

**First Reading Isaiah 63:16-17, 64:1, 3-8**

**A Reading from the Prophet Isaiah**

You, Lord, yourself are our Father, Our Redeemer is your ancient Name. Why, Lord, leave us to stray from your ways and harden our hearts against fearing you? Return, for the sake of your servants, the tribes of your inheritance. Oh, that you would tear the heavens open and come down – at your Presence the mountains would melt. No ear has heard, no eye has seen any god but you act like this for those who trust him. You guide those who act with integrity and keep your ways in mind. You were angry when we were sinners; we had long been rebels against you. We were all like men unclean, all that integrity of ours like filthy clothing. We have all withered like leaves and our sins blew us away like the wind. No one invoked your name or roused himself to catch hold of you. For you hid your face from us and gave us up to the power of our sins. And yet, Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, you are the potter, we are all the work of your hand.

**The Word of the Lord**

**Thanks be to God**

**Responsorial Psalm Psalm 79:2-3,15-16. 18-19.**

**God of hosts, bring us back; let your face shine on us and we shall be saved.**

O shepherd of Israel, hear us,  
Shine forth from your cherubim throne.  
O Lord, rouse up your might,  
O Lord, come to our help.

God of hosts, turn again, we implore,  
Look down from heaven and see.  
Visit this vine and protect it,  
The vine your right hand has planted.

May your hand be on the man you have chosen,  
the man you have given your strength.  
And we shall never forsake you again:  
give us life that we may call upon your name.

**Second Reading 1 Corinthians 1:3-9**

**A Reading from the first Letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians**

May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send you grace and peace. I never stop thanking God for all the graces you have received through Jesus Christ. I thank him that you have been enriched in so many ways, especially in your teachers and preachers; the witness to Christ has indeed been strong among you so that you will not be without any of the gifts of the Spirit while you are waiting for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed; and he will keep you steady and without blame until the last day, the day of our Lord Jesus Christ, because God by calling you has joined you to his Son, Jesus Christ; and God is faithful.

**The Word of the Lord**

**Thanks be to God.**

**Alleluia, Alleluia**

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

**Gospel**

**Mark 13:33-37**

**The Lord be with you.**

And with your spirit.

**A Reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark**

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Be on your guard, stay awake, because you never know when the time will come. It is like a man travelling abroad: he has gone from home, and left his servants in charge, each with his own task: and he has told the doorkeeper to stay awake. So stay awake, because you do not know when the master of the house is coming, evening, midnight, cockcrow, dawn; if he comes unexpectedly, he must not find you asleep. And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake!'

**The Gospel of the Lord.**

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

**MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS – FOURTH  
WORLD DAY OF THE POOR**

**“Stretch forth your hand to the poor” (Sir 7:32)**

Pope Francis message cont.

4. Encountering the poor and those in need constantly challenges us and forces us to think. How can we help to eliminate or at least alleviate their marginalization and suffering? How can we help them in their spiritual need? The Christian community is called to be involved in this kind of sharing and to recognise that it cannot be delegated to others. In order to help the poor, we ourselves need to live the experience of evangelical poverty. We cannot feel 'alright' when any member of the human family is left behind and in the shadows. The silent cry of so many poor men, women and children should find the people of God in the forefront, always and everywhere, in efforts to give them a voice, to protect and support them in the face of hypocrisy and so many unfulfilled promises, and to invite them to share in the life of the community.

## FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT B 29.11.2020

Sunday	9.00am	Francis Pecowski 90 <sup>th</sup> Birthday
Tuesday	8.00am	Ifechikwulu Erojkwem (Healing)
Wednesday	8.00am	Holy Souls
Thursday	8.00am	Holy Souls
Friday	10.00am	Private Intentions <span style="float: right;">BLESSED SACRAMENT</span>

### **SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT YEAR B**

SATURDAY	6.00PM	BRIAN NUTTALL RIP
SUNDAY	9.30AM	PEOPLE OF THE PARISH
SUNDAY	11.30AM	PEOPLE OF THE PARISH

### **PASTORAL LETTER FROM THE BISHOP**

DEAR BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN JESUS CHRIST, TODAY, WE BEGIN OUR PREPARATIONS TO CELEBRATE, ONCE AGAIN, THE STORY THAT MARKS THE BEGINNING OF OUR SALVATION. AT CHRISTMAS, WE RECALL AND GIVE THANKS FOR THAT MOMENT IN HISTORY WHEN OUR GOD STOOPED DOWN TO MEET US IN THE GUISE OF A VULNERABLE CHILD. IN HIS CHRISTMAS NOVENA, ST ALPHONSUS DESCRIBES THIS MOMENT IN THESE WORDS: BEHOLD, THEN, THE IMMENSITY BECOMES AN INFANT, WHOM THE HEAVENS CANNOT CONTAIN: SEE HIM IMPRISONED IN HIS POOR RAGES AND LAID IN A NARROW MANGER ON A BUNDLE OF STRAW WHICH WAS ONCE HIS ONLY BED AND PILLOW. ON CHRISTMAS EVE 1223, FRANCIS OF ASSISI WAS DETERMINED TO GIVE THE PEOPLE OF HIS TOWN AN EXPERIENCE OF THE FIRST CHRISTMAS. SO, HE ASSEMBLED A CAST OFF PEOPLE AND ANIMALS AND ARRANGED THEM IN A CAVE IN THE SMALL ITALIAN TOWN OF GRECCIO. FROM THAT DAY, THE CRIB HAS BEEN AT THE HEART OF THE LITURGICAL AND DEVOTION LIFE OF CHRISTIAN FAMILIES AT CHRISTMAS TIME. CHILDREN LOVE TO RETELL THE STORY FOR US. IN OUR CHURCHES AND HOMES, THE FIGURES OF THE HOLY FAMILY, THE SHEPHERDS, THE MAGI AND THE ANIMALS TELL THE STORY IN PICTURE AND COLOUR FOR ALL TO SEE. THIS CHRISTMAS, AS ALWAYS, THE CRIB WILL BE PLACED IN A PROMINENT PLACE IN OUR CHURCHES. IN PREVIOUS YEARS, IT HAS PROVIDED A SPECIAL FOCUS FOR OUR PRAYER. AS INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES, WE HAVE GATHERED BEFORE THE CHILD IN THE CRIB AND LINGERED AWHILE IN PRAYER; PERHAPS TO TAKE A MOMENT TO GIVE THANKS FOR GRACES AND BLESSINGS RECEIVED OR MAYBE TO PETITION THE INFANT BEFORE US ON BEHALF OF THE FAMILY, OF THE CHURCH, OF THE WORLD. THIS CHRISTMAS, WHEN YOU COME TO CELEBRATE MASS AND VISIT THE CRIB, COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS WILL MEAN IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO LINGER BEFORE THE CRIB AS IN PREVIOUS YEARS. THIS CHRISTMAS THEN, PERHAPS, WE ARE BEING ASKED TO DO SOMETHING DIFFERENT, NAMELY, TO FIND A SPECIAL PLACE FOR THE CRIB IN OUR HOMES ALONG WITH ALL THE DECORATIONS, LIGHTS AND TREE. THIS YEAR, IT IS IN THE HOME THAT WE ARE INVITED TO FIND THE TIME AND SPACE AS FAMILY AND FRIENDS. THIS YEAR, IT IS IN THE HOME THAT WE ARE INVITED TO PRAY IN THANKSGIVING FOR FAITH, FAMILY AND FRIENDS. THIS YEAR, IT IS IN THE HOME THAT WE ARE INVITED TO LINGER BEFORE THE HOLY FAMILY WITH THE PRAYERS AND PETITIONS THAT ARE URGENTLY ON OUR MINDS AND IN OUR HEARTS IN A WAVE OF PRAYER AND SUPPLICATION. THIS YEAR IS A MOMENT FOR US TO CREATE IN OUR HOMES A LITTLE CHURCH OF THE NATIVITY. WE ARE NOT QUITE SURE YET WHAT CHRISTMAS WILL LOOK LIKE THIS YEAR, BUT WE DO KNOW THAT IT IS LIKELY THAT IT WILL BE LIKE NO OTHER IN LIVING MEMORY. HOWEVER, THERE IS NO REASON WHY IT CANNOT BE BETTER THAN ANY OTHER IN LIVING MEMORY, IF OUR MINDS AND HEARTS ARE FIXED ON THE CHILD "LAID IN A NARROW MANGER ON A BUNDLE OF STRAW" AND THE TRUTH, HE REVEALS TO US: OUR GOD EMMANUEL. OUR GOD HAS BEEN WITH US IN THE DARKEST DAYS OF 2020 AND NOW HIS LIGHT IS BEING BROUGHT TO BEAR ON US AS WE LOOK TO 2021. WITH MY PRAYERS FOR A BLESSED ADVENT AND CHRISTMASTIDE AND GOOD HEALTH IN 2021.

YOURS SINCERELY IN CHRIST, THE REDEEMER,

BISHOP RALPH.

St Teresa's

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Blessed Sacrament

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## FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT YEAR B

