

Pastor's Message



Peace and Love!

The readings for this new Liturgical Year B will bring us into dialogue with the Gospel of

Mark, the first, shortest, and fastest-moving gospel of the four. Today's readings from Isaiah, First Corinthians and Mark could all converge on the importance of how we who are endowed with the gift of free-will choose to spend our energies in these short decades we have on earth. Jesus' warning to us to be alert, watchful and prepared because Christ's Second Coming, coinciding with the end of the world, can occur at any time.

There are various themes to explore as Advent begins. Isaiah calls us to confess our sins and hope for better days. Paul's thanksgiving to God is upbeat about the future. Jesus warns us against complacency, for the end is coming sooner than we expect. We might go mainly with the first and third readings, about being prepared for the day of the Lord.

Fear of the End of the World

People, in general, used to have a paranoid fear about the end of the world. They expected it in A.D. 204, 999 and 2000. The title of a best-seller published in 1988 was 101 Reasons Why Christ Returns in 1988. An extremely popular film released in 1999 about Christ's Second Coming was Omega Code, and another film released in 2005 was Left Behind. Excessive fear of the tribulations accompanying the end of the

world led the followers of a religious cult led by Jim Jones (in 1978), and followers of another cult called Heaven's Gate (in 1997), to commit mass suicide.

The Assurance of Jesus

But Jesus, in today's Gospel, gives us the assurance that we need not be afraid of the end of the world, Christ's Second Coming and the Last Judgment if we remain alert and prepared.

Invitation of the Church

The Church invites us on this first Sunday of Advent to prepare for Christ's Second Coming,

- first by properly celebrating during this Christmas season the fond memory of Christ's first coming 2000 years ago,
- second, by experiencing Christ's daily advent or coming in the Eucharistic celebrations, in the Holy Bible and in the worshipping community, and
- third, by preparing for Jesus' Second Coming which, for us, will happen at the moment of our deaths

... For the complete homily, please visit our website at:-
<http://strichardsjamaica.com/information/homily>

November Birthdays!

Beneze	Barker-Dunn
Winston	Barnes
Karena	Brown
Sheila	Bryan
Malakhi	Chambas
Margaret	Edwards
Phillip	Green
Kim	Hoo Fatt
Jonelle	Josephs
Jeffrey	Latibeaudiere Jr.
Jayden	Lawrence
Verna	Lee
Daniel	Lewis
Andrew	Lloyd
Lilly-Bell	McLary
Alexandria	McPherson
Megan	Mitchell
No Name	No Name
Honor	Robinson
Nola	Vincent
Fay	Williams
Beverley	Wilson
Millicent	Wilson
Broderick	Wright

New Curfew Hours for Jamaica:

December 1, 2020 – January 15, 2021,
 10.00 p.m. to 5.00 a.m.

EXCEPT FOR




Christmas Day – 7.00 p.m. to 5.00 a.m.
 Boxing Day – 7.00 p.m. to 5.00 a.m.
 New Year's Day – 7.00 p.m. to 5.00 a.m.

Church Council

The Elections Committee headed by Mr. Michael Ireland announced the results of our recent elections completed on 22nd November 2020. Congratulations to our 10 new Pastoral Council Members

Janet Afflick	
Barbara Barnaby	
Buffy Campbell	
Lorna Clarke	
Suzanne Donalds	
Damion Dunbar	
Stewart Jacobs	
Dianne Parram	
Andrew Wiles	
Eric Weir	

Thanksgiving Services at St. Richard

Mr. Keith DaCosta 05-Dec. 2020 11am	Mr. Howard Austin 05-Dec. 2020 2pm	Mrs. Pearl Verley 12-Dec. 2020 10am
		

We are saddened at the passing of our beloved parishioners in Christ over the past several weeks and remember them in our prayers.

- In the light of the New Curfew Hours, the mass schedule at St. Richard RC Church for Christmas and the New Year is as follows:
 - ❖ Christmas Eve (24th Dec.) – Vigil Mass is scheduled to start at **7.00 p.m. and end by 8.30 p.m.**
 - ❖ As there will be no Carol Service, prior to the start of mass between 6.30 p.m. – 6.55 p.m., Christmas hymns will be played over the public address system as well as appropriate imagery or video clippings will be shown on the screens.
 - ❖ Christmas Day mass will be at the regular 8.00 a.m.
 - ❖ This year the **Deacons' Mass** on the Feast of St. Stephen is going to be celebrated at St. Richard RC Church on **26th Dec. 2020**. The deacons will make the renewal of their Commitment. This mass is hosted by our church. Parishioners are invited to attend this mass at 9.a.m.
 - ❖ Mass on Sunday, **December 27, 2020** – Feast of The Holy Family will be celebrated. During this mass the couples are encouraged to renew their marriage promise.
 - ❖ As we cannot come to church on the Feast of the Holy Innocents on 28th Dec., our **parents are encouraged to attend church on 27th with their children**, provided their health is good. There will be a special prayer and blessing for the children.
 - ❖ Vigil Mass on December 31, 2020 is scheduled to start at 7.00 p.m. and end by 8.30 p.m. Prior to the start of mass, between 6.30 p.m. – 6.55 p.m., Father Xavier will conduct a brief Thanks giving service.
 - ❖ Mass in honour of the Sacred Heart of Jesus will be on December 4, 2020 at **7.00 pm.**
 - ❖ Mass on Saturdays will resume starting at **6.00 p.m.** effective from December 5, 2020.

Sunday school classes are being held virtually every Sunday via Zoom and be on Break from 20th December to 10th January 2021.

This WEEK'S SCHEDULE – December 2020

FRIDAY SUNDAY 4th

- St. Richard's Mass – Sacred Heart 7:00PM

SATURDAY 5th

- St. Richard's Thanksgiving Service Keith DaCosta – 11:00AM (Live Streamed)
- Service Howard Austin – 2:00PM
- Evening Mass – 6:00PM

SUNDAY 4th

- St. Richard's Mass – 8:00AM (Live Streamed)
- Divine Mercy Prayer – 9:45AM
- Sunday School – 11: :00AM
- OLL Mass – 11:00AM

St Richard of Chichester & Our Lady of Lourdes Communities

St. Richard's

Sunday Mass: 8:00AM

Sunday School: 10:30am – 11:30AM

Adoration: Tuesdays 6:30PM

Prayer Meetings: Tuesdays 7:00PM

Our Lady of Lourdes Sunday Mass: 11:00AM

1st Sunday of Advent Year B

Is 63:1-17, 64:1,3-8

“O That you would hear the heavens
open and come down ..”

PS 80:2-3, 15-16,18-19

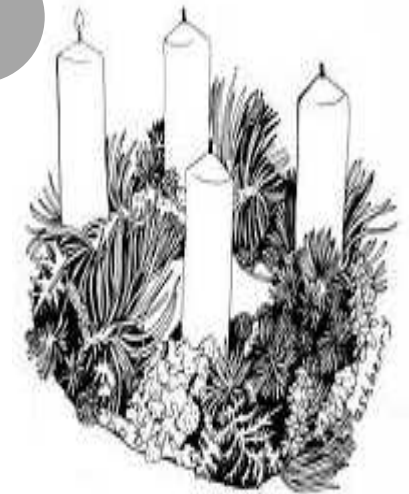
“**God of Hosts, Bring Us Back, Let
Your Face Shine On us, And We Shall
Be Saved**”

1 Cor 1; 3-9

“We are waiting for our Lord Jesus
Christ to be revealed”

Mk 13:33-37

“Be Watchful, Be Alert ..”



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