

Second Sunday of Advent

It is a dark time of the year, and the days continue to get shorter as we draw closer to the shortest day of the year in about two weeks' time. In these darkening days, we light our second Advent candle, reminding us that we draw closer to the great feast of light, when we celebrate the birth of the one who proclaimed, 'I am the light of the world'. As we will be celebrating that solemnity on 25th December, we will have reached the summit of the darkness and we will be on our way down to the light.

Even though Advent is celebrated in the darkest time of the year, it is a hopeful season, because it keeps pointing us to the light, pointing to God who is the eternal Light, and who shone at his brightest in this world when Jesus was born. The risen Lord remains the light of the world, the light of our lives, today.

Today's first reading speaks of God guiding His people in joy by the light of His glory as to remind us that The risen Lord continues to guide us today and all the days of our lives by the light of His glory.

Therefore, Advent is a season when we are invited to open ourselves up more fully to the light of the Risen Lord, that always shines upon us. The call to turn to the light is one we need to respond to every day.

This was the message of John the Baptist in today's Gospel reading. His call to repent was a call to turn away from the darkness to the coming light, to the one Who was coming after John, and who was more powerful than John, because the power of God's love, God's light, was shining fully through Him, and that is the significance of preparing the way in our lives for the Lord.

This is the Advent call to us all, 'Prepare a way for the Lord'. That call means that the Lord is always coming to us. He is always there. We only have to turn to Him. John the Baptist saw his role as helping people to turn to the Lord, and because of John's ministry, many people were helped to know and to turn to the Lord.

With this we can dare to say that this second Sunday of Advent is a good time for all of us here to recall all those John the Baptists in our own lives, all those people who served to help us to open ourselves to the light of the Lord's coming, the light of His presence, all those people who helped us to know and to follow the Lord. Those are our parents and grandparents, our teachers in primary schools, secondary schools, colleges, and so on, think of all the priests and the many other women and men whose witness to the Lord helped us to turn more fully to the light of His presence. They helped us to prepare a way for the Lord to enter our lives more fully.

Brothers and Sisters, as listen to these words today, we have to be aware that our call today is to open our eyes to see what God wants to reveal to us and to open our ears to hear the voice that calls us to prepare the paths for the coming of our Lord. May we be to recognize that voice in the midst of the many voices and noises around us. And when we hear that voice speaking to us, may we be ready to respond with a loud YES.