Jesus, you came to reconcile us to one another and to the Father:  
 Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**  
 Lord Jesus, you heal the wounds of sin and division:  
 Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**  
 Lord Jesus, you intercede for us with your Father:  
 Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**  
 May almighty God have mercy on us... **Amen..**  
*(The Gloria is omitted awaiting its Christmas Proclamation.)*

**OPENING PRAYER**

Grant your faithful, we pray, almighty God, the resolve to run forth to meet your Christ with righteous deeds at his coming, so that, gathered at his right hand, they may be worthy to possess the heavenly Kingdom. Through our Lord Jesus Christ.....

**LITURGY OF THE WORD**

**FIRST READING Jeremiah 33:14-16**

**A reading from the prophet Jeremiah**  
 See, the days are coming - it is the Lord who speaks - when I am going to fulfil the promise I made to the House of Israel and the House of Judah:  
 'In those days and at that time, I will make a virtuous Branch grow for David, who shall practise honesty and integrity in the land. In those days Judah shall be saved and Israel shall dwell in confidence. And this is the name the city will be called: The Lord-our-integrity.'

**The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.**

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps. 24:4-5, 8-9,10,14**

**R. To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.**

1. Lord, make me know your ways.  
 Lord, teach me your paths.  
 Make me walk in your truth,  
 and teach me: for you are God my saviour. **[R]**
2. The Lord is good and upright.  
 He shows the path to those who stray,  
 he guides the humble in the right path;  
 he teaches his way to the poor. **[R]**
3. His ways are faithfulness and love  
 for those who keep his covenant and will.  
 The Lord's friendship is for those who revere him;  
 to them he reveals his covenant. **[R]**



**SECOND READING 1 Thessalonians 3:12-4:2**

**A reading from the first letter of St. Paul to the Thessalonians.**  
 May the Lord be generous in increasing your love and make you love one another and the whole

human race as much as we love you. And may he so confirm your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless in the sight of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus Christ comes with all his saints. Finally, brothers, we urge you and appeal to you in the Lord Jesus to make more and more progress in the kind of life that you are meant to live: the life that God wants, as you learnt from us, and as you are already living it. You have not forgotten the instructions we gave you on the authority of the Lord Jesus.

**The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

**Alleluia, alleluia!**  
**Let us see, O Lord, your mercy and give us your saving help. Alleluia!**

**GOSPEL Luke 21:25-28.34-36**

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.**  
 Jesus said to his disciples: 'There will be signs in the sun and moon and stars; on earth nations in agony, bewildered by the clamour of the ocean and its waves; men dying of fear as they await what menaces the world, for the powers of heaven will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. When these things begin to take place, stand erect, hold your heads high, because your liberation is near at hand.'

'Watch yourselves, or your hearts will be coarsened with debauchery and drunkenness and the cares of life, and that day will be sprung on you suddenly, like a trap. For it will come down on every living man on the face of the earth. Stay awake, praying at all times for the strength to survive all that is going to happen, and to stand with confidence before the Son of Man.'

**The Gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

**NICENE CREED**

**I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible. I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven,**

**All bow for following three lines:**

**and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.**



**focus on sunday**



**Advent calls on us, as we await the birth of Jesus to be a light for all who hunger for justice, peace and truth.**

**trócaire**



Abdul, 8 from Afar drinking water that his brother Mohammed has collected on a 5 hour round trip to the nearest river. Photo: Louise Norton/Trócaire.



As we begin the season of Advent our thoughts turn towards the wonderful mystery of God entering our world in the person of a helpless child. It is the mystery of God's love for each one of us. And St Paul prays in the second reading in today's Mass "May the Lord be generous in increasing your love and make you love one another and the whole human race".

The Christian invitation and challenge is not just to love those who love me but to love all people. In this regard Christ has shown us the way in his special love for the poor and the broken. We live in a world where most of us have more than we need. Sadly in so many other parts of our world millions of people are poor and broken, living permanently in dire poverty. What better way to prepare for this Christmas than to make a serious contribution to Trócaire or other such charities which works for the relief of poverty and to promote human development helping people to live lives of dignity. The work of Trócaire depends to a great extent on our contributions and it has suffered a significant fall in these contributions this past year because of the Covid pandemic.

In recent times we have become aware of the urgency of the threat of climate change. We have also learned that it is these poorer countries who are suffering most from the fallout of climate change. We are called to listen to the voice of the poor.

*"May the Lord be generous in increasing your love and make you love one another and the whole human race".*

Willie Walsh

Bishop Emeritus Killaloe

**I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

**LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST**

**Pray brothers and sisters,..... May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.**

**PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS**

Accept, we pray, O Lord, these offerings we make, gathered from among your gifts to us, and may what you grant us to celebrate devoutly here below gain for us the prize of eternal redemption. Through Christ our Lord.

**AFTER THE CONSECRATION**

*The mystery of faith.*  
**When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we proclaim your Death, O Lord, until you come again.**

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON**

**The Lord will bestow his bounty, and our earth shall yield its increase.**

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

May these mysteries, O Lord, in which we have participated, profit us, we pray, for even now, as we walk amid passing things, you teach us by them to love the things of heaven and hold fast to what endures. Through Christ our Lord.

**THE ADVENT WREATH**

The circle of evergreen leaves stands for God who is without beginning and without end. The purple ribbon and three purple candles stand for penance and sorrow for sin. The red candle stands for joy of living in God's way of love.

Today the first purple candle is lit as we begin our preparations for the coming of our Saviour Jesus Christ.