

COME, LET US GO ...

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT



Reflection and Prayer for Advent 2022 with Sunday readings and the Sandhurst Mission and Pastoral Council Preparation and Consultation Plan 2022-2023.

SIGN OF THE CROSS.

Come, Lord Jesus! Rev. 22:20

FROM THE READINGS

First Reading: The vision of Isaiah son of Amoz, concerning Judah and Jerusalem. In the days to come the mountain of the Temple of the Lord shall tower above the mountains and be lifted higher than the hills. All the nations will stream to it, peoples without number will come to it; and they will say: 'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the Temple of the God of Jacob that he may teach us his ways so that we may walk in his paths; since the Law will go out from Zion, and the oracle of the Lord from Jerusalem.'

He will yield authority over the nations and adjudicate between many peoples; these will hammer their swords into ploughshares, their spears into sickles. Nation will not lift sword against nation, there will be no more training for war. O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord. *Isaiah 2:1-5*

Gospel:

Jesus said ... "So stay awake, because you do not know the day when your master is coming ... Therefore, you too must stand ready because the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect."

Matthew 24:42-44

Prayer and Reflection I

- **Read** the scripture passages aloud or silently.
- **Reflect and pray**, stopping to ponder any 'stand out' words or phrases. *10 mins*
- **Respond** *10-15 mins*

Individuals: Write or sit quietly with your reflections.

Groups: Share your responses and listen to others (*2-3 mins each*).

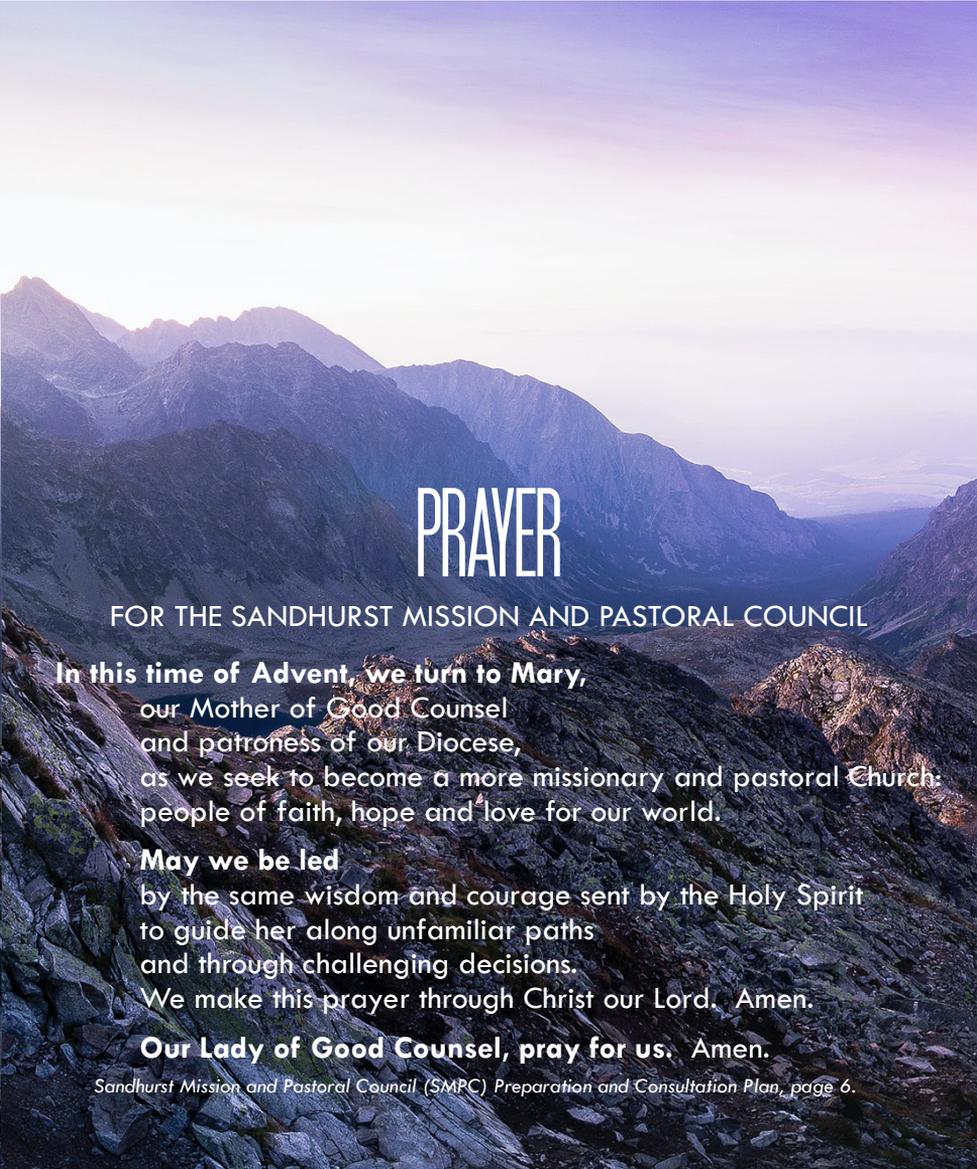
- o What stands out for you?
- o What do you want to take with you?

FROM THE SANDHURST MISSION AND PASTORAL COUNCIL PREPARATION AND CONSULTATION PLAN 2022 - 2023

- **I dream of a “missionary option”,** that is, a missionary impulse capable of transforming everything, so that the Church’s customs, ways of doing things, times and schedules, language and structures can be suitably channelled for the evangelisation of today’s world, rather than for her self preservation. SMPC page 1.
- **A synodal Church is a Church which listens,** which realises that listening is more than simply hearing. SMPC page 3.
- **The establishment of a Diocesan Pastoral Council, to be called the Sandhurst Mission and Pastoral Council,** was a key recommendation in the 2020 Go Forth Review of the Diocese. This Council will support synodal governance in the Diocese through a structure that builds co-responsibility and discernment in leadership and decision making. It will strengthen our capacity to operate in a strategic and collaborative way, by drawing on the best possible advice of lay people and clergy for pursuing the Church’s mission. SMPC page 6.
- **All the baptised share responsibility for the mission** and for structures that facilitate the living out of the mission entrusted to the Church. A key learning from the listening and dialogue phase of the Plenary Council of Australia and the Synod on Synodality is that the people of God are seeking inclusion and opportunities to exercise co-responsibility for governance and leadership of the pastoral life of the Diocese. Establishing a Sandhurst Mission and Pastoral Council is a significant commitment by our Diocese to create a structure that supports synodal governance, leadership and decision making. As steps are taken to establish these structures, it is also important to inform, prepare and consult the people of God along the way. SMPC page 8.

Prayer and Reflection II

- **Read** the paragraphs from the SMPC Preparation and Consultation Plan, aloud or silently.
- **Reflect and pray,** considering
 - o What stands out for you?
 - o Any Advent scripture insights that shine additional light on these words.
 - o Ways in which your insights may relate to
 - a) your family b) your parish c) our Diocese?
- **Express a hope for the future.**



PRAYER

FOR THE SANDHURST MISSION AND PASTORAL COUNCIL

In this time of Advent, we turn to Mary,
our Mother of Good Counsel
and patroness of our Diocese,
as we seek to become a more missionary and pastoral Church:
people of faith, hope and love for our world.

May we be led
by the same wisdom and courage sent by the Holy Spirit
to guide her along unfamiliar paths
and through challenging decisions.

We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Our Lady of Good Counsel, pray for us. Amen.

Sandhurst Mission and Pastoral Council (SMPC) Preparation and Consultation Plan, page 6.



Prepared for Advent Year A 2022. Catholic Diocese of Sandhurst, PO Box 201 Bendigo, Vic, 3552 Email: adultfaith@sandhurst.catholic.org.au **Acknowledgements:** Go to: www.sandhurst.catholic.org.au/ Click on banner 'A Year of Preparation and Consultation for a Sandhurst Mission and Pastoral Council', scroll down for prayer card and 'Preparation and Consultation Plan'. For SMPC updates and more diocesan news register to receive the Sandhurst eNews: www.sandhurst.catholic.org.au OR access digital code. Come, Lord Jesus! Rev. 22:20: "It is a little prayer, yet one that comes from the heart. Let us say it in this Advent season. Let us repeat it: "Come, Lord Jesus!" Pope Francis, Homily, Saint Peter's Basilica, 29 November 2020; Pope Francis, 'The Joy of the Gospel' (Evangelii Gaudium), paragraph 27. Pope Francis, The Joy of the Gospel, 27. Address of Pope Francis at the Ceremony Commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the Synod of Bishops 17 October 2015.

