

Second Sunday of Advent 2021

THE JOURNEY ONWARDS ...

The one who began this work in you
will see that it is truly finished ...



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THE JOURNEY ONWARDS ...

FROM THE READINGS

Take off your robe of mourning and misery;
put on the splendour of glory from God forever:
wrapped in the cloak of justice from God
for God is leading Israel in joy by the light of his glory,
with his mercy and justice for company. *Baruch 5:1-2, 9*

I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work in you
will continue to complete it until the day of Christ Jesus. *Philippians 1:6*

John went throughout the whole region of the Jordan,
proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins,
as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah:

A voice of one crying out in the desert:
“Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths.
Every valley shall be filled and
every mountain and hill shall be made low.
The winding roads shall be made straight,
and the rough ways made smooth,
and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.” *Luke 3:3-6*

THE JOURNEY

The movie, “The Way” tells a story of a mixed group of people who walk the famous Camino de Santiago, a journey of several hundred kilometres, depending on your point of departure, ending at the famous Santiago de Compostela Cathedral in Spain, thought to be the final resting place of the apostle James. The pilgrims start the journey with a variety of motives, carrying a variety of memories and life experiences with them. As they journey, they learn about each other, and about themselves. At journey’s end, new friendships have been forged, in often challenging circumstances, and each person is, in some way,

changed. The ‘Camino’ has taught them a great deal about the journey of Life. There is a sense of growing confidence in the readings for the Second Sunday of Advent 2021: Justice, good works begun, forgiveness for sins, and roads made smooth on the way to the future that God has in store for everyone to see!

FROM A FELLOW TRAVELLER

My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going.

I do not see the road ahead of me. I cannot know for certain where it will end. Nor do I really know myself, and the fact that I think I am following your will does not mean that I am actually doing so.

But I believe that the desire to please you does in fact please you.

And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing.

I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire.

And I know that if I do this, you will lead me by the right road though I may know nothing about it.

Therefore I will trust you always,

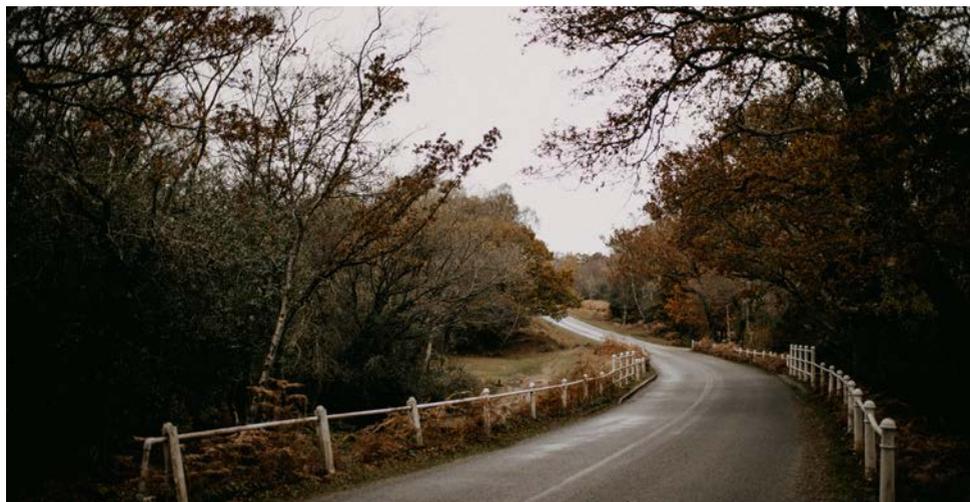
though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death.

I will not fear, for you are ever with me,

and you will never leave me to face my perils alone. *Thomas Merton*

FOR THINKING AND PRAYING

- What words or phrases stand out for you in these readings and insights of ‘a fellow traveller’?
- What insights might you take with you on your own journey?





A PRAYER

Advent God,

awaken us from our slumber,
Shock us out of our apathy.

Come to us

like the thunder of the surf
pounding on an Australian beach,
like the mighty roar of the wind
surging through blue gum forests.

Come to us

with whatever shock
or discipline is needed
to awaken drowsy disciples.

Come to us

For the night is far spent,
the dawn is at hand,
and now is our salvation nearer
than when we first believed.

Come, O come, Immanuel,

save our Australian people;
confront us afresh
until our hearts are full
of the Word made flesh.

Advent God,

we praise you!
Glory to the One who comes
in the name of the Lord!

Come to us Emmanuel.

Bruce Prewer



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Acknowledgements: *The Way* movie starring Martin Sheen may be viewed on a number of streaming services. 'Lead Me, Lord' by Thomas Merton in *My Journey, My Prayer*, Centre for Learning, Villa Maria Pennsylvania USA: 1977, 93; 'To See a Little' by Edwina Gateley, in *'Encountering God ... the experience of the Mystics'* Edwina Gateley in *Search and You Will Find: Prayers, Reflections and Readings*, Michael Brundell OCarm, Chris Christensen and Peter Gagen, Archdiocese of Brisbane Faith Education Services: 1998, 55; Prayer 'Wake Us from Slumber and Apathy,' by Bruce Prewer, *Australian Prayers* 4th Edn, Westview: Kingston Springs USA:1983,2002, 36.