

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent  
(Isaiah 40.1-5,9-11, 23.8-14, Mark 1.1-8)

Theme: Prepare Yourself and Your Family

Beloved brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus: The readings of today invite us to prepare for the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ. The first thing we need to do in our preparations is to reconcile ourselves with one another.

Each and every one of us will start this reconciliation by forgiving ourselves. Then we begin to forgive and reconcile with the members of our families and with all those who we feel have wronged us. This is part of our reconciliation with our God.

Dear friends, we need to be at peace with one another, in our families, before we can experience the joy and happiness that comes from Christ's presence in our midst.

Do not allow your past sins or mistakes to continually weigh you down. See those past sins as mistakes of the past. Ask and pray for God's forgiveness and move ahead in Christ Jesus. In the same way, let us tell ourselves today and in this season of Advent, that all this fighting, quarreling and unforgiveness in our lives, homes, families, marriages and places of work, should stop. Even if it demands us making extra sacrifices by playing the fool for peace and happiness to reign, say, "I will do it."

Dear friends let us have courage and prepare ourselves, for our Lord Jesus is coming to comfort us with His divine peace, joy, healing and happiness. "See the Lord God comes with might... He will feed His flock like a shepherd, He will gather the lambs in His arms and carry them in His bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep." (Is. 40:9-11)