

FOR the past few months, Fr. Leon has laboriously composed a 'Back Page' for the newsletter each week, describing the new translation of the Mass. Exactly when this will come into use we don't know, but it will probably be some time in the course of the coming year. Till, it is good to be prepared for it when it does come. Now Fr. Leon has completed that task, and we are reverting to the familiar pattern, with one of the Friars writing a comment each week, so you get constant change and variety.

When you come to think of it, it is very appropriate for this to happen at the first Sunday of Advent. Advent is a new beginning. And naturally that makes you think of the future. We are making a fresh start, perhaps taking a new direction, or at least renewing our old aims. So we are thinking about the present and the future, where we are and where we are going to.

But in today's readings, Isaiah and Jesus seem to have very different views of the future. Isaiah gives a visionary picture of the days when the Temple of the Lord will be the centre of life for all nations, when God's law will be followed by everyone and there will be universal justice and peace. In contrast, Jesus dwells more on judgement. The day 'when the Son of Man comes' will be a day that separates the good from the bad. 'One is taken and the other left.' Until then both the date of the judgement and its results are hidden from us, and life continues in all its ordinariness and ambiguity. 'As in Isaiah's day.' Watchfulness, like that of a householder waiting to catch the burglar. This is what we need.

And this is what St Paul says too. We should be awake now, like people waiting for the dawn. If our expectation is for the light, then we should live as people of the light. We should leave aside the deeds of darkness and live as in the light. Isaiah is describing the final goal, the future, when God's purposes are fulfilled. He uses the image of the Temple because that was what he was familiar with. In contrast, Jesus and Paul are speaking of our expectations, of how we live as people whose vision is upheld by hope and trust in the Son of Man.

Fr Fabian OP



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*	+o you, my , od,) lift my soul,) trust in you2 let me ne&er come to shame.
+,	3o not let my enemies laugh at me. ! o one who waits for you is e&er put to shame.
-	4+he Ordinary of the " ass, p 56
, . ! +	4%ung setting. " ass 78)), p 95: ; redo), p 95< 4+he Proper of the " ass, p : 6
! + .)saiah 9. 5=<
!"	/ ! "" . 0+*+ . ! # % 1 >Ps 599?
+ .	Romans 56. 55=5:
"" "+	%how us your merciful lo&e, O Lord, and grant us your sal&ation.
2 !, "	" atthew 9: . 6@=: :
' +	+he Lord will shower his gifts, and our land will yield its fruit.
+,	
/ 3 & 4 (% (1)n addition to the " asses listed in the schedule on p 6, 1oly " ass will be offered in the older form from 4 1	

" , !,++ " , . + # * + . # % we ha&e.
 (" ! "5! 6 ++ + 1 +his is a series of talks gi&en on Fridays after the 5Aam and 59.6Apm " asses. +his Friday Fr Leon will speak on BFra (ngelico and the (nnunciation.
 ' " ! +* , based on the 'O (ntiphons, ' ednesday 5 3ecember, @.6A pm followed by refreshments in the hall.
 % 5 - ' +! ! ! + " # ' +!1 ' ednesday 5< 3ecember O @.6Apm in the Parish ; entre >downstairs?. ' e ha&e a fantastic line=up of choirs performing at this e&ent. Please do come along and bring family and friends. #ntry is free and refreshments >finger=food and drinks? are pro&ided , " ! + .
 ! + . ! ! ! 1
 ' +! ! 4 !! !1 (s our immediate spiritual preparation prior to the %olemny of the Birth of our Lord, we shall ha&e D specially themed Epm daily 1oly " asses from 5E 3ecember >e\$cept on %unday the 5Dth, @pm as normal?. +he theme for the no&ena of " asses is. ' ; ome, Lord *esus, dwell among usF (ll are in&ited to attend.
 4 5 . 7 & we will hold our first '(d&ent " ini Food Fest >5A.AA am to 5.6A pm?. If you feel you can help in any way, shape, or form, please contact %tephanie on A5<6A 9: DGA9.)n the meantime, donations of the following items will be appreciated.
 Bottles H ' ine, ; hampagne, ; a&a, %pirits, " ulled ' ine etc.2
 1ome=made or bought H ; hristmas cakes, chocolate cakes, sponge cakes etc.2 mince pies2
 -ams, marmalades, chutneys2 muffins and brownies2
 ; hocolate2 and Raffle Priles.
 8 ' !!!+ is on %aturday 3ecember : th at @pm in the ; hurch, discussing %uffering. Open to all ; atholics aged 5G=6<. Food pro&ided, donations welcome.

4\$ & 4 %! / 5 9! *""*+! - \$## '""*+ : ;1 <
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+! !! C 5 +* * +
 from 5Ath=59th 3ecember, led by %r 8alery ' alker and Fr +homas
 ; rean. +o book, contact %r 8alery on A9A GDD@ G<<A. +he theme is B+he
 angels and the incarnationC.

%+*! ".+*" *+ 9! 8 "5 will be gi&en by
 Professor Robert *ackson from the /ni&ersity of ' arwick. 1e will speak
 on B#ducation about Religions and Beliefs. #uropea Policy
 Recommendations and Joung People s 8iewsC on Friday. (Il are
 welcome. " eetings are held at ; hristchurch, ; larendon Park Road >near
 Kueens Road? at @.6Apm. (nd ' * ! . + % +*! '+
 ' will meet at %t " ary de ; astro ; hurch on ; astle %treet, at # , , + #
 59.6Apm on +hursday. (Il are welcome. * +. #
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' ed 5 3ec (d&ent ; arol ser&ice, based on the 'O (ntiphons, @.6A pm in the church
%un < 3ec (d&ent " ini Food Fest, 5A.AA am to 5.6A pm
' ed 6 3ec Bishop " alcolm will consecrate the " artyrs %hrine, @.6Apm >! O+# ; 1 (! , #3 +)" #?
%at 5 3ec)nsights from %t +homas (Luinas. (discussion day, %t ; lement s 1all, after 5Aam " ass.)nformation from A5: G9 GA9A9A or -andpatdoyle@yahoo.co.uk .
%un 59 3ec Parish pre-; hristmas lunch, Parish ; entre, 5pm
' ed 5< 3ec (festi&al of ; arols for (d&ent and ; hristmas, Parish ; entre, @.6Apm
+hu 5E 3ec ; hristmas ! o&ena " asses, daily " on to %at at Epm, start today

' +! ! ,, " # ! " 5 ! D # . ! the tree carries stars, each star
 ha&ing the name of a gift. Jou choose a star, or stars, buy and wrap the gift>s? named and
 return it >them? to the church with the stars attached. Jour gifts will go to someone in need.
 +he tree will be in the church for the first three %undays of (d&ent, so presents must be ready
 please by 59 3ecember.

+! % * - * /nfortunately we ha&e sold out of tickets for the ; hristmas Lunch.
 ' e ha&e tried to fit in as many of you as we can, so we will be completely stretched as far as
 catering is concerned. ' e cannot, therefore, admit anyone without a ticket O sorry.)f you do
 ha&e a ticket, please write your name on the seating plan that is on the wall in the narthe\$,
 ne\$t to the Parish ; ouncil noticeboard.

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