

# Parish of Our Lady & St. Anne, Caversham

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**First Sunday of Advent 30 November - 1 December 2019**

“Therefore, you too must stand ready because the Son of Man is coming  
at an hour you do not expect.”

**Matthew 24, 44**



**First Sunday of Advent (Year A – Matthew):** The Church invites us to look at the future during the season of Advent. We are all aware how fast the pace of change is effecting every aspect of our lives. What we took for granted today has disappeared tomorrow. For many of us this feeling of not even having a foothold in the here and now makes us even more uncertain about the future. And with one report on the impact of climate change and global warming following hot on the heels of another disastrous forecast as to the state of the world our children stand to inherit, we are very anxious. Coping with change on the scale we are witnessing today may be unprecedented, yet concern for the future is not a new phenomenon. The author of the psalm in today's liturgy had supreme confidence in God and in the securities Jerusalem, the heavenly Jerusalem of the future, offered. No one who places his/her hopes in God will ever be disappointed. When space is provided to God, he can work. The German late medieval mystic Meister Eckhart (1260 – 1327) put it this way: "When God is carried in our souls, then the source of divine life works as a spring in our soul, it carries us back to God and endows us with spiritual gifts." That life of God in our souls is a secure bridge which will enable us, when the time comes, to cross from this changing world to the next.

**First Reading (OT): Isaiah 2, 1 – 5:** In the garden of the UN Headquarters in New York there is a bronze sculpture dating from 1959 by a Russian artist Wiktorowitsch Wutschetitsch (1908 – 74) and it is a representation in bronze of the biblical image of "hammering their swords into ploughshares." It seems odd that at the height of the Cold War a Soviet artist should chose this motif for a gift from the USSR to the UN. And yet it is an expression of the hope in every human breast, regardless of the political ideology, that war might be abandoned and peace pursued. It highlights that permanent human quest for peace and welfare for all.

**Second Reading (NT): Romans 13, 11 – 14:** "Maranatha -come Lord" was a prayer of the early Christians who lived in the imminent expectation of the Lord's return. They focused on being ready for the Lord when he did come, there was no time for slumber. A new age promised to dawn. It is important therefore to stand erect and hold one's head high. Those who fail to do this neglect an essential dimension to human existence. We must dress ourselves otherwise to be prepared to accept the graces of this special time.

**Gospel: Matthew 25, 37 – 44:** The apocalyptic circles in late Judaism and in early Christianity were sure about one thing: the present world would pass, its time was up. This gospel extract dates from the time of the destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple in AD 70 and was addressed to a people bewildered and utterly at sea as a consequence of these catastrophic events. Hope lay elsewhere and we needed to search for it.

# Masses and Intentions

## First Week of Advent

**Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> November**      10.00      Deceased of McAdden family  
*Feast: St Andrew*

### First Sunday of Advent

### Year C

<b>Saturday</b>	<b>30<sup>th</sup> November</b>	<b>17.30</b>	Tony Lundy RIP
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> December</b>	<b>10.00</b>	Sean & Andrew Morris RIP
		<b>18.30</b>	Nancy Lynch (b/day)
<b>Monday</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> December</b>	<b>09.15</b>	Repose of holy souls
<i>Advent feria</i>			
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> December</b>	<b>09.15</b>	Celine & Grace Renshaw-Smyth
<i>Memorial: St Francis Xavier</i>		(children coming to Mass)	
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>4<sup>th</sup> December</b>	<b>09.15</b>	Special intention (PR)
<i>Advent feria</i>			
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>5<sup>th</sup> December</b>	<b>08.00</b>	The U.S. President's intentions
<i>Feast: St Birinus</i>			
<b>Friday</b>	<b>6<sup>th</sup> December</b>	<b>12.30</b>	Gerard Lawrence RIP
<i>Advent feria</i>			
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>7<sup>th</sup> December</b>	<b>10.00</b>	Joan Jiggins RIP
<i>Memorial: St Ambrose</i>			

### Second Sunday of Advent

### Year C

<b>Saturday</b>	<b>7<sup>th</sup> December</b>	<b>17.30</b>	Zygmunt Powiecki RIP
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>8<sup>th</sup> December</b>	<b>10.00</b>	People of the parish
		<b>18.30</b>	Guillermo Guzman RIP

<b>Confessions:</b>	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>10.30 - 11.30</b> <b>16.45 - 17.15</b>
<b>Exposition &amp; Benediction:</b>	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>10.30 - 11.30</b>
<b>Evening prayer, Rosary:</b>	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>16.45</b>