



Today we begin the Season of Advent. Advent is more than a time of waiting for Christmas. It is a time for us to long, to yearn and to prepare ourselves for the coming of our God. These days, sadly many have forgotten the real meaning of Christmas and yes great preparations take place, but for presents, food and socialising. The promise of the birth of a Saviour for the World is very much a second thought. What a pity that the true gift given to us can be so easily overlooked.

Today we light the First Candle on our Advent Wreath. This Candle, a purple one, represents Hope. It is sometimes called the “Prophecy Candle” in remembrance of the prophets, especially Isaiah, who foretold the birth of Christ. This candle represents the expectation felt in anticipation of the coming Messiah.

The use of the wreath and candles during Advent are a longstanding Catholic tradition that was originally adopted by Christians in the Middle Ages as part of their spiritual preparation for Christmas.

The wreath and candles are full of symbolism tied to the Christmas season. The wreath itself, which is made of evergreens, signifies continuous life. The circle of the wreath, which has no beginning or end, symbolizes the eternity of God, the immortality of the soul, and the everlasting life we find in Christ.

Most likely God’s coming will not be spectacular. God is more likely to come in quiet, unobtrusive and peaceful ways. However, this means we need to consciously look for God each day. We need to be aware of the small things in life. God may be where we least expect! We need to be awake so we will not be “sleeping” when God comes to us! The Advent readings are filled with hope, anticipation and the promise of Jesus’ coming! The temptation for us may be to think we only need to look for the coming of God during the Advent season. We need to have open eyes and hearts and look for the coming of God each and every day

Today may we open our minds, hearts and eyes and consciously “look” for God! Be awake and alert! And perhaps, be surprised! God is always with us, we just have to open the door and let Him in.