

ADVENT - THE SEASON OF WAITING

Most of us do not like having to wait because it sometimes bores and irritates us. When will this pandemic end? When will I be able to see my family and friends? This can cause us great stress and sometimes even anger.

As I found myself getting stressed about not being able to see my family and friends I asked Jesus to give me an understanding of these times and to give me patience.

Then I realised that we are coming up to the season of Advent and this about waiting for the coming of Jesus at Christmas. If we learn to wait in the right spirit as the song says "One day at a time Dear Jesus" it can be a creative moment where we can grow spiritually. We learn to be in touch with the essential aspect of our humanity which is that we are dependent on God and on each other. It can also be an act of love since by waiting and being patient with others we are not totally focused on ourselves.

The Grace of Advent is Hope when we can recognise and welcome God present in the world but not necessarily experience Him with our senses especially in these very difficult times. It was similar in the life of Jesus when He was in the little cloister of the holy womb of Mary when the Word was made flesh but was not visible as Mary waited on His birth on Christmas Day. His presence was real and a sign of Hope.

In celebrating Jesus in the womb of Mary at this time we are invited by God to recognise His hidden presence in our very difficult times. We ask Mary to help us to be patient as we wait for the birth of Jesus and to believe and celebrate His presence with us at all times.

So let us stay awake and always have hope because we never know when we will receive grace filled moments as I did when I called on the help of Jesus in my impatience.