



PASTORAL CONVERSATIONS 2

ADVENT 2020 COUNTDOWN



ADVENT COUNTDOWN



ZOOM MATTERS

- Welcome to Pastoral Conversations 2 offered by the Liturgical Resource Centre and the Office for Evangelisation and Ecumenism
- The presenters are Damian McNeice and Pat O'Donoghue with the support of Patricia Carroll
- You will be guided to the chat box for your written reflections
- Please keep your microphone muted to avoid electronic feedback



WHERE DID ADVENT COME FROM?

WAIT FOR THE LORD (TAIZÉ)



ADVENT ATTENTIVENESS

Advent is a season that looks back
and looks forward at the same time.

We look back to the birth of Jesus in simplicity
over 2000 years ago.

We also look forward with hope
to the unfolding of the kingdom of God
as Jesus comes in tenderness and love
to meet us face to face.

ATTENTIVENESS



CALM

Advent is a season of quiet attentiveness.
We wait in a spirit of calm expectation,
with our eyes wide open in gentle alertness,
for the unfolding of the gifts
that Jesus has prepared for us –
is there a gift you have not acknowledged
or unopened

CALM



ATTENTIVENESS

What is this attentiveness like?

Is it noticing the peace that comes
when we create the right environment –
no phone or radio or T.V. –
maybe some gentle music – a candle –
a quiet place or noticing
that you are feeling more chilled out
as the season moves forward

CALM



WAITING

Advent is a season of attentive waiting.

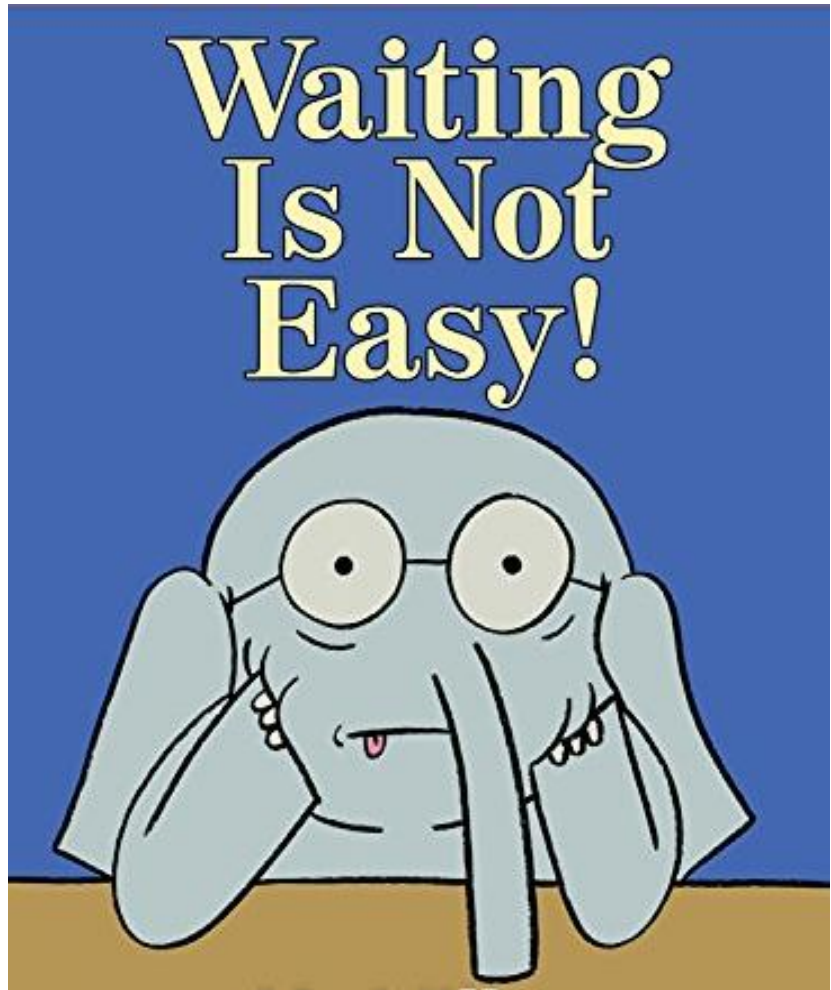
What is that waiting like?

Is it calm and tranquil as each day flows
simply from one to another –

the season's customs become as comfortable
as your favourite sweater – no pretension –
just a good warm fit....

Others want you to take it off
and put on something more festive –
'not yet', you say – 'I'll wait a while'.

WAITING



SCRIPTURE

During these weeks
you might take more attentive time
with scriptural prayer –
sitting comfortably with the prophets –
Isaiah and **John the Baptist** –
as you open yourself to their challenges
there might be some discomfort as you hear their words.....
'let every cliff become a plain' –
what does that mean for you? –
is it a smoothing out of a relationship
that has become rough? –
think about it – give it time...

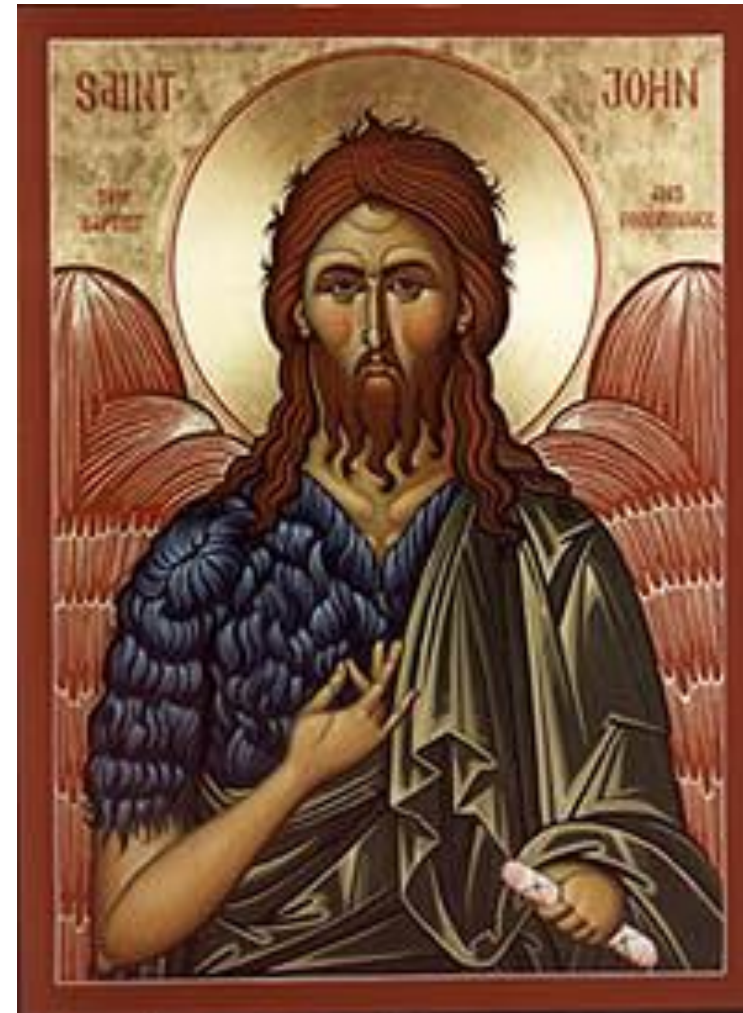
HEARING



PROPHET ISAIAH



JOHN THE BAPTIST



SCRIPTURE

'the eyes of the blind will see'....

what fresh insights might await you

over the next few weeks....

'I am not fit to undo his sandal strap' – what humility –

what does humility mean concretely to you ? –

was that an insight that came to John

in the distraction free zone of the desert? –

have you got some desert place to go to

where you are not distracted?

where you can hear God

crying from the wilderness of our mindlessness –

speaking words of promise, encouragement and renewal?

INSIGHT



WAITING ROOM

Or maybe you attend on Elizabeth and Mary
as they wait in expectation....

in your quiet accompaniment
some of their joy...graciousness...
acceptance...trust might rub off...

'the child in my womb leapt for joy'....

'let what you have said be done to me'...

All these possible people are in
the waiting room of the Advent Scripture

MARY, ELIZABETH AND ZECHARIAH



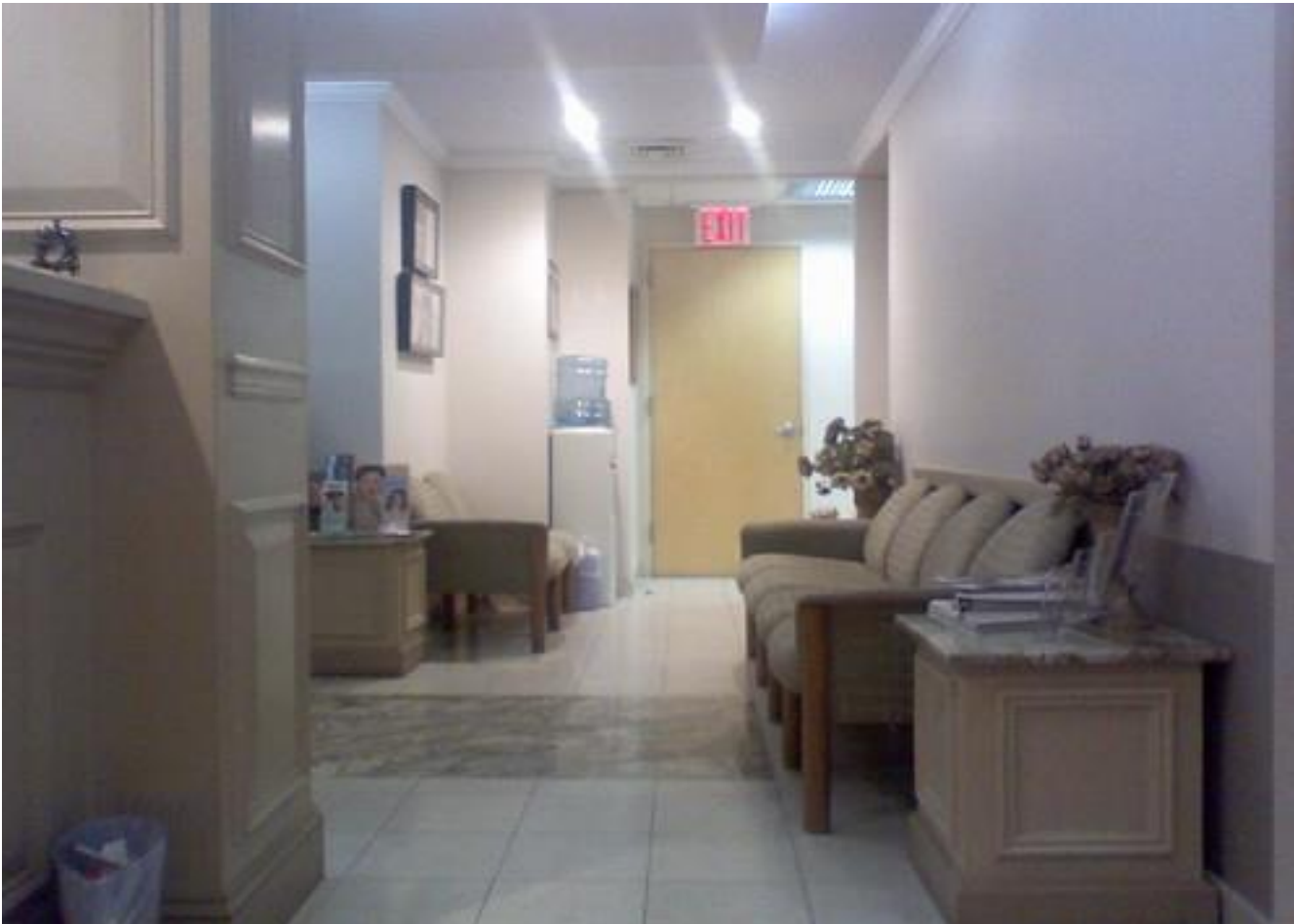
WAITING ROOM



WAITING ROOM

Who else might be there
in the waiting room that needs attention?....
the doctor with the test results...
a relative after a job interview...
a homeless person seeking a place for the night...
for the moment, you hand them over to God...
you wait and see what you are asked to do in the situation...
you may be called to be a rock for someone
or to allow another to take care of you.

ANOTHER WAITING ROOM



PATIENCE

Advent is a season of patient attentiveness –
like the Advent Calendar
with its daily thoughts and treats –
one at a time – a surprise each day –
no need to rush ahead – I can wait until tomorrow.

PATIENCE

What does that patience feel like?

Is it a struggle not to anticipate –

to take a peak at what's ahead –

to slip into the future

without opening up the gift of the present –

the 'now' is rich - don't pass it by

while getting ready for the big days.

PATIENCE



WATCH OUT

A Christmas song tells children
‘you better watch out’.

In the Gospel of Mark,
for the first Sunday of Advent,
Jesus challenges us to ‘stay awake’.

These two phrases have something in common –
being alert and being attentive.

KEEP YOUR EYES OPEN

what are other
words for
keep a sharp lookout?



watch out, be on the lookout,
beware, be on your guard,
look out, be on the qui vive,
be careful, be cautious



NOW

What is that 'now' like?

is it comfortable....secure...calm...

or is it something you want to escape...

to avoid...to run from...anywhere but here and now.

Patience...stay with it...you are not alone...

do not be afraid. You are in the potter's hands –

'we the clay, you the potter,

we are all the work of your hand' (1st Sunday of Advent – Is 64:7-8)

Are we free to allow ourselves to

be moulded now and throughout Advent

CHAT SPACE



CHAT SPACE QUESTIONS – VISUALISATION

Have you experienced visualisation like this before?

Would it work in your context?

What images/symbols would you use
in the live setting of your church?





IDEAS FOR CELEBRATING ADVENT

CHAT SPACE QUESTIONS - IDEAS

- What do you like about the Advent suggestions?
- What has worked well for you in Advent?
- How can you make your Advent outreach interactive?

LITMUS RESOURCES

SCRIPTURE (ISAIAH 64:8)

And yet, Lord, you are our Father;

We the clay, you the potter,

We are all the work of our hand



THE POTTER

O Life-Shaping Potter, Come~

As we begin this Advent season,
may we be yielding and pliable,
open to your soft, moulding touch.

Come and shape our lives:

expand our hearts for compassion,
open our eyes to your ways,
tune our ears to your words,
guide our hands to reach out gently to others,
nudge our feet onto your paths.

Form us into your Advent people,
bringing hope and peace to your hurting world.

THE POTTER'S HAND (DARLENE ZSCHECH)





NEXT WEEK


SINCERE

- We get the word sincere from the Latin term sine-cera which means without wax. In Roman times the finest pottery was the thinnest and therefore more fragile. Often when thin pottery was being fired, it would crack in the oven. Now rather than discard those vessels that were cracked, dishonest merchants would fill the cracks with a hard pearly wax that would blend in with the colour of the pottery when it was painted. But, if the jar was ever heated the wax would melt and the jar would crack once again, and potentially become useless.

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SINE-CERA

- In ordinary light, no one could tell the difference between a flawless pot and a pot with a superficial correction. But if the pot was held up to the sunlight- to test it – the sun would expose the imperfections because the wax appeared darker than the rest of the vessel. After this test was done the faultless pots were stamped “sine cera”
- In the same way when our purity is exposed before the Purity of God our imperfections are exposed and we are reminded of our need of His Grace to make it through
- In ancient times, by the time the potter's work was completed and the clay pots of the day were made, it may have already become dark. In the light of the new day, each pot was held up to the light to assess/test the integrity of the vessel.

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- When the pots were made, they were placed on a shelf to dry; over a process of time, the potter takes them down from the shelf - if the pot is not dry yet, it goes back up... In life we can feel restless, as we struggle to find our purpose / calling. Maintaining the balance in life; acceptance if not ready to fulfill our role yet versus being called to 'step up' and doubting if we are ready.
 - In Advent, we (like the clay in the potter's hands) are challenged to open ourselves to change/transformation - moulding and shaping.

SALVE REGINA *(HAIL HOLY QUEEN)*



MY SOUL IN STILLNESS WAITS (MARTY HAUGEN)

Marty
Haugen

Includes:
Canticle of the Sun,
Eye Has Not Seen,
We Remember,
and Gather Us In!

Anthology I
1980-1984



SETTING THE SCENE

- Sun sets, evening descends, light fades, day draws to a close.
I light a lamp and a new glow streams across my day.

GATHERING SONG: WARM THE TIME OF WINTER (LORI TRUE)

- **All sing:** Holy light, warm our night, warm the time of winter
Holy light, warm our night, warm the time of winter

(Procession includes 6 Lanterns)

LANTERNS



OPENING PRAYER

- **Let us pray,**

All say: Lord, open our hearts in welcome.

Remove the things that hinder us from embracing Christ with joy.

May the glow of this WinterLight guide us on our Advent journey.

We ask this in the Spirit, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

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AN ADVENT MEDITATION SEALED WITH A PROMISE

- Prepare the way of the Lord
Poor, cluttered hearts starving for the emptiness
that makes fullness possible
It is so little that He asks of us
Give some evidence that you mean to reform
Wear lights in your hearts instead of on your trees.
Our autumned hearts stand waiting for the Father's gift
Come, Lord Jesus, come.
Gospel up our lives with your presence
and we'll wear lights in our hearts instead of on our trees.

MAGNIFICAT OF BETROTHAL (ANN JOHNSON (ADAPTED))

- And holy, holy, holy is his name
- Our souls are filled with wonder at the gift of loving. You have looked upon us with favour as we join our lives in response to you.
- And holy, holy, holy is his name
- Yes, from this time on all people will call us blessed, for you, the One who dwells in human hearts, have done great things for us.
- And holy, holy, holy is his name
- Holy, is your name, and your sustaining joy reaches from age to age to those who dare to journey on the difficult pathways of committed love.
- And holy, holy, holy is his name

MAGNIFICAT

- The false pride that we treasured, our ability to stand alone, has been cast aside. We understand ourselves and you more tenderly as we begin to experience the treasure of a lifetime of standing together.
- And holy, holy, holy is his name
- We are no longer lonely. We touch with compassion those who come to us filled with needs.
- And holy, holy, holy is his name
- You have opened the doors of eternity to us as we searched for you, according to the dreams you shared with those who sought your face since the beginning of time.
- And holy, holy, holy is his name

BLESSING OF ADVENT WREATHS

We ask you, God, our creator, to bless these Advent wreaths
May they remind us that Jesus is in our midst
And that we are surrounded by his love and care.
Bless the candles on these wreaths.
May they remind us that Jesus is the Light of the world.
May these wreaths reminds us to prepare well for Christmas,
each and every day of the Advent season.
We ask these things in Jesus' name. Amen.

BE BORN IN ME (FRANCESCA BATTISTELLI)

I'll hold You in the beginning
You will hold me in the end
Every moment in the middle,
make my heart Your Bethlehem
Be born in me

