



# The Messages of Love

as given to the two Patricks

**Thursday 3 November 2016**

Now it has begun, now the tendrils squeeze the throat of My Bride, hoping to kill her. The darkness is here, the darkness is darker and the lies that seem like the truth will try to crucify My Bride but, it will not succeed. A darkness that blinds is about to descend on My Church.

Now is the time to say My Chaplet of Love in earnest for its power, that I have placed within it, will allow many to see the Truth, it comes into its own. It is the 'Time of Justice'.

## Chaplet of Love

**Tuesday 17 January 1995,  
Rotherhithe, London,**

My sons and all My children, say this Chaplet of Love for Me and let it be given to My Heart with all the love and sincerity that is in you and it, too, will appease My Pain in this time of great tribulation and Sorrow that is in Me. Say it now at the Hour of Justice (6pm) and say it continually through the three days of darkness while I rebuild this world with Love. It will stem the flow of My Tears that are cried eternally for this world. Through it, amass a great vessel of love so that I may drink it so as to quench My thirst for souls for a great number will be saved through it. Say it for

your families and for your priests. Say it for yourselves and all of My children and I will hear it and be moved to grant many miracles through it.

Say it on My Mother's jewels (*rosary beads*). Say these Words.

Say it in this way:

*First: On the Crucifix.* Kiss My Cross of Love, the symbol of great tenderness and say:

**Oh, Most Adorable Heart, I love Thee, save us.**

*Second: On the first bead say:*

**Oh, Most Sacred Heart, I love Thee profoundly pour upon us Thy Merciful Love.**

*Third: On the next three beads say:*  
**Jesus, Heart of Tenderness, save the hearts that do not love Thee.**

*Fourth: On the next large bead say:*

**Oh, Most Sacred Heart, I love Thee profoundly pour upon us Thy Merciful Love.**

*Fifth: On the medal.* Kiss the image of My Mother and My own and say:

**Infinite Love, fill us so that we may love Thee profoundly.**

*Sixth: On the large beads say:*  
**Oh Great Vessel of Love that holds  
only Love, offer to the Father of  
All the little love that I give to ap-  
pease the Pain that is in Thy Most  
Sacred Heart, that He may see its  
profound love and save us in His  
infinite Mercy.**

*Seventh: On the small decade beads  
say:*

**Oh, Jesus, Heart of Love, I love  
Thee, let my love appease Thy  
Pain.**

*End: Pray the fifth, fourth, third,  
second and first stages on the ap-  
propriate medal, beads and Cross.*

#### **Thursday 10 November 2016**

Believe in Me, My children, and  
know I am with you.

Feel Me for I am to be found for  
those who are willing to seek.

Trust only in Me, My children, for  
you have entered times of great  
darkness where this earth has  
rebelled against its God.

Soon now, I shall reveal Myself  
to My creation and mankind  
shall know the Power of his God.  
Mankind shall be given a final  
chance to return and those who  
refuse to listen will be wiped from  
this earth so that freedom can be  
felt, once again.

Trust in Me for My Justice now  
resides among you and will begin  
to show mankind the error of his  
ways.

Stay close to Me, My little ones, and  
do not fear for I will guide and look  
after all those who choose to follow  
Me.

Trust in Me, your God. I am with  
you. Trust in Me.  
I Love you.

#### **Friday 11 November 2016**

Trust in Me, My children, and see  
what I am telling you. See this world  
as it hurls itself headlong into its  
own destruction. I have Warned  
this world throughout the centuries  
what would happen if it gave itself  
over to sin.

It has not listened and has allowed  
itself to be blinded by the lies of  
lucifer.

Love has grown cold and mankind  
only sees self and so can be  
controlled by the lies of lucifer.  
Trust in Me and listen to My  
Words; die to self, fight against sin  
and do not follow this world. Fight  
against the desires of self (*in order  
not*) to walk the path of sin, that  
most have decided to follow.

Do not listen to those within My  
Church that promote sin for they  
have listened to the evil one and  
are being drawn away because they  
have given in to self through not  
fighting against sin.

Trust only in Me and My Laws.

Do not trust anyone who would tell  
you different.

I Love you, My children, trust in  
Me, your God.

Believe.

I Love you.

#### **Wednesday 16 November 2016**

Trust in Me, My children, and do  
not be afraid of what will happen in  
these days.

I come to claim My own and cast  
down those who have rejected Me

in their own free will.

Trust only in Me and My Laws. Do not trust in those leaders of My Church who are going against My Teachings, who deny Me and My Gospel Ways. They have allowed lucifer to influence them because of their evil lifestyle; they have walked away from Me and now follow the ways of this world in their blindness.

Soon, I will show them and all My people the Truth in order to give all a chance to return. But, I tell you, many have walked so far away from Me that they will not return. They have forgotten Me in favour of power and the glitter that this world offers.

Trust only in Me, My people, and believe in the signs I will show you. Believe in Me for the end is close now.

I Love you.

### **Tuesday 29 November 2016**

My children, I call out to you for your help in providing for My Houses.

I give these little Lights of Love that will become raging fires of My Truth. They will become the Refuges of My Love in the days to come.

Trust in Me, My children, and give to Me your hearts: give that I may fill them with the generosity of My Truth. I desire you to become vessels of My Love so that We, together, can stop the advance of darkness.

Become My soldiers of Truth and begin to see what I have given to this world through My Houses of

Prayer. I need your help so that My Houses be ready for they will be needed to prevent the onslaught of lies that threaten My Body in these days of darkness.

Pray hard that My Plan may be fulfilled.

Give of your time in prayer and sacrifice, give of your time to help prepare and give of your love that all may come to fruition.

Trust in Me, My children, and believe for time is short now and the darkness advances quickly. We, together, will overcome and many will be saved with your efforts of love. Trust in Me.

I Love you.

### **Patrick:**

*Jesus is asking for all our help in these Words. He is asking for our prayers, for our sacrifice. He is asking us to give of our time and He is asking us to help financially.*

*Many of us have been gifted with the gift of prayer, others with being able to sacrifice, and yet others to give of their time and others financial help.*

*All are necessary to build Jesus' Dream. We can feel His urgency in the Messages that the 'Time of Preparation' is coming to an end. We can see within the world and within the Church the time is short, as many cardinals, bishops, priests and laity turn against Gods Teachings.*

*As for financial help, we always feel embarrassed about asking for your help financially but we are always in need of help with the ongoing upkeep and renovations within the Houses of Prayer. But, without*

*your help, there would be no Houses of Prayer and Jesus would not be able to fulfil His Dream through all of us.*

*We are all one body in Him and He has gifted us in different ways. There are many of us who have not got the means to help financially but, remember, prayer and sacrifice and physical work are equally as important for Jesus has given us all the tools to provide in different ways.*

*You are always in our prayers and we thank Jesus every day that you are part of this mission. We do not believe we have long to wait before Jesus begins to reclaim the ground that lucifer has stolen with his lies. Thank you and be assured that Jesus Blesses both you and your families.*

### **Monday 28 November 2016**

Trust only in Me, My children, and believe in the Words that I speak for the Time of My Return is close. I am about to strike this world with My Justice for it has blasphemed against Me.

My Blood flows from My Wounds in great torrents because of the savagery of mankind for he flogs Me every day with the darkness of sin. Never before has mankind given himself over to so much sin; never before has mankind slaughtered the innocent in the name of progression. lucifer has blinded you into thinking that there is nothing wrong with you murdering your own children:

their blood cries out to Me every second of every day for justice for their trial was taken away from them by your cruelty.

Prepare, My children, prepare for the 'Time of Justice' is upon you and it shall descend upon this earth. I shall smash the chains that hold this earth back and it shall lash out for what you have done to Me.

I say, prepare, children, for I am your only safe Refuge in this time, prepare.

I Love you.

### **Wednesday 30 November 2016**

Look only to the Truth, My children, and believe in the Words that I speak for indeed these are dark days that you now live in. These are the days that My Prophets, My Saints, spoke of, these are the days when mankind has rebelled against his God, these are the days of justice where I will reclaim that, that has been stolen from Me through the lies, the deceit, of many generations.

Prepare, My children, prepare, for soon and very soon I Come.

Prepare, My children.

I Love you.

#### **IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

**Please remember we request three days notice if you require accommodation for retreats.**



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# FINANCIAL UPDATE

Jesus spoke in a Message this month about the help that He needs from us all. In Patrick's interpretation of the Message, we are reminded that we are ALL part of this mission, even if we are not actively involved within any of the Houses of Prayer.

As you are all too well aware, we are constantly in need of funds in order to do the Work which Jesus has asked us to do. The running costs and maintenance of the Houses of Prayer, printing and posting of the Newsletters and general upkeep of the Houses requires considerable funds.

It is unfortunate but necessary that we keep you updated on the outstanding bills within the Houses.

At the time of this Newsletter going to print, the debts within the Houses of Prayer are £24,350.

We simply ask that you please consider helping with donations when it is at all possible for you to do so. We totally understand that some of you are not in a position to help financially and we ask for your prayers.

Jesus, with your help, has kept His Houses up and running now for over twenty years and we continue to trust and believe that His Will, will be done and that His Plan, at this time, will soon come to fruition.

We sincerely thank you all for your generous support and please be assured that you remain in our prayers.

## GIFT AID

We wish to thank all those who have completed forms in order that we can claim Gift Aid on the donations you make throughout the year. We make the claims in January of each year and, just wish to remind those already registered for Gift Aid, to please inform us if your circumstances have changed and perhaps you no longer qualify as a gift aider.

We also take this opportunity to reach out to any others of you on our mail list. If you are a UK tax payer, please consider filling in a form for us which would enable us to claim Gift Aid on any donations you may make to 'An Invitation to Love Jesus.' Contact us here at the House of Prayer and we can forward the appropriate form to you.

We truly appreciate your support. Many thanks and God Bless.

# Writing from the two Patricks

## THE EYES TO SEE...

Wednesday 15 April 2009

My children, I Love you. I ask of you to stay with Me in your hearts. Do not let the world influence you at this time. These Words are to encourage you to stay in step with Me so that I can lead you through these 'worst of times.' Allow Me to be your Shepherd for the Shepherd lays down His Life for His sheep. The Way, at this time seems blurred to you but, I tell you, focus only on Me for I am with you.

**My children, all seems well but even a lie can seem like the Truth. Stay with Me for the evil one is as a roaring lion. I Love you.**

### **The world grows darker**

As the world grows darker and not winter darkness, the edge of the horizon begins to gather Light. Like the sun's rays that announce its coming, the Words of Jesus, over two decades, begin to come true with clarity. No explanation of how the Words pulse into life is needed. Only eyes that see through the darkness are needed.

### **Ambivalence among the flock**

A prince of the Church speaks with a forked tongue, creating ambivalence among the flock: a fox that divides. The sacred things, held dear in the Bride's bosom for long

years, are now criticised and thrown out as the prince appoints his liberal henchmen to carry out the order of spiritual death within the flock. Lesser princes wait their turn to exercise their right to implement "The Joy of Love."

### **Feather pillow**

Like an opened feather pillow on a windy day, the words have scattered and called the libertines from their hiding places: the sheep, confused and blinded, wonder. They are caught in the barbs of truth and lies. For a truth is one laid down from the King's Mouth and thus, the Law. But a lie is a false statement deliberately presented as *being* true; a falsehood and *not* uttered from the King's Mouth. The feathers have blown to every corner of the world. The darkness dances like a black hole in space, devouring the lambs in a lie that tells them that they can fly over the edge of the precipice, without wings. It is all around and, only those who have eyes can see the Light begin to penetrate the horizon.

### **Will not comply with confusion**

The true princes are ousted because they will not comply with confusion; have had their tongues cut out and sent into exile so the parody may dance on its merry way. These

princes are true to the Master and will not die in exile but will be revolutionaries in the Revolution that comes with the Light that is beginning to grey the horizon with shouts of victory.

### **His Heart beats with theirs**

The good sheep know the Shepherd and will follow Him. They see Him in the twinkle of an eye; His Heart beats with theirs. They see Him in the persecution for they hated the Shepherd first and they *will* be hated, they *are being* hated.

### **Spiritual deaths**

The darkness is all around. It is in the *lack* of His Love for love has grown cold; the *lack* of obedience to the King. Many will believe the words that are lies and will fall away to their spiritual deaths while believing that the lies spun are truths of gold. But, they are the emperor's clothes, spun in nothing to become nothing and worn with pride and only those with the eyes of a child will see the nakedness: only those with eyes to see.



### **The truth has become a lie**

The truth has become a lie. Look far into the heart and see the splintered faith that exists there. Beaten by the freedom of speech that is now only for the minority, to please *them*, to appease *them*, to decorate *them* as fallen heroes and those who would seek to trample the Holy Place *for a time and two times and half a time*. With the blood of the innocent on their hands, they soon will begin their trampling of holy things and holy Laws. They come with their armies and lawmen bent on having cake *and* eating it, seeking to destroy those who would oppose, those who follow the Master, those who have eyes to see. The minority? Where is the majority to question these things?

### **Devours much of the faith**

And, the false sweetness that devours much of the faith of the sheep, in innuendos spiced with treason, the lesser princes spew to the flock, that have not yet the ears to hear, adding, with fawning mimicry "how good you are..." These lesser princes, heir apparent *only* in knowledge, not in love, have not understood the Master's Words: *become* what you have learned, *be* the Commandments that I have spoken. The lesser princes gather up the holy bread and place the Master in the lowest place in His House to be replaced by *them*, to be worshipped by the sheep.

### **See the lambs as they are slaughtered**

Look around and see *between* the seeing of your eyes!  
See the darkness as it becomes the

light to many, see the lies woven into garments and worn by those who wish the Master dead. A remnant, a remnant is a *small* piece: see how much smaller it is now that the horned one is rising like a fire in the hearts of men, blinding them to Truth. See the lambs as they are slaughtered by the lack of Truth uttered from the tables where the Master's Death is reenacted: gutted and offended by the inconvenience of a tiny breeze of truth on their faces.

### **The Truth of the One**

And the Prophets wallow in fear to bring the Truth of the One whose Blood is spilt, the Truth to those who have no eyes, blinded by their own importance. The Prophet's Words are *given* to be spoken from the mountain tops and in the gutters to all who would listen, those who have ears to hear. And, the Words given, fall from the Prophet's mouths to tell of tomorrow; a tomorrow of blood, a tomorrow of recompense, a tomorrow of forever. The Good Lady has spoken well and

has foretold the Truth of the King. On mountaintops and gutters She speaks loud and clear, sweet and shrill to children who have eyes to see and ears to hear. Yet, Her secret lies in dusty tombs with other secrets that bely the Truth. The Lady's secret is a warning to those with eyes to see and is kept by those who are blind, those who *will* not see. The secret, *clear now*, in the darkness that pervades; that chokes the children.

### **As the Black Plague**

Today: the darkness spreads as a virus, as the Black Plague, and few eyes see, few eyes *want* to see. The Light fades, the Love dies and is replaced by human love: a dancer that becomes a snake, too late. Only eyes that see beyond to the Master's Truth can *see* these things. Only eyes that *see* can see the Light on the horizon, the Son, rising, Coming again....

### **THE EMPEROR IS NAKED**

Eyes, eyes to see that the truth has become a lie: THE EMPEROR IS NAKED...

SonLight's Christmas Concert

at the

Sacred Heart House of Prayer

Sunday

18 December 2016

at 7pm



# A Christmas Story...

**This is a Message Jesus gave in 2005 for the servants of the House of Prayer. It is quite hard hitting and makes us examine if our hearts are truly with Jesus or if we only pay Him lip service. It is a great story to think about in this time of Advent where we can actually do something about welcoming Jesus and saying no to the world.**

**Thursday 28 December 2005**

My children, I will tell you a story. A traveller set out on a journey to see his friends. He travelled far over mountains and through forests to see these friends of his. On the way he had to sleep out in the open in the cold nights because when he tried to get into places along the way, many rejected him, he was a man who had once been loved by everybody but now things had changed. He could not understand it. He thought only about his friends and the warm fire they would have for him when he arrived. He thought of the welcome and the joy that he would have. The thoughts warmed him.

**He was dismayed**

When he came to the home of his friends, he was dismayed to see that there was no fire lit and no welcome. The house was almost deserted except for a few who were wrapped up in their own thoughts and had

barely time to say "hello."

**Fit for visitors**

The man wept, then he lit a fire and warmed himself. He began to tidy up the house and make it fit for visitors. He was lonely. He waited on his friends to return but it was a long time before they did. He had kept the fire lit and the house tidy for them.

**You are my friends**

When they were all there, gathered before the fire, he spoke to them. "You are my friends," he said. "I have given you everything, including the roof that is over your heads and the fire you warm yourselves at. As I travelled here, the world rejected me, they would not let me into their homes and I was cold and lonely. All the time I travelled, I had warm thoughts about how you would welcome me into this house,



about how you would warm me and comfort me. But you were not here. A few were here but they only acknowledged me with a lip service and their thoughts were not for me.

**No welcome; no love**

There was no fire, no welcome; no love. I was cold, lonely and in need of comfort and I found none. Can you tell me why this is so? Can you tell me why this house had no welcome for me?"

**You know how it is**

A man spoke up from the back of the room. "Jesus, I would have welcomed You but for my family; I had to be with them. What could I do?"

A woman spoke, "Jesus, I am sorry but I was buying Christmas presents for Your Birthday. The shops were only opened until midnight. You know how it is."

**I love surprises**

The Traveller's Eyes lit up. "Did you buy Me a Birthday present? Thank you. I love surprises. What is it?"

The woman spoke again with her face reddening, "I am sorry, Jesus, I didn't actually get around to buying You one... I'm sorry."

"Yes," said another voice, "neither did I. I just never thought about

You, Jesus, needing a present, like."

**It is My Birthday**

"But, how could you not think about My present when it is My Birthday? "Well, I never thought about You either," said another voice. "You can't really expect a present when You are not here. I had too much to do to be thinking about a present for You. You are not exactly easy to buy for, you know. What do you buy for the Man who has everything?"

**I had a lot of work to do**

"All my family need presents, you know," an indignant voice called out. "They would complain if they didn't get them."

"Well I thought somebody else was getting You one? I had a lot of work to do for You. You don't exactly have a watch so I'm here 'til all hours."

**Wept**

On and on it went until the Man put His Head in His Hands and wept. While they were all justifying about how they were not there to welcome Him, the Man slipped out of the House unnoticed. He had time to lift His staff for walking and His sandals from where they were warming at the fire. He left them all talking about themselves and went on His way.

...Let Me bring Myself to birth in you as these weeks of Advent Peace begin and I will enfold Myself into you. Let them be the safe place that you wish to run to; to hide with Me. ...Let Me burst forth into others through you. Then and only then, will you know the Advent Peace... *Friday 1 December 1995*



# Catholic Traditions for Advent and Christmas

**MICHAELANN MARTIN**

**Issue: How can families better live the spirit of Advent and Christmas in their homes?**

## **Response**

The Catholic Church has designated the four weeks preceding Christmas as Advent, a time to prepare the way of the Lord for His coming as our King and Savior. In addition, the Church teaches that:

[w]hen the Church celebrates the liturgy of Advent each year, she makes present this ancient expectancy of the Messiah, for by sharing in the long preparation for the Saviors first coming, the faithful renew their ardent desire for his second coming. By celebrating [John the Baptists] birth and martyrdom, the Church unites herself to his desire: He must increase, but I must decrease (Catechism, no. 524; original emphasis).

## **Time-honored traditions**

By participating in various time-

honored traditions, such as making Jesse trees or putting on a Christmas play at home, Catholic families can engage more fruitfully in the seasons of Advent and Christmas.

## **Discussion:**

Either we live the liturgical year with its varying seasons of joy and sorrow, work and rest, or we follow the pattern of the world, writes Helen McLoughlin in *Advent and Christmas in a Catholic Home*, commenting on the challenge Catholics have of being in the world but not of the world throughout the year. She wrote these profound words in the 1950s, but they are even more important today because of the general decline in Catholic family life during the last 40 years. With two parents working in many households, there is less time to devote to the spiritual life of the family. As Catholic parents, we must re-adjust our priorities and teach our children by living our faith, both inside and outside the home.

## **It seems fitting**

It seems fitting that Advent is the beginning of the liturgical calendar, for it is a season of spiritual preparation marked by an eager longing for the birth of Our Savior Jesus Christ. There are age-old Advent practices, some of which are mentioned in this

**FAITH FACT**, which will help our children and families live closer to Christ. The practices are time-tested and proven. They teach the doctrine of redemption and develop a sense of generosity toward God (cf. Catechism, nos. 2222-26). A family's strong and living faith will become their heritage and a mode to reinforce the religious practices centered in the liturgy.

### **Empty mangers to fill**

Children love to anticipate, writes McLoughlin. When there are empty mangers to fill with straw for small sacrifices, when the Mary candle is a daily reminder on the dinner table, when Advent hymns are sung in the candlelight of a graceful Advent wreath, children are not anxious to celebrate Christmas before time. That would offend their sense of honor. Older children who make Nativity sets, cut Old Testament symbols to decorate a Jesse tree, or prepare costumes for a Christmas play will find Advent all too short a time to prepare for the coming of Christ the King.

### **These are hopeful**

These are hopeful thoughts as we prepare to incorporate some of these liturgical activities into our home life during Advent to enable us to truly celebrate Christmas. It is a shame that many do not fast during Advent, because without a fast there can really be no feast at Christmas.

### **Prayer and almsgiving**

Fasting and other forms of penance, such as prayer and almsgiving, help to purify our hearts and prepare us for the celebration of Christmas (cf.

Catechism, no. 1434). The Church especially encourages participation at weekday Masses during Advent, because in the Eucharist we find the source and goal of our Advent preparation: Christ Himself, whose sacrifice reconciles us with God (cf. Catechism, no. 1436; Sacred Congregation of Rites, Eucharisticum Mysterium, no. 29).

### **Christmas for 40 days**

The Church primarily celebrates Christmas from Christmas Day until the Solemnity of the Epiphany, which commemorates the manifestation of Christ as the Savior of the whole world (cf. Mt. 2:1-12). The Church has also traditionally celebrated Christmas for 40 days, culminating on the Feast of the Presentation (Feb. 2). During this time, the birth of Christ is celebrated as one continuous festival. It is just as important to celebrate during the Christmas season as it is to prepare for Christ during Advent.

The following activities are provided so that you and your family can live Advent and Christmas to the fullest.



### **Advent wreath**

The Advent wreath, which has German origins, is probably the most recognized Advent custom. It is a wreath made of evergreens

that is bound to a circle of wire. It symbolizes the many years from Adam to Christ in which the world awaited its Redeemer; it also represents the years that we have awaited His second and final coming. The wreath holds four equally spaced candles, the three purple ones lit on the penitential Sundays and a pink one for Gaudete, the joyful third Sunday in Advent. There are many available prayers and hymns...that can accompany your personal Advent wreath ceremony.



### **The empty manger**

Each child may have his own individual manger, or there may be one manger for the whole family. The idea is that when acts of service, sacrifice, or kindness are done in honor of Baby Jesus as a birthday present, the child receives a piece of straw to put into the manger. Then, on Christmas morning, Baby Jesus is placed in the manger. Encourage your children to make Jesus bed as comfortable as possible through their good deeds. In the process, explain Christ's incomparable self-gift at Christmas and Easter that enables us to be part of God's family.

### **St. Nicholas Day**

The feast of St. Nicholas is on Dec. 6th. It is a highlight of the Advent season. Each child puts out a shoe the night before St. Nicholas Day in the hope that the kind bishop with his mitre, staff, and bag of gifts will pay a visit. The current Santa Claus is modeled after St. Nicholas, but commercialism has tarnished the true story. Many families give gifts on both Dec. 6 and Christmas. Read about St. Nicholas in your favorite saints book.

### **The Christ candle**

Any large white candle can be used for the Christ candle. The idea is to decorate it with symbols for Christ. Use old Christmas cards, sequins, holly, etc. The candle can be lit on Christmas Eve to show that the Light of the World has arrived. Then continue to light the Christ candle throughout the year at Sunday dinner to remind your family of our waiting for Christ, as well as celebrating His birth and Resurrection.



### **The Mary candle**

Some families have the custom of decorating the Christ candle with a blue veil on December 8th, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception. On this great feast,

others place a candle with a blue ribbon before a statue or picture of the Blessed Virgin, whose yes to God enabled our Lords coming at Christmas. The candle is lit during meal times to serve as a delightful reminder of Marys eager expectation of the Light of the World. It can also serve as a reminder to each family member to keep their own light of grace burning as a preparation for Christs coming.



### **The Nativity scene**

This is the event in which the entire family shares setting up the Christmas manger. Mary and Joseph should be far off traveling and their approach to Bethlehem can be adjusted daily. Older children can make life-size Nativity models, carve them, cut them out from cardboard, or set up pre-made figurines. The creative ideas are without limit. Make sure to place the Nativity scene where many can admire the childrens efforts to give God glory.

### **Blessing of the tree**

More and more frequently families are blessing their Christmas trees. It is good to remind children that the tree relates to many aspects

of our faith. For example, we are reminded that our first parents were not allowed to eat from one tree, and that Christ paid the great price for our redemption by hanging on a tree (cf. Acts 5:29-32).

There are many different stories which attempt to explain why we use a tree at Christmas. For instance, St. Boniface in the eighth century gave the balsam fir tree to the Druids in place of the oak tree, the symbol of their idol. He said, The fir tree is the wood of peace, the sign of an endless life with its evergreen branches. It points to heaven. It will never shelter deeds of blood, but rather be filled with loving gifts and rites of kindness.



### **Anticipates her Saviours coming,**

There are more stories and blessings included in McLoughlins Advent and Christmas in a Catholic Home. A family can also participate in Advent through daily Mass, the Liturgy of the Hours, or at least by following the weekday Mass readings at home, as the Church anticipates her Saviours coming, and then His early life following Christmas. A family that participates together in Mass and other activities during the Advent and Christmas seasons will grow closer in Christ The Reason for the Season and give a great witness to friends and relatives.



# I LOVE CHRISTMAS

## I love Christmas

I love Christmas but I hate all the hustle and bustle of the lead up to Christmas, I hate the materialism which surrounds Christmas. I often think of how different was that first Christmas than the 'Christmas' we are used to now. We are so far removed from the reality of what Christmas is all about.

## Jesus being Born

Christmas is not about what we are going to give each other and what we are going to wear. It is about the Baby Jesus, being Born in a humble stable in Bethlehem. This is the little Baby who would grow up and Teach and show us how to live our lives in order to be with Him in Eternal Life.

This Baby would become the Man, the God who would Die on the Cross of Love for me - for all of us so that our sins would be Forgiven.

## Make my life different

Today is the Feast of Christ the King and next Sunday is the first Sunday of Advent, the lead up to Christmas. I could make my life different this year, I could cast aside a lot of the things that do not really matter, the things that do not matter in the scheme of the Redemption of

my soul. I could look more to my spiritual, my interior life with Jesus. I could let the Baby Jesus be Born in my soul this Christmas.

## Without You, I am nothing

Lord Jesus, this is my prayer this Advent, this is my wish and I ask You for the Grace to fulfil this wish because, without You, I am nothing.

**Thursday 21 December 1993**

## From Mary

My little ones, gather around your Saviour this Night<sup>1</sup>, this Holy Night for Jesus has made it Holy for you. Think of the goodwill that you must give to your fellow man. Think of that Love which must begin within this room. Think of Love.

Come to My Side and I, as your Mother, will give you My Son, as I have always done. But be aware of the evil one at this time; he will try to rob you of the love that you have for all peoples. My Gift to you is Peace this Night. The Peace that is given to you this Night is the Peace of Jesus. I give it to you. Jesus and I are here with you. I strew flowers of Love upon you. Take the Lord's Peace and rejoice at His Birth in you. I Love you and, most of all, Jesus Loves you. Accept His Gifts this Night. Gods Blessing on you, little ones.

<sup>1</sup> *This Message was given, in advance for a vigil held on Christmas Eve.*



# Song of the Carpenter

'Song of the Carpenter' is a novel inspired by Jesus and written down by the two Patricks. It is about the entire Life of Jesus and is full of spiritual teachings as well as a simply fantastic read. The characters are really brought to life for us in this age and we can learn much from them. We have decided to serialise this book for the Newsletter and will print a little of it each month. If you cannot wait to read it all, then you can order it from the Sacred Heart House of Prayer. It costs £6.99.

## Prologue

The man shivered as he walked between the great pillars and onto the wide-open plane. The birds that circled in the sky above him were vultures he told himself, reminding himself of the power that had once been in his hands. He did not look at the woman but held an even distance between them. He knew without

looking that her face was cold and unyielding, a mask of innocence that did not, would not, betray guilt or blame. He shivered, not because it was cold, for the heat of the sun that lived in the vault above bore down on him like the burden that he carried, but because he realized too late that he was out of favour and, more to the point, what that meant.

As they walked - the man and the woman - they did not speak for there was nothing to say but both were aware that time had begun. Time was born.

After a time, they came to a hole that burrowed into the rock. It was dark and cool inside and to the right side, a tiny trickle of water glistened its way downward to a rock, which it plummeted into and splashing, created myriads of itself. The myriads formed little pools and these, continuing to be filled, would, in time, form a larger pool.

The man said: "We will stay here."

The woman went to the water and placed her hands together to form a cup so that she could collect it to bring it to her mouth. Her tongue was as dry as the earth beneath her feet and she wet it with the water. She gulped and coughed.

The man joined her. He knelt.

When they had drunk from the water, the woman went into the

cave and felt its coolness; she wiped her face and drew her hand through her long hair.

“Man...” she said, “Come and feel the coolness, it has been given to us for our comfort.” Then they lay down and slept, for they had walked a long way.

When the darkness had come and went away again the man and the woman awoke from sleep and they were hungry.

The man said to the woman: “I am accursed because I have offended the One who created me. My belly is empty where once it was full. Many shall come after me and they will err the way that I have erred and they shall be my seed and be accursed as even I am. They will turn away from the One that created them, even as I have turned away. But the seed that I shall give to you will bear more seed until one shall come, one who shall restore what I have lost and a son of this man, Adam, this first man, shall give the life that I have lost.”

And the man wept bitterly.

## 1

Herod drained the pewter goblet and flung it at the servant who offered him more from the jug he was carrying. The servant fell to the floor as the cup caught him on the left side of the forehead. Blood spurted. A knife of silence sliced the room.

“You son of a dog”, he roared, throwing back the chair that he sat upon in a flurry of robes. “Take

him out and flog him, he will not serve me slops again.”

His guests were frozen and all eyes in the room focused on him.

Herod surveyed them as though he were surveying the crowds who gathered in the market place each day. “This is a celebration. Drink, my pretty friends. Have you not seen a master teach his dogs to obey him?” He slurred. “He’s a slave. Bought at market a few weeks ago. Shipped from Gaul, I believe.”

Servants moved around Herod to get at the injured man, fearing to move, yet fearing to disobey. A man laughed nervously. Its echo broke the torturous silence that clawed the very walls.

“Ishmael, my old friend, make merry. Show these guests of mine how to enjoy a celebration.” The man laughed again; a forced laugh, forced like the acceptance of the invitation to this gathering. Slowly, painfully, others joined him so that the room filled with laughter. The musicians struck up the music again and the girls danced. The whole room uncoiled once more as though it were a snake, frightened by a sudden movement.

Herod sat in his chair. He looked about him. His guests were now continuing their conversations, no doubt about him. The madness had almost come to the fore once more but he had controlled it. ‘Damn this madness,’ he thought, ‘I will overcome it.’

The wine that he had been drinking all evening to cool him finally caught up with him. He fell asleep.

*Continued next month*

# What is the Immaculate Conception?

*This article from the internet helps explain a common misconception that the Immaculate Conception is actually Our Lady's Conception, not Jesus'.*

## What Is the Immaculate Conception?

"O Mary, Conceived Without Sin..."

By Scott P. Richert

Few doctrines of the Catholic Church are as misunderstood as the dogma of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, which Catholics celebrate every year on December 8. Many people, including many Catholics, think that the Immaculate Conception refers to the conception of Christ through the action of the Holy Spirit in the womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary. That event, though, is celebrated at the feast of the Annunciation of the Lord (March 25, nine months before Christmas). What is the Immaculate Conception?

### Conceived Without Sin

The Immaculate Conception refers to the condition that the Blessed Virgin Mary was free from Original Sin from the very moment of her conception in the womb of her mother, Saint Anne. We celebrate the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary—her birth—on September 8; nine months before that is December



8, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception.

### The Development of the Doctrine of the Immaculate Conception

Fr. John Hardon, S.J., in his *Modern Catholic Dictionary*, notes that "Neither the Greek nor Latin Fathers explicitly taught the Immaculate Conception, but they professed it implicitly." It would take many centuries, though, for the Catholic Church to recognize the Immaculate Conception as a doctrine—as something which all Christians must believe—and many more before Pope Pius IX, on December 8, 1854, would declare it a dogma—that is, a doctrine that the Church teaches was revealed by God Himself.

### The Declaration of the Dogma of the Immaculate Conception

In the Apostolic Constitution *Ineffabilis Deus*, Pope Pius IX wrote that "We declare, pronounce, and define that the doctrine which

holds that the most Blessed Virgin Mary, in the first instance of her conception, by a singular grace and privilege granted by Almighty God, in view of the merits of Jesus Christ, the Savior of the human race, was preserved free from all stain of original sin, is a doctrine revealed by God and therefore to be believed firmly and constantly by all the faithful."

As Father Hardon further writes, the Blessed Virgin's "freedom from sin was an unmerited gift of God or special grace, and an exception to the law, or privilege, which no other created person has received."

### **The Immaculate Conception Anticipates Christ's Redemption of All Mankind**

Another misconception people have is that Mary's Immaculate

Conception was necessary to ensure that Original Sin would not be passed on to Christ. This has never been a part of the teaching on the Immaculate Conception; rather, the Immaculate Conception represents Christ's saving grace operating in Mary in anticipation of His redemption of man and in God's foreknowledge of Mary's acceptance of His Will for her.

In other words, the Immaculate Conception was not a precondition for Christ's act of redemption but the result of that act. It is the concrete expression of God's Love for Mary, who gave herself fully, completely, and without hesitation to His service...

[http://catholicism.about.com/od/beliefsteachings/f/Imm\\_Concept\\_FAQ.htm](http://catholicism.about.com/od/beliefsteachings/f/Imm_Concept_FAQ.htm)



## SonLight CDs

Since 2009, SonLight have recorded five CDs and made several videos which can be seen on Youtube. Our latest CD, "Christmas Stranger," was launched in December 2015 and for those of you who didn't get a chance to buy it then, it is still available this year.

"Christmas Stranger" features new arrangements of traditional songs such as 'Silent Night' and 'Angels

We Have Heard on High' as well as five original songs penned by SonLight and Patrick Rushe. The title track is very apt in these days, touching on the themes of abortion and rejecting Jesus for the world at Christmas time. "A Day is Coming" is a wonderful advent hymn encouraging us to think about preparing for Jesus at Christmas as well as preparing for His Second Coming. The sheet music for this song is also available – please get in touch if your choir would like to sing it. The whole CD is thought provoking as well as reflective with haunting melodies like "The Wexford Carol." The disc is available from the House of Prayer and, as with all of SonLight's CDs, is available to download on our website [www.sonlightmusic.org.uk](http://www.sonlightmusic.org.uk) as well as in iTunes, Amazon, Spotify and several other e-shops.

# SonLight

## Lanyon Hall

### **I was afraid**

When I first heard that we had been asked to perform in Lanyon Hall, I was so surprised. My first reaction was fear. I wondered if we were ready for such a big venue. I was afraid that we weren't good enough and also that no-one would come. It is fair to say that my first reaction wasn't based on trust in Jesus!

### **Be at our very best**

We were just back from our first trip to London this year and wondering what Jesus would want from us next and, I have to say, I never thought in a million years it would have been to perform in Lanyon Hall! This music venue has hosted quite high profile musicians in the past and I knew that, if we were to perform there, we would need to be at our very best to make it a great success for Jesus and for the House of Prayer, which would benefit from the proceeds of the concert.

### **Preparations**

We began to make set lists and plans for the night straight away and decided that we would ask local musicians to take part, in order to make the very most of the band and the overall sound. We asked two very talented guitar players to join us and, thank God, they said

yes, as they added so much to the performance on the night.

### **A moment to be with Jesus**

On the night itself, I was so nervous. I am not a natural performer and, while I do enjoy singing, being in front of an audience isn't the most comfortable place for me. Before we went on stage, I took a moment to be with Jesus. After this, I decided that this is who I am, I had a job to do and I was going to do it to the best of my ability for the Glory of God.

### **The night was fantastic!**

The night was fantastic! It was so well supported by local people, some familiar faces and some new faces as well. We all thoroughly enjoyed performing the set list. For me, it was very special singing the original Songs that Jesus has given in such a venue, as I imagine it isn't very often that Jesus is glorified in that place.

### **Thank You, Jesus**

I learned so much from Lanyon Hall, from the preparation and the night itself. Singing about Jesus on stage is very far removed from how my life had been previously and I am so grateful to Jesus that He would use me in this way. Thank You, Jesus, for a fantastic night, may we glorify You always.



# Saint Nicholas

persecuted Christians, Bishop Nicholas suffered for his faith, was exiled and imprisoned. The prisons were so full of bishops, priests, and deacons, there was no room for the real criminals - murderers, thieves and robbers. After his release, Nicholas attended the Council of Nicaea in AD 325.

## 6 December

He died 6 December AD, 343 in Myra and was buried in his cathedral church, where a unique relic, called manna, formed in his grave. This liquid substance, said to have healing powers, fostered the growth of devotion to Nicholas. The anniversary of his death became a day of celebration, St. Nicholas Day, 6 December (December 19 on the Julian Calendar). His tomb in Myra became a popular place of pilgrimage.

## Many stories and legends

Through the centuries many stories and legends have been told of St. Nicholas' life and deeds. These accounts help us understand his extraordinary character and why he is so beloved and revered as protector and helper of those in need.

## A poor man

One story tells of a poor man with three daughters. In those days a young woman's father had to offer

## Who is Saint Nicholas

The true story of Santa Claus begins with Nicholas, who was born during the third century in the village of Patara. At the time the area was Greek and is now on the southern coast of Turkey. His wealthy parents, who raised him to be a devout Christian, died in an epidemic while Nicholas was still young. Obeying Jesus' Words to "sell what you own and give the money to the poor," Nicholas used his whole inheritance to assist the needy, the sick, and the suffering.

## Serving God

He dedicated his life to serving God and was made Bishop of Myra while still a young man. Bishop Nicholas became known throughout the land for his generosity to those in need, his love for children and his concern for sailors and ships.

## Ruthlessly persecuted Christians

Under the Roman Emperor Diocletian, who ruthlessly

prospective husbands something of value - a dowry. The larger the dowry, the better the chance that a young woman would find a good husband. Without a dowry, a woman was unlikely to marry. This poor man's daughters, without dowries, were therefore destined to be sold into slavery.

### **Custom of hanging stockings**

Mysteriously, on three different occasions, a bag of gold appeared in their home-providing the needed dowries. The bags of gold, tossed through an open window, are said to have landed in stockings or shoes left before the fire to dry. This led to the custom of children hanging stockings or putting out shoes, eagerly awaiting gifts from Saint Nicholas. Sometimes the story is told with gold balls instead of bags of gold. That is why three gold balls, sometimes represented as oranges, are one of the symbols for St. Nicholas. And so St. Nicholas is a gift-giver...

### **Three theological students**

Another story tells of three theological students, travelling on their way to study in Athens. A wicked innkeeper robbed and murdered them, hiding their remains in a large pickling tub. It so happened that Bishop Nicholas, travelling along the same route, stopped at this very inn. In the night he dreamed of the crime, got up, and summoned the innkeeper.

### **Prayed earnestly to God**

As Nicholas prayed earnestly to God the three boys were restored to life and wholeness. In France the story is told of three small children,

wandering in their play until lost, lured, and captured by an evil butcher. St. Nicholas appears and appeals to God to return them to life and to their families. And so St. Nicholas is the patron and protector of children.

### **Nicholas and the sea**

Several stories tell of Nicholas and the sea. When he was young, Nicholas sought the holy by making a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. There as he walked where Jesus walked, he sought to more deeply experience Jesus' life, passion, and resurrection. Returning by sea, a mighty storm threatened to wreck the ship. Nicholas calmly prayed. The terrified sailors were amazed when the wind and waves suddenly calmed, sparing them all. And so St. Nicholas is the patron of sailors and voyagers.

### **Generous deeds in secret**

Other stories tell of Nicholas saving his people from famine, sparing the lives of those innocently accused, and much more. He did many kind and generous deeds in secret, expecting nothing in return.

### **Celebrated as a saint**

Within a century of his death he was celebrated as a saint. Today he is venerated in the East as wonder, or miracle worker and in the West as patron of a great variety of persons - children, mariners, bankers, pawn-brokers, scholars, orphans, labourers, travellers, merchants, judges, paupers, marriageable maidens, students, sailors, victims of judicial mistakes, captives, perfumers, even thieves and murderers! He is known as

the friend and protector of all in trouble or need.

### **Carried stories of his favour**

Sailors, claiming St. Nicholas as patron, carried stories of his favour and protection far and wide. St. Nicholas chapels were built in many seaports. As his popularity spread during the Middle Ages, he became the patron saint of Apulia (Italy), Sicily, Greece, and Lorraine (France), and many cities in Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Italy, Russia, Belgium, and the Netherlands. ...Nicholas was so widely revered that thousands of churches were named for him, including three hundred in Belgium, thirty-four in Rome, twenty-three in the Netherlands and more than four hundred in England.

### **Stories of his goodness**

...His Feast Day is widely celebrated in Europe and this has kept alive the stories of his goodness and generosity. In Germany and Poland, boys dressed as bishops begged alms for the poor - and sometimes for themselves!

### **Gift-giving rounds**

In the Netherlands and Belgium, St. Nicholas arrived on a steamship from Spain to ride a white horse on his gift-giving rounds. December 6th is still the main day for gift giving and merrymaking in much of Europe. For example, in the Netherlands St. Nicholas is celebrated on the 5th, the eve of the day, by sharing candies, chocolate initial letters, small gifts, and riddles. Dutch children leave carrots and hay in their shoes for the saint's horse, hoping St. Nicholas will exchange them for small gifts.

### **Focus on the Christ Child**

Simple gift-giving in early Advent helps preserve a Christmas Day focus on the Christ Child.

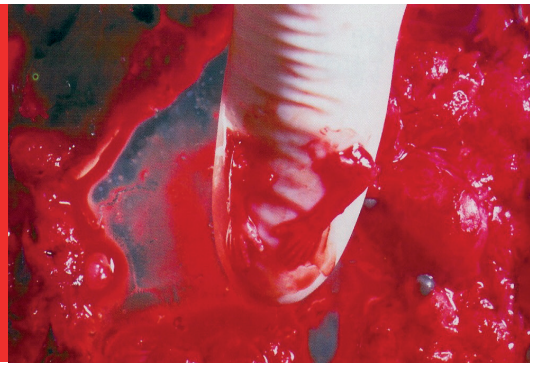
*Saint Nicholas, By his example of generosity to those in need, especially children, continues to be a model for a compassionate life and a reminder of what Christmas is all about.*

*<https://www.stnicholascenter.org/pages/who-is-st-nicholas/>*

### **Sunday 16 December 2007**

**My children, I Love you. Remember, this season is the time of My Birth and not a time of greed. It is a time to show My Love to all men. I ask each one of you to do a kindness to someone in need and offer it to Me, unknown to anyone. This is a beginning, children, this is like taking your first step towards Me and My Ways. See those who are in need for when you help them you help Me. Remember, I am within all peoples, I dwell within all men's hearts, if you give a cup of cold water to the least of your brothers you give it to Me. Remember the festive season is about celebrating My Birth, remember Me, My children, for I am like a pauper begging you for help. You will please Me, children, if you do this for Me. I, your Jesus, Love you and I thank you...**

# The Missing Details



## **No information**

I remember learning about abortion in our religion class at school. We watched a movie about a young girl who got pregnant and contemplated an abortion. She chose not to although her life wasn't easy. There was no information about abortion, no pictures, no explanations, just that she thought about it and didn't go through with it. There were many missing details.

## **Must have been blind**

I remember thinking, I know it's not right but, if I was in her situation, who's to say I would keep the baby, because all her family were so disappointed and the last thing I ever wanted was to disappoint my family. I thought literally nothing more about it until I came to the House of Prayer. I definitely must have been blind to not even see Pro-Life campaigns or anything. But that's really why I'm writing this.

## **True images**

Many times we can see something but not observe it or even pay the least bit of attention to it. True images of abortion show that it is murder! It is torture! It is destroying a baby's right to live! It is against humanity! Knowing what I know now, I am disgraced at myself for ever thinking it depends on the circumstances.

## **Upset and annoyed**

Many people get upset and annoyed at the true images of abortion we, here at the House of Prayer, portray to the world but, from my experience, it is good to show people the truth! These images taught me a great deal! Even today I struggle to look at some of them as I cannot think of the little innocent children being butchered because no one will make time for them. But it is good to look at them and feel pain for it is the Pain Jesus feels. Jesus has told us to love Him in His Pain and to appease it through the many ways He has Taught us. One way being saying the Prayer of Love.

## **Sunday 21 June 1992**

**"Give them My Prayer of Love; it was given for a reason; it was given to appease My Pain.**

**My Pain is great; My Heart Bleeds in My Agony as My children tear each other apart with unlove. They must relearn to love Me purely; then We can begin to build the Kingdom of God in hearts. I gave you this Prayer at a time when you did not understand what I was about and you have constantly said it with your love to ease My Pain. Now I want all My children to say it fervently and with love. This is loving Me with all your mind and strength and will;**

every part of you must go into loving Me - then I will be able to Love in you. I call you all to love in this way; come, do it for My sake. The Prayer of Love is given to you; say it for Me...Love will triumph."

### **Unite in Jesus' Name**

Although it is not nice to know the Truth; although it is hard to bear at times and even heart wrenching, Jesus is Coming and this world is far from expecting it! Spread the Truth and bring humanity back to God! Unite in love, not in hatred

and murder. Unite in Jesus' Name!

### **The Prayer of Love**

Jesus, I greet You with my heart and my soul, my body, my mind, my understanding, my intellect and my will and I give it all to You. Jesus, I love You a billion times and may each "I love You," become a little dart, flaming with the Fire of Your Divine Love and may it pierce the most inner depths of Your Heart - then You will know that it is I and I love You.

## **I want to be one of Jesus' Army**

### **King of my little heart**

Today is the Feast of Christ the King. Another Church liturgical year over.

This Feast always fills me with hope and anticipation of a new year.

It is a well needed chance to renew myself and promise, once again, to come closer to Jesus, my King.

A time to invite Jesus into my heart in a deeper way, as King of my little heart. And to approach Advent in the right frame of mind, resolute to make all things new, ready for His arrival.

### **A crib for My Saviour**

This year, once again, I want to make my own heart into a crib for my Saviour. A crib surrounded with austerity and no greed, in the days coming up to Christmas.



A crib so concerned with the needs of others, there is no place for my wants.

### **His Coming is imminent,**

In a world that thrives on the prosperity and glitter of Christmas, I want to be one of Jesus' Army who thrives only in the Ways of Jesus. Stripped and made new in the days of Advent so, at last, Jesus can reign in my heart as King.

Jesus tells us constantly in His Messages that His Coming is imminent, yet I change only a little. With Gods Grace, this year will be different and I can be at last what my Saviour needs me to be for the Advent of His Coming in Glory.

# Sacred Heart House

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## Events to Come

Saturday  
10 December 2016  
**WALK AGAINST  
ABORTION**  
*Gathering at 2.45pm*

Wednesday  
14 December 2016  
**FEAST OF  
SAINT JOHN  
OF THE CROSS**  
*Prayers begin at  
12noon*

*The House of Prayer  
will be open over the  
Christmas Season as  
usual. Also, in the  
lead up to Christmas,  
we will have carol*

*singing in the street -  
please call for details.*

Sunday  
25 December 2016  
**JESUS' BIRTHDAY**  
*Party at 8pm*

Saturday  
31 December 2016  
**NEW YEAR'S EVE VIGIL**  
*From 10pm  
until midnight*

Tuesday  
3 January 2017  
**FEAST OF THE HOLY  
NAME OF JESUS**  
*Prayers begin at  
12 noon*

Friday 13 January  
to Sunday  
15 January 2017  
**Days of Love**  
*Beginning with a  
concert on Friday  
evening*

Tuesday  
31 January 2017  
**EVE OF SAINT BRIGID**  
*We will make Saint  
Brigid Crosses on this  
evening*

**FIRST FRIDAY VIGILS**  
from 10pm - 2am:  
Friday 6 January and  
Friday 3 February  
2017

# Feast of Love 2017

**"...My Love will dispel all darkness..."**

Beginning with a concert on the evening of  
Friday 13 January and continuing until  
Sunday 15 January 2017

# Saint Michael House

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## Advent

### Preparing

Advent is a time of preparation. We are preparing for Christmas, the Birth of Jesus, Our Saviour. It is a special time of the year so we should prepare our hearts, minds and souls for this wondrous event. The celebration of Jesus' Coming into the world. It is also a time to reflect on the true meaning of Christmas.

### The Word was made flesh

Why did Jesus come into the world? God became Man because He Loved us so much and wanted to Save us. He humbled Himself and took on human flesh. *'The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us,'* He was human yet remained Divine. The Word of God, who was with God from the beginning, who created the Universe, became a little Child, born in a stable at Bethlehem. As Saint John put it in his Gospel, *"The true light that gives light to every man was coming into the world."* (John 1:9)

### The glitter

It seems like the only preparation in these days for Christmas is buying presents, thinking of what food and drink to have, going to parties, Christmas trees and decorations. These things can bring excitement and joy but it is only the glitter of

this world and that soon passes. If Christmas is only about these things and the importance is placed on them, then we are left empty. All we are celebrating is self and greed, namely sin, this is the false joy of the world. Many often suffer afterwards because they are left in debt or gain other problems brought on by too much eating and drinking!

### No room at the Inn

I recently listened to Fulton Sheen talking about the true meaning of Christmas, He said the saddest words in history were those written in the Bible regarding Our Lord's Birth. 'There was no room at the Inn.' The Inn represents places on earth where you would find the rich, those in fine clothes, those who were



important, who were somebody. I think it can also mean our hearts and souls. If we are too caught up with the pleasures and ways of the world, the selfishness, pride and sin within us, how can there be any room for Jesus?

### **Born in a stable**

He went on to say that Jesus was born in a stable, a cave which represents a place for outcasts, the nobodies of this world and the poor. But it was a place where anyone could go and whoever did had to bend or stoop to enter. This reminds me we must also humble ourselves to come to Jesus. Why was Jesus, the Son of God, born in such lowly surroundings? Because Divinity is found in the place you least expect it. Jesus often tells us in the Messages of Love we must see Him in all we meet. Fulton continued to say the people who visited Jesus were the shepherds, those who knew nothing and the wise men, those who knew they didn't know everything.

### **The real meaning of Christmas**

How can we bring the real meaning of Christmas back into our lives and families?

We can read Scripture and contemplate the Love that God has for us, how He sent His only Son into this world to Suffer and Die for us so that we could have Eternal Life with Him.

We can offer little sacrifices and acts of love to Him on a daily basis and therefore shine His Light into the lives of others.

### **Jesus is in all His children**

We can try and see Jesus in all people and deny ourselves the judgement

and criticism of them. Remember, Jesus is in all His children, no matter who they are and what they have done.

Prayer and good example should be in our homes. Offering special prayers with the children and lighting a candle especially on Sundays of Advent is a good idea and talking to them about this special time of preparation for Jesus.

### **His second Coming**

One final thought is that as we prepare for Christmas, the Birth of Jesus, in a similar way, we should also be preparing for His second Coming. We do not know the day or the hour but that day will come when we least expect it. If we are prepared what a joy that day will be!



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# The Plight of Others

## THE PLIGHT OF THE FAMILY

### **Family unit**

In today's world the "family unit," is under attack from the evil within the world. Saint Pope John Paul II wrote in his letters that it was of vital importance to the world that the "family unit" remain strong. "Christian parents have the specific responsibility of educating their children in prayer, introducing them to gradual discovery of the mystery of God and to personal dialogue with Him." (1994; Year of the Family Letter # 59-60)

### **The battlefield is the family**

Sister Lucia of Fatima wrote about the final confrontation between the Lord and satan; "The battlefield is the family." "Final confrontation between the Lord and satan will be over family and marriage."

The family is the very pillar of creation. If the founding pillar is touched, the entire building collapses. Family is the natural foundation in civil society and the natural foundation of family is marriage. Destroy the foundation and civil society crumbles – the foundation is crumbling rapidly today.

### **Abortion is the murder**

Abortion is the murder of the innocent, murder of the next generation and is a sin now

readily accepted in most countries. Homosexuality and the right to gay marriages is another evil being promoted to attack the family unit.

### **This new law violates**

In Scotland, family groups and parents are fighting against a new law which, they say, authorises extensive state intrusion into family life, undermining the family itself, all carried out in the name of "children's rights."

The UK Supreme Court have been told that this new law violates existing privacy law and the constitutional rights of parents and it undermines recognition of the family as a necessary underpinning of society.

### **Overseeing the child's interests**

Under "The Children and Young People Act," passed in 2014, a "named person," such as a school administrator, or teacher, social worker, district nurse, midwife etc. will be assigned to every Scottish child from birth to eighteen.

This "Assigned Person" will be responsible for overseeing the child's interests and will be able to gather information from schools, doctors etc. and the children themselves – without consulting the parents!

"Named Persons" can be replaced, so a child could have several named

persons over the years, widening the circle of people with access to the family information.

### **New law will be compulsory**

Colin Hart of The Christian Institute, one of those who took the case to court, called this new law “an insult to the fundamental rights of mums and dads to bring up their children as they see it. This new law will be compulsory. There is no way for parents to opt out or to be the named persons for their own children.”



### **Parents cannot raise their children**

This new law is government intervention – giving the idea that parents cannot raise their children in Scotland without professional help provided by the state.

The second more sinister idea is that every parent is a potential child – abuser, so to stop abuse, the state must intervene!

The court was told that if a teenager was prescribed contraceptive pills the “named person” was to be told but not the parent and the “named person” could advise the teenager to take birth control pills against the wishes of the parent!

### **The parents have no say**

What if the named person recommends an abortion? The parents have no say! What if a young person is encouraged to have a gay relationship? The parents

have no say! What if the “named person” does not believe in God and encourages the child to take on their beliefs? The parents have no say!

### **Social Work Scotland**

One “named person” could be responsible for hundreds of children – children from birth encouraged to follow and obey their beliefs and ideas and not those of their parents. Defenders of the scheme, i.e. “Social Work Scotland,” described the “named person” as every child’s “entitlement,” that will allow social workers to focus their efforts.

### **Total control**

This new law will take total control from the parents as to how they rear their children and, if passed in Scotland, it will eventually be law in all of the UK and other countries.

### **Attacking the family**

The evil one is attacking the family unit more and more. Sister Lucia of Fatima’s words are coming true before our very eyes! The family is the basic unit of society; mother and father at the centre, sharing and serving the lives they have created. This “new law,” a law of vital importance, is getting very low media coverage and why? I believe so that it can be “slipped in,” very quietly and made law and then parents can do nothing about it.

### **Holy Family**

Holy Family of Nazareth pray for us!

*The Feast of the Holy Family is celebrated on 30 December. Let us try to remember to pray for the family on this day throughout the world. Our prayers can do much.*

# Wisdom

## John Paul II

### ENCYCLICAL LETTER: VERITATIS SPLENDOR

Addressed by the Supreme Pontiff Pope John Paul II to all the bishops of the Catholic Church regarding certain fundamental questions of the Church's moral teaching

*continued*

32. Certain currents of modern thought have gone so far as to exalt freedom to such an extent that it becomes an absolute, which would then be the source of values. This is the direction taken by doctrines which have lost the sense of the transcendent which are explicitly atheist. The individual conscience is accorded the status of a supreme tribunal of moral judgment which hands down categorical and infallible decisions about good and evil. To the affirmation that one has a duty to follow one's conscience is unduly added the affirmation that one's moral judgment is true merely by the fact that it has its origin in the conscience. But in this way the inescapable claims of truth disappear, yielding their place to a criterion of sincerity, authenticity and "being at peace with oneself", so much so that some have come to adopt a radically subjectivistic conception of moral judgment.

As is immediately evident, the crisis of truth is not unconnected with this development. Once the idea of a universal truth about the good, knowable by human reason, is lost, inevitably the notion of conscience

also changes. Conscience is no longer considered in its primordial reality as an act of a person's intelligence, the function of which is to apply the universal knowledge of the good in a specific situation and thus to express a judgment about the right conduct to be chosen here and now. Instead, there is a tendency to grant to the individual conscience the prerogative of independently determining the criteria of good and evil and then acting accordingly. Such an outlook is quite congenial to an individualist ethic, wherein each individual is faced with his own truth, different from the truth of others. Taken to its extreme consequences, this individualism leads to a denial of the very idea of human nature.

These different notions are at the origin of currents of thought which posit a radical opposition between moral law and conscience, and between nature and freedom.

33. Side by side with its exaltation of freedom, yet oddly in contrast with it, modern culture radically questions the very existence of this freedom. A number of disciplines, grouped under the name of the "behavioural sciences", have

rightly drawn attention to the many kinds of psychological and social conditioning which influence the exercise of human freedom. Knowledge of these conditionings and the study they have received represent important achievements which have found application in various areas, for example in pedagogy or the administration of justice. But some people, going beyond the conclusions which can be legitimately drawn from these observations, have come to question or even deny the very reality of human freedom.

Mention should also be made here of theories which misuse scientific research about the human person. Arguing from the great variety of customs, behaviour patterns and institutions present in humanity, these theories end up, if not with an outright denial of universal human values, at least with a relativistic conception of morality.

34. "Teacher, what good must I do to have eternal life?" The question of morality, to which Christ provides the answer, cannot prescind from the issue of freedom. Indeed, it considers that issue central, for there can be no morality without freedom: "It is only in freedom that man can turn to what is good". But what sort of freedom? The Council, considering our contemporaries who "highly regard" freedom and "assiduously pursue" it, but who "often cultivate it in wrong ways as a licence to do anything they please, even evil", speaks of "genuine" freedom: "Genuine freedom is an outstanding manifestation of the

divine image in man. For God willed to leave man 'in the power of his own counsel' (cf. Sir 15:14), so that he would seek his Creator of his own accord and would freely arrive at full and blessed perfection by cleaving to God". Although each individual has a right to be respected in his own journey in search of the truth, there exists a prior moral obligation, and a grave one at that, to seek the truth and to adhere to it once it is known. As Cardinal John Henry Newman, that outstanding defender of the rights of conscience, forcefully put it: "Conscience has rights because it has duties".

Certain tendencies in contemporary moral theology, under the influence of the currents of subjectivism and individualism just mentioned, involve novel interpretations of the relationship of freedom to the moral law, human nature and conscience, and propose novel criteria for the moral evaluation of acts. Despite their variety, these tendencies are at one in lessening or even denying the dependence of freedom on truth.

If we wish to undertake a critical discernment of these tendencies - a discernment capable of acknowledging what is legitimate, useful and of value in them, while at the same time pointing out their ambiguities, dangers and errors - we must examine them in the light of the fundamental dependence of freedom upon truth, a dependence which has found its clearest and most authoritative expression in the words of Christ: "You will know the truth, and the truth will set you free" (Jn 8:32).

*continued next month*