



*Welcome to
Eastern Hills Anglicans*

27 November 2011

Advent Sunday

Web Page Edition

Watch, therefore; you do not know when the lord of the house is coming, whether in the evening, or at midnight.

The Sundays of Advent

We begin a new liturgical year with Advent Sunday. Advent has two distinct, yet complimentary themes. It is a season to prepare for Christmas, when Christ first came to us in time. This only is only four weeks away. It is also the season when that remembrance also directs the heart and mind to await Christ's second coming at the end of time. It is important to observe the integrity of this season and not to dilute it with Christmas themes until close to that joyful celebration.

IN TWO WEEKS TIME "Christmas in Camp Hill"

3pm-6pm Sunday 11 December

We need everyone's help, Please respond to this appeal as we need. cooks for 3 BBQs, people to sell items, bakers for Christmas treats and donations to help purchase food and drinks for the BBQ.

TODAY: Bible & Brunch 27 November: Holy War

We are, unfortunately, familiar with the word 'Jihad'. Originally, this meant wars for converting people to Islam. Now it is the name for war against the infidel (you and me). However, 2000 years before Mohammed Israel also had rules to conduct Holy War. This study will look at those rules and how they were implemented.

New Time for the Parish Council Meeting

7pm Wednesday 7 December

***Martyn's Mutterings – Teaching & Comments by Fr Martyn
The Reason for the Church's Liturgical Year of Seasons***

The Season of Advent resets the clocks and calendars of Christian liturgy and worship. It marks the beginning of a new liturgical year and it changes all the readings to a sequence known as "Year B", with the primary reading from Mark's Gospel. Advent summons us to the basics of origins and beginnings of our faith, while at the same time it embraces conclusion, finality and completion. We see this in the Gospel readings for Advent Sunday: *Jesus said to his disciples, "Be watchful! Be alert! You do not know when the time will come... May he not come suddenly and find you sleeping.!"* That is certainly about finality - but we use it to prepare for Christmas, which is about the beginning of our Christian faith. So, Advent juxtaposes these two themes of beginning and ending. How are we to understand the reason for this? The Book of Revelation uses the term "beginning and ending", "first and last" as titles given to Jesus, *"I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty (Revelation 1:8)*. Alpha and Omega are the beginning and ending letters of the Greek alphabet. Now we also use them on the Easter Paschal Candle – have a look at the candle next to the font when you leave the church today and you will notice **A** (Alpha) at the top and **Ω** (Omega) at the bottom of the symbol. When we celebrate Easter, we use them in the blessing of the candle *"Christ yesterday and today, the beginning and the end, the Alpha and Omega. All time belongs to him and all ages, to him be glory and power through every age. Amen"*. So, where is this all leading?

Advent is not about two contrary themes juxtaposed against each other – they are about a Person, Christ our Lord who embraces the totality of existence. So the liturgical year is always focused on Jesus the Lord and through the yearly cycle of seasons and feast days the Church unfolds the entire mystery of Christ. This is rather like looking at a diamond with its variety of different facets. The Advent themes tell us of the Lord who will come at the end of time (or the end of our life) as Master, Lord and Judge and we reflect on this as we prepare to celebrate Christmas when he came to join us as Brother, Friend and Companion. Christmas tells us what kind of Judge he is. Advent is about a joyful hope about end of things.



Celebrating Christmas 2011

Saturday 17 December Children's Service

4.00pm 'The Story of Christmas'

Help your children to know
the true joy and meaning of Christmas

4.30pm Barbecue

Christmas Eve 24 December

6.00pm Family Mass, Camp Hill - PowerPoint Service

8.30pm Carols before

9pm Traditional Christmas Night Mass

Christmas Day

8.00am Christmas Family Mass, Camp Hill

Readings for Next Sunday, 4 December

Second Sunday of Advent

The Advent theme for this Sunday is: Preparing to see the Salvation of God.

Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11. This passage is the opening poetic introduction for the second part of the book of the Prophet Isaiah. It is a message of hope for the small group of Jewish exiles returning to re-establish Jerusalem and Judah. The classic phrase "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord" became the motto for the Dead Sea Scroll community, the Essenes who went back to the desert to do precisely this. The same phrase was adopted by John the Baptist.

2 Peter 3:8-14. Peter's readers are wondering when the Lord was going to return as they had expected an almost immediate action on this – so they are getting impatient. Peter teaches not only patience but faithfulness and preparedness for when our time will come. In this passage, he echoes the imagery used by our Lord in one of his parables.

Mark 1:1-8. The giant spiritual person of John the Baptist is the subject of today's and next week's Gospel reading – he embodies the themes of Advent. These are repentance, cleansing the heart, faithfulness and hope.

John was also a man's man and he was fearless even before the chief priests and King Herod – but before Jesus, he was a humble servant.

Saint of the Week: Charles de Foucauld,

Hermit in the Sahara

Charles Eugène de Foucauld was born into an aristocratic French family in 1858 and eventually inherited the title the Viscount de Foucauld. He became a cavalry officer and led a dissipated life. In 1883, he went on an expedition to Morocco where he developed a passion for north Africa and its ways. Four years later, he returned to the Catholic faith of his infancy and, after a pilgrimage to the Holy Land, became a Cistercian monk in 1890. However, desiring an even more austere life, he left in 1897 and became a servant to the Poor Clares in Jerusalem and Nazareth. He was eventually ordained priest in 1901 and went to live as a hermit in Algeria, ending up at with the Tuareg people Tamanrasset. His care and concern for them made him accepted and then much loved, though he never sought converts. His belief was that care, compassion and prayer for the people should be the eloquent witness to Christ. After he learned the language, he produced a dictionary and grammar. His observations on the Tuareg were published posthumously in volumes and became a valuable insight into their nomadic life. He composed Rules for brothers and for sisters, though none ever actually joined him. He was assassinated on the 1st of December in 1916, a victim of local religious wars. The Anglican Church has considered him a martyr since the early 1970s but the Catholic Church did not get around to this until 2005! In 1933, the Little Sisters of the Sacred Heart were founded, inspired by his rule for sisters. His writings also inspired Fr René Voillaume and others to adopt a life based on his rule, eventually becoming The Little Brothers of Jesus in 1945. Following de Foucauld's principles, they move to difficult places and live a life of prayer, compassion and service to the surrounding people. In 1969, when I was in Port Moresby with the Society of Saint Francis, there was a community of the Little Sisters living within a local Papuan village close to the capital.

Almighty God,

by whose grace Charles de Foucauld, kindled with the fire of your love,

became a burning and a shining light in the Church: inflame us with the same spirit of discipline and love, that we may ever walk before you as children of light; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord. (SSF Prayer Book)

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Regular Sunday Services.

8am PowerPoint Mass. 9.30am Sung Mass

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Hall Bookings Go to our web page www.easternhillsanglicans.com.au
check the *Hall Bookings Calendar for availability and then*
E-mail request to :Pat Bowman patricia.bowman@bigpond.com
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