

# THE DAYS OF ADVENT



## 1st Sunday DAYS OF SIGNS

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

# Look, the days are coming...

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

## DAYS OF SIGNS - First Sunday

Jr. 33:14-16; Ps. 24 (25); 1 Th. 3:12-4:2; Lk. 21:25-28; 34-36

Advent is a time of vigilance and expectation, a time in which to catch a glimpse of God's faithful and consoling presence among us. "The days are coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise of happiness I made." But what are these days? By what signs will we recognize them? "There will be signs," says the Lord. "People will die of fright...but you should stand erect and raise your heads.... Be on guard.... Be vigilant at all times."

We are living in a time of great change, a time of anguish for many people. Some cry out because of their hunger, others because of unjust wars, shameful inequalities, forced migrations, devastating pollution. Still others are afraid because their safety is very uncertain, or because their privileges and irresponsible use of the earth's goods are being called into question. Where do we stand in all this? In which of these distressing situations do we find ourselves?

"People will die of fright" but the disciples of Jesus of Nazareth, the Christ, are to stand erect, raise their heads and seek justice, which at times can be found only in seed form. Nevertheless they should cultivate those seeds with great care, attentive not only to their own needs but also to the needs of the world, especially the poor. They should follow the path of justice, hoping against all hope in the confidence that liberation is close at hand that indeed they are already experiencing it.

*Fr. Luca Pandolfi*



## PRAYER

**L**ord, you are a God of small signs.  
Grant us the freedom of heart  
to glimpse your presence among us,  
hidden in the sometimes turbulent folds of our lives.

Lord, you are a God of big signs,  
unmistakable and unsettling.

Open our blind eyes and deaf ears,  
our closed arms and clenched fists.

Infuse your energy into our tired legs and disillusioned hearts.

Uplift the securities of the powerful of this world.  
Uplift our own securities when we trust these people.  
Help us to stand erect and raise our heads  
so as to discover and experience  
your fidelity, consolation and joyous liberation.