

SUNDAY 29th November

Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5.23-24

"May the God who gives us peace make you completely his, and keep your whole being, spirit, soul and body, free from the fault, at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you will do it, for he is faithful!"

Advent speaks to us about at time of waiting, but it's not like waiting for a bus. Advents speaks to us about a time of hoping, but it's not like a child hoping for a bike on Christmas Day. The coming ("adventus" in Latin) we wait for and hope for is the coming of God with us, Immanuel, Jesus Christ! In decisive mode, that has already happened in history and it will happen, we believe, at the end of all things; but also, there is here and now. Here and now, waiting and hoping is about us living in the light of God-with-us. And it is as if the spotlights, for the time being, are on us, since we are to live well, with Christlike trust and compassion and commitment. For here and now, we are the body of Christ.

The marking of Advent and Christmas is but a yearly reminder. If you and I, with God's help, can incarnate His love and live through His purposes and shine in the here and now, we are doing what we are meant to be doing. And so unfulfilled longing is to be satisfied; angels and ordinary (shepherd-like) folk together will be delighted; and wise types will travel far to see this!

Let us too be open to God so as to keep faith!

Prayers:

The Son of God is coming with great power: all mankind shall see his face and be reborn. *Come, Lord, Jesus, and do not delay!*

You bring us wisdom, fresh understanding and new vision. *Come …*

You bring us good news, and power which will transform our lives. *Come …*

You bring us truth, showing us the way to the Father. *Come …*

Born of woman, you open in our flesh the way to eternal life and joy. *Come …*