

1st Sunday of Advent

(Isaiah 2.1-5, Romans 13.11-14, Matthew 24.37-44)

Theme: Peace Is The Way To Welcome Christ.

Beloved in Christ Jesus: This Sunday marks again the first Sunday of the period of Advent. A special season in our lives, as Christians we prepare ourselves for the celebration of our Lord's birthday. It is really a special time of preparation in our lives, both spiritual and temporal.

It is always our desire to enjoy the peace, love, blessings, favours, and protection that comes with the presence of Christ Jesus in our lives, families, communities and our world at large. Isaiah, the prophet of God in the first reading today, invites us to come and learn the way that leads to joy in the Lord; "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; that He may teach us His ways and that we may walk in His paths," (Is. 2:1-5). The prophet Isaiah, goes on to advise us and say, "they shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more." (Is.2:1-5) By this, we are being called again, to begin to look into our lives, homes, marriages, communities, places of work, business and in our world to avoid those things that leads us to fighting, quarrelling and war. This is the time for us to change and turn all the materials of divisions and war into materials of peace and love.

In our second reading through the letter to the Romans, St Paul is calling us, to avoid in our lives all the things of darkness and put on the armour of light that comes from Christ the Lord. "Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armour of light; let us live honourable as in the day, not in revelling and drunkenness, not debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarrelling and jealousy." (Rom. 12:11-14)

In all these we are being encouraged to seek and work for peace, and not only this, but also to be willing to make amends in our lives and be ready to welcome peace in our lives, our homes and in our communities. Beloved in Christ, the best way to achieve this peace, is to begin with ourselves, not thinking about that other person. We also need to forgive and pray for the grace of God to help us.