

THE DAYS OF ADVENT



1st Sunday DAYS OF SIGNS

*There will be signs.
Raise your heads...*
(Lk. 21:25, 28)



2nd Sunday DAYS OF HISTORY

*In the fifteenth
year of the reign
of Emperor
Tiberius...*
(Lk. 3:1)

3rd Sunday DAYS OF CELEBRATION AND SHARING

*Whoever has two cloaks
should share with
the person who has none,
and whoever has food
should do likewise.*
(Lk. 3:11)

4th Sunday DAYS OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN

*Blessed are you
among women,
and blessed is the fruit
of your womb.*
(Lk. 1:42)



Look, the days are coming...

when I shall fulfill the promise of happiness I made. (Jr. 33:14)

DAYS OF HISTORY – Second Sunday

Bar. 5:1-9; Ps. 125 (126); Phil. 1:4-6, 8-11; Lk. 3:1-6

The disciples of Jesus live in history. Our salvation is incarnated and lived in the flow of time, where we experience God's fidelity and cooperate in spreading the Good News a dissemination not confined to words and rites but that also includes our actions, passions, affections and good works.

The history in which God dwells asks us to stand on the heights and look to the future. It asks us to cast off mourning and suffering and clothe ourselves with courage and hope. The history in which God dwells asks us to grow in discernment so that our charity will increase. This discernment should be made with a smile, open to the signs of the times and to all the wonderful things God can do for, among and through us.

In this flow of time, in these days, at this very moment, the disciples of Jesus are traveling the streets of the world, proclaiming the mercy and tenderness of God and the need to take a new path, turn around, put an end to big and small divisions and the twisted routes either we ourselves are following or else are trying to force others to follow. Together with our brothers and sisters, we will see the salvation of God.

Fr. Luca Pandolfi



PRAYER

Lord of history,
*help us to be unafraid of the flow of time.
Help us to dwell in it as you did
when you took on flesh, advanced in age
and grew in wisdom by dialoguing with the people
of your time and of all times.*

*Lord of days,
fill our days, made up of toil and tears
as we prepare the ground for sowing;
made up of the toil and tears
of all the people in the world,
above all the poor and the suffering.*

*Lord of the past, the present and the future,
fill our days with smiles and gladness
as we harvest a crop we did not sow,
as we rejoice and celebrate
with every creature under heaven.*