



Guardian Angels Parish

1161 Broughton Street, Vancouver BC V6G 2B3

Tel: 604-684-5775; Fax: 604-684-5757

Email: parish.ga@rcav.org; Website: guardianangelsvancouver.ca

Pastor: Rev. John Alex Pinto, OCD

(Weekend of November 28/29, 2020: First Sunday of Advent)

November 27, 2020

Dear Parishioners,

A Hindu friend of mine wrote me an email and said these; *“Today I am sending mail to inform you about another special moments in my life. is my baby shower. Frankly speaking I am not excited about it.. however bit worried about baby's health (nothing happened, still tensed) and also future expenses. Before it's birth itself I am worrying about its future. I actually want to help one kid who is in need for its education. Though I have commitments I want to try my best. I don't know how will I balance between parents, baby and one unknown kid who is in need for help. If there is God's wish in my dream and if he helps me, I will surely do it.”*

I replied her the following; *“Hope is one of the finest things that we have to look for. Now, please have good, expectant hope. Everything so far has worked good for you, right? Why take unnecessary tensions that does not help you a bit. Instead rejoice, look forward with great hope.”*

Then she replied; *“Thank you Father. You are right, God has given more than anything to me. I won't get anything by taking tension. Will try not to tense. Also let's hope world will recover from Covid situation soon.”*

Though this conversation looks very personal but in reality many of us go through similar situations.

This Sunday, like all Advent, the liturgy proclaims a message of hope. This pandemic made us to think and ask serious questions. As we open our hearts to our Saviour's birth, we need to look beyond the present moment. As we move forward, what are we to do with our hopes, future, plans and the realities we need to face. Though autumn's darkness and glooms rest heavily upon us and the uncertainty of Covid weary us, there are plenty of avenues that are open for us. You can certainly put out lights outside your house or apartments, you can decorate Christmas tree and send cards and gifts to your near and loved ones.

Anticipation of future events brings greater joy than the actual event. Our anticipation of Christmas (though limited because of Covid) can spur for greater hope. As prophet of hope, Prophet Isaiah, proclaims, *“O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence--.. as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil-- to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence! .. When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him.”*

Then the Gospel rings to ear the divine words from Mathew "But in those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven. From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near."

So, please do not get discouraged, let the rays of dawn enkindle your heart and your life be filled with advent joy.

The church never stops. During the Season of Advent, I will be available for confession on Monday to Friday from 8:30 am to 9 am and Saturday, 3 pm to 4 pm. Please take note of the Diocesan Day of Mercy set aside by Archbishop Miller on December 12.

Please go through the Christmas – New Year's Schedule so that you can set your church attendance in advance. Please let us know if you can help in anyways such as in the choir, in reading, church decoration, etc.

Pray that Covid does not come and dismiss all our plans and Christmas hope and joy.

Have a blessed advent, keep safe, keep warm and keep close to the Lord and one another.

You are also invited to Carmelite On-line Advent retreat, please register online at www.retreat-online.karmel.at , and be spiritually nourished.

Carmelite Retreat Online Advent 2020 1st Week: "Keep awake!"

You can read this text in a PDF-file, as well as in a PDF optimized for mobile displays (larger font)

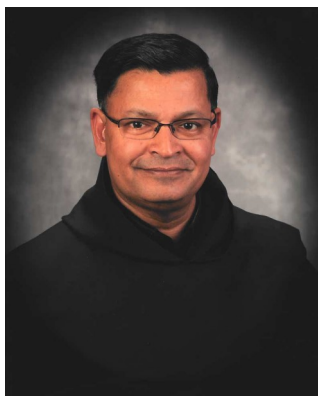
[PDF \(A4\)](#)

[Smartphone](#)

Prayers and blessings,

Fr. John Alex Pinto OCD

Pastor



Invite friends to subscribe at: www.retreat-online.karmel.at Welcome to Advent with the Virgin Mary!

Fr. Robert Arcas, ocd (Convent of Paris)

the texts have been translated by OCDS members of North America

KIDS & SENIORS CORNER

(Contributed by Nyles Fernandes)



(Christmas signs)

Jesus is the reason for the season.

Without 'Christ' this Christmas holiday, you get a hollow day.

Santa never died for anyone.

You've got your elf on the shelf, where will you put Jesus this year.

He who has not Christmas in his heart will never find it under a tree.