

## FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

### HOMILY

*Isaiah 2:1-5    Romans 13: 11-14    Matthew 24: 37-44*

We begin the Advent season with a call to **“stay awake”** “//” **“to be ready”**

It is the same call that resounded again in the agony in Garden which means that the

the call to Stay Awake **presumes:**

- a) that we might be dozing off – St Paul writing to the Romans tells us: **“Time has come, you must wake up now”**
- b) that we might be idling our time away.

Staying awake for us today could mean **not to lose sight of the reason of this season of Advent.**

- ❖ **Jesus is the reason** for the season of Advent that we begin today and the **reason for Christmas.**
- ❖ We should not become victims of all the **rushing and hustle** of associated with Christmas today.
- ❖ We do not want to forget that Jesus is the reason for the season.

### ADVENT: TIME FOR PREPARATION

The church gives us two periods of preparation from year to year and during these two periods of preparation **Purple** is the colour.

- a) Lent is one of them where we do preparation for Easter and
- b) Advent, which we begin today where we do preparation for Christmas

As we know the word advent from the Latin **“Advenire”** meaning  
= to come **nearer and nearer**  
= **on the point of arriving**

Advent is not a waiting to see Santa

It is not a time to be overcome by rushing around shops.

To help us keep Jesus as the **reason for Christmas** the Church gives us four weeks to prepare our **hearts for Jesus.**

As disciples we are to use Advent as a time

- to deepen our relationship with God,
- in this way to prepare your heart not only for our celebration of Christmas but also
- for meeting God when we are called from this life.

There is only one gift at Christmas, and that gift is Jesus.

To **“stay awake,”** raises a few questions:

Q: How do we use our time?

Q: Do we use it well or waste it foolishly?

Someone through his poem advises how to use our time:

- Take time to think – It is the source of power.
- Take time to read – It is the foundation of wisdom.
- Take time to play – It is the secret of staying young.
- Take time to be quiet – It is the opportunity to seek God.
- Take time to be aware – It is the opportunity to help others.
- Take time to laugh – It is the music of the soul.
- Take time to be friendly – It is the road to happiness.
- Take time to pray – It is the greatest power on earth.

- ❖ Above all during this season of Advent we want to take time for Jesus.

Where are our shortfalls in the way we use our time?

**“Stay awake”** is the call on this first Sunday of Advent!