

St. Patrick's R.C. Cathedral

1st Sunday in Advent Cycle C
27th November 2016



Mission of our Church

To lead all people to unity encounter and participation in Christ



HAPPY 50TH ANNIVERSARY INDEPENDENCE TO ALL



Vision of our Church

By 2019 the Roman Catholic Church in Barbados will be a leader in integral development, forming mature disciples who build strong Christian families and vibrant communities in the service of Christian Unity, the Common Good and the Kingdom of God.

A MESSAGE FROM BISHOP JASON GORDON, DELIVERED DURING THE PONTIFICAL MASS OF THANKSGIVING, ON WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 23RD AT THE CATHEDRAL

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Barbados has journeyed to a distinguishing and significant milestone. Barbados has reached its 50th anniversary of Independence. Let us all give thanks to the Lord who has been the people's guide. The occasion of a Golden Jubilee should not be taken lightly and it is the time for **thanksgiving, reflection and re-calibration** for the future.

Thanksgiving

We must all be thankful to the many forefathers and mothers who paved the way for us to be where we are today. Never should we allow our fortune to blind us from the reality that life was not always the way we now know it to be. There were many dark days. Generations before us endured hardships, overcame struggles and had to wrestle with challenges. We must be thankful to the resilience of these people who saw the light and walked steadfastly towards it. Now that we are in the light we owe it to them to keep it bright, keep it burning and pass it onto the next generation.

Reflection

In 1966, the Right Excellent Errol Barrow led Barbados to Independence. While we celebrate the transition from a colony to an independent nation let us remember that the deeper significance of independence is the ongoing struggle to build national identity. The citizens of a new independent nation are really the catalyst of change. Fifty years ago Barbadians had already planted seeds of pride and industry. During the last fifty years our citizens have taken the responsibility of becoming the captains of our own destiny.

Re-calibrating the Future

As Barbados continues its journey beyond the Golden Jubilee Year we must transform the economy to ensure the dignity of our people is maintained and that all citizens have an opportunity to contribute to society and become better versions of themselves. We must transform our value system, the family and therefore our culture to restore the core values that made Barbados great. The future requires all of us to commit to incremental growth in our human capacity, our moral values and our capacity to love. Individually and collectively we will need to take up new forms of social democracy, one where the authentic development of the individual and the family is accepted as the key to sustainable national development.

With gratitude to God, we stand with a great history behind us and an even greater future in front of us. In the words of late Errol Walton Barrow "... *We will be friends of all satellites of none*".

The Most Rev. Dr. Charles Jason Gordon
Bishop of Bridgetown



Fr Charles Dominique, OP
Administrator

Mass Schedule

Monday – Friday 6:30 am
Monday, Wednesday & Friday 12 Noon
Saturday 7 am, 6pm
Sunday 7 am, 11 am, 6 pm
Confession Saturday 5:30 pm and available on request

CONTACT US

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SUNDAY READINGS:

1st Reading - Isaiah 2:1-5;

2nd Reading - Romans 13:11-14; Gospel Matthew 24: 37-44



A REFLECTION ON TODAY'S GOSPEL:

Jesus said to his disciples: "Therefore stay awake! For you do not know on which day your Lord will come."

In the 21st century we do not look for Christ's coming with the same intense expectation of the first Christians. Still, we believe Jesus' coming is always happening in many unexpected ways. Christ is constantly breaking into our lives to forgive our past, grace and challenge our present and keep our hope alive for the future.

Food for thought:

- How do I stay awake and vigilant to Jesus' coming into my daily life?
- Can I name a time when I experienced his unexpected and surprising presence?



SEASON OF ADVENT

Advent is a period of hope and preparation, extending over four Sundays before Christmas. The word *Advent* comes from the Latin *advenio* meaning "to come to" and refers to the coming of Christ. This preparation during Advent is first for the celebration of Christ's birth at Christmas; secondly for the coming of Christ in our lives; and finally for His second coming at the end of time.

Let us keep all three comings in mind as we prepare during this Advent season.

Questions of the Week

First Sunday of Advent

Theme: Waiting, hoping, and preparing.

Breaking Open the Word

Suggested text for faith sharing: Today's 1st Reading from Isaiah

Step One: Listen to the Word

As you hear this reading, what words or phrases strike you? What in this reading touches your heart? What image from Isaiah lingers in your memory?

Step Two: Look into Your Life

Question for Children: What can you do to be ready for God to come into your heart and your life?

Question for Youth: The Gospel tells us we don't know when the Son of Man will return. If he were to arrive today, would you be ready for him? What is one thing you can do during Advent to prepare for his coming?

Question for Adults: As you prepare to re-welcome Christ into your heart while you prepare for Christmas, what does Isaiah call you to do? What does Isaiah call us as a people to do?

MASS INTENTIONS NOVEMBER 27TH – DECEMBER 3RD 2016

Sunday 27 th	7:00 am	Charles Simon Dolcy RIP
Monday 28 th	12:00 noon	Hermine Cole RIP
Tuesday 29 th	6:30 am	Birthday Blessings: Christopher Renee, Catherine Browne
Friday 2 nd	12:00 noon	Hermine Cole RIP
Saturday 3 rd	6:00 pm	Attie Joseph Snr. RIP

PARISH ACTIVITIES

Sacrament of Baptism Fourth Sunday of each month during the 11:00 am Mass

Monday	Christian Meditation	10:30 am
	Baptismal Instruction	5.00 pm
Tuesday	Legion of Mary	5.00 pm
Wednesday	Adult Confirmation Classes	5:00 pm
	Cathedral Choir Practice	7:30 pm
Thursday	Bible Classes	5:30 pm
Friday	Confirmation Programme	7:00 pm
Saturday	Children's Religious Education	9:00 am

NOTICES

- Fundraising dinner - Under the distinguished patronage of the Most Reverend Bishop Jason Gordon, you are invited to join us as we celebrate the birth of our Lord with an evening of dining and entertainment at Living Water Community, St David's on December 10th. Seating by 6:30 pm and contribution \$150.00. All proceeds in aid of the Cathedral restoration.
- Christmas at St Patrick's - A concert will be held on Friday, December 16th at 7 pm. Featuring Fr Charles Dominique, Kenneth Armstrong and many more. Tickets are \$25.00 and will be available at the Cathedral and the office 426-2325.
- Christmas Novena - 9 days starting Wednesday Dec 14th until Friday Dec 23rd. Details to follow.
- Our Lady of the Rosary Church, Verdun invites you to the 24 hr Rosary in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament. Begins Saturday Dec 10th with 8 am Mass and ends Sunday Dec 11th with 9 am Mass. All groups from the diocese are invited to attend.