

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent : Year B  
prayerful preparation

**Mark 13:33-37.** *If he comes unexpectedly, he must not find you asleep.*

Jesus said to his disciples:

‘Be on your guard, stay awake,  
because you never know when the time will come.

‘It is like a man travelling abroad:  
he has gone from home,  
and left his servants in charge,  
each with his own task;  
and he has told the doorkeeper to stay awake.

‘So stay awake,  
because you do not know  
when the master of the house is coming,  
evening, midnight, cockcrow, dawn;  
if he comes unexpectedly,  
he must not find you asleep.

‘And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake!’

## Waiting

Advent, a time of waiting.

How am I waiting this Advent?

Am I remaining still, in readiness, looking forward?

But to what this year?

Do I have a sense of dread or do I feel neglected and abandoned, fearful of my future?

Can I stop and become ready and available to listen to the Spirit and do God's will, not mine?

Who was waiting in that first Advent?

Herod? The Wise Men? The shepherds?

Mary and Joseph? The nation of the Israelites?

God?

What was their time of waiting filled with?

What will my time of waiting be filled with?

Will I recognise the Christ when he comes?

Will I be joyfully expectant, trusting the Lord as I journey to the unknown?

Will I see myself as servant, obedient to God's will?

Will I be active or passive this Advent?