

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.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Ps 84:8
Alleluia, alleluia! / Lord, show us your mercy and love, / and grant us your salvation. / Alleluia!

GOSPEL Mk 13:33-37
A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark
Stay awake! You never know when the Lord will come.

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!'

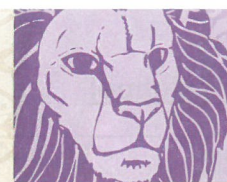
■ **The Gospel of the Lord.**

During this liturgical year, the reflection columns will be authored by the well-known and highly respected biblical scholar, Fr Brendan Byrne SJ. We are sure readers will find his reflections insightful and enriching.

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

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Reflections on the Gospel



THE SAVING WORD

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT / B

3 DECEMBER 2017

STAY AWAKE!

Advent is the time when the Church seeks to stir up a sense of longing for the coming of the Lord.

Stirring up such a sense of longing does not mean, however, that we should take the New Testament allusions to his future coming literally. Such statements seek to communicate the truth that our lives and, indeed, the whole of history stand under the eventual judgement of God and that the Crucified One, the now risen Lord, remains the criterion of what truly human existence should be. His grace and his power continually knock at the door of our lives, seeking to move us along his way. It is this sense of the Lord's coming that the Advent season celebrates and proclaims.

Today's Gospel (Mk 13:33-37) features a parable from the end of the great discourse on the future that Jesus gave to his disciples not long before his death. The householder who goes on his travels gives instructions to all his servants but the focus of the parable lies upon the one charged with watching the door. The master expects to be welcomed when he returns. Everyone else may sleep but this servant must stay awake at night, always on the look-out for the master's coming.

Believers are like that servant: 'gatekeepers' for the coming of the Lord. The rest of the world may 'sleep' but we are 'children of light and of the day' (1 Thess 5:5), our lives bathed in the light of the risen Lord and enriched by the hope of his final coming.

Brendan Byrne, SJ

FIRST READING Isa 63:16-17;64:1,3-8

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Oh, that you would tear the heavens apart and come down.

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 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 up to the power of our sins.
And yet, Lord, you are our Father;
we the clay, you the potter,
we are all the work of your hand.

■ **The word of the Lord.**

RESP PSALM 79:2-3,15-16,18-19. R.v.4

R. Lord, make us turn to you, let us see your face / and we shall be saved.

1. O shepherd of Israel, hear us, / shine forth from your cherubim throne. / O Lord, rouse up your might, / O Lord, come to our help. **R.**



2. 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. **R.**

3. 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. **R.**

SECOND READING 1 Cor 1:3-9

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

The revelation we looked for, Christ Jesus our Lord.

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

ST MALACHY'S PARISH
APSLEY * EDENHOPE * GOROKE *
 MINIMAY

3rd December 2017, First Sunday of Advent

Priest in Charge: Fr John Corrigan
 Casterton: Ph: 5581 1044

Mobile: 0422 342 499

Email: frjohncorrigan@gmail.com

Mail: Box 157, Edenhope Vic 3318

Bulletin notices
 Bulletin notices Monica van Dyk
 0447267149

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Recent Deaths:

Anniversaries: Dave Baxter, Bernie Moore,
 Connie Brook, Ray Clark, Terry Clark, Eileen
 Heenan, Carmel Oliver, Colin Mulraney, Kate
 Close

Next weekend
 10:30am SAWC

Church Collections – from 26th December
 Edenhope \$205.00
 Planned Giving \$90.00
 Total: \$6253.00

Parish Diary

Sun Dec 3 11am Mass
Sun Dec 10 10:30am SAWC
Sun Dec 17 11am Mass

St Malachy's School

Sunday 24 December (Christmas Eve)

Edenhope: This weekend

Reader K Neall
Prayers/Psalm A Kealy
Gifts Neall children

Leader M Payne
Ministers C Middleton
Cleaning G Clarke
Linen D Brook
Lawns R Burgess, D
Collection McDonnell

Mon Swimming program

Tue Whole School Transition Day

Wed Swimming program

Thu Swimming program

Fri Swimming program

St. Malachy's Church Working Bee
 Sunday, December 3rd after the 11:00 am
 Please bring pruning tools, spades, garden tools
 etc.

Father John's Corner

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

- 9am Mass, St Joseph's Church, Coleraine
- 10am Mass, Sacred Heart Church, Casterton

Sunday 24 December (Fourth Sunday of Advent)

GIVE A GIFT THAT CHANGES THE WORLD

110 young people from our diocese will be attending the Youth Festival next week from 7-9 December. Please keep them in your prayers. The Youth Festival Program and Official Song are available at www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/ Services & Agencies / Youth and Young Adult Ministry.

AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC YOUTH FESTIVAL

- 9am Mass, St Joseph's Church, Coleraine
- 10am Mass, St Malachy's Church, Edenhope

Sunday 31 December (The Holy Family)

- 9am Mass, St Joseph's Church, Coleraine
- 9:30am Mass, St Joseph's Church, Tarrakoukan

Monday 25 December (Christmas Day)

- 6pm Mass, St Patrick's Church, Balmoral
- 7pm Mass, Sacred Heart Church, Casterton
- 8pm Mass, St Malachy's Church, Edenhope

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<https://fundraise.caritas.org.au/globalgifts>