

Receiving



Jesus

in a new way

A new way of

Receiving

Last week, we reflected on the dispositions in which we've been receiving the gift of God during this season – ignorance, indifference, intrigue, and joy.

On this 3rd Sunday of Advent, we'll reflect on how we can move from **acknowledgement to action**, and receive the gift of God in a **new way**.

Let's continue to draw ever closer to the manger, in courage, and in faith; to ask in each moment – “Lord, how do you desire for me to receive you anew today?”

An Invitation to

Openness

Perhaps you've recognised that you've been **rejecting** the gift of God in this Advent season. Maybe you're wrestling with many doubts and questions, or maybe God seems too distant and far removed from your life. In moments like these, **God invites you to come and see** - to take another chance on Him, to try to hope again, even if it feels difficult to do so. Will you take a step towards the Manger?

An Invitation to *Intentionality*

Have you found yourself **distracted**, maybe even excessively busy, in this Advent season? Has receiving and making room for the gift of God been reserved solely for Christmas day? Perhaps, you recognise the need to **slow down**, and **re-orientate your gaze**. To intentionally set aside the busyness and to draw your attention back to the Manger, remembering the reason for the season.

An Invitation to

Stillness

In this Advent season, you find a renewed desire to make room in your heart for the gift of God. Much like Martha, you work hard to prepare the house of your heart as best as you can – driven by the **desire** to give your best for the Lord. Yet, you may find yourself getting lost in the doing, moving hastily from one thing to the next. Perhaps, the call of the season is to first **sit by His feet**, just like Mary did, to be with Him, and **listen** to what He desires to speak into your heart.

An Invitation to

Share

Perhaps there's a great sense of peace and freedom in receiving the gift of God, and a desire to **grow in intimacy** with Him. In spite of many challenges, you continue to persist in beginning anew with Him each day, allowing the Lord to take the lead in 'decluttering' your heart. As He continues to move interiorly, there lies an invitation to **move exteriorly** – sharing this gift of God with others around you – be it friends, or your family.

Perhaps you resonate with one, or more, of these invitations – or maybe you’re still wondering what invitation the Lord is extending to you in this season.

In this 3rd week of Advent, spend some time reflecting on how you wish to receive the gift of God anew in this season. Sit with the Lord, **availing yourself to Him and His invitation in this season.** Let us be courageous in drawing close to the Manger, to draw our focus to the reason for the season.

“Look for yourself, and you will find in the long run only hatred, loneliness, despair, rage, ruin, and decay. But look for Christ and you will find Him, and with Him everything else thrown in.” – C.S. Lewis, Mere Christianity

Reflect:

1. What is preventing you from receiving the gift of God anew in this advent season? — e.g fear, lack of trust, pride, unbelief?
2. What are small but meaningful steps they can take to draw closer to the Manger in this season? – E.g setting aside time to pray, doing small acts of kindness for your family/those around you

Invitations

for the week:

1. Pray: the Surrender Novena
<https://hallow.com/blog/how-to-pray-the-surrender-novena/>