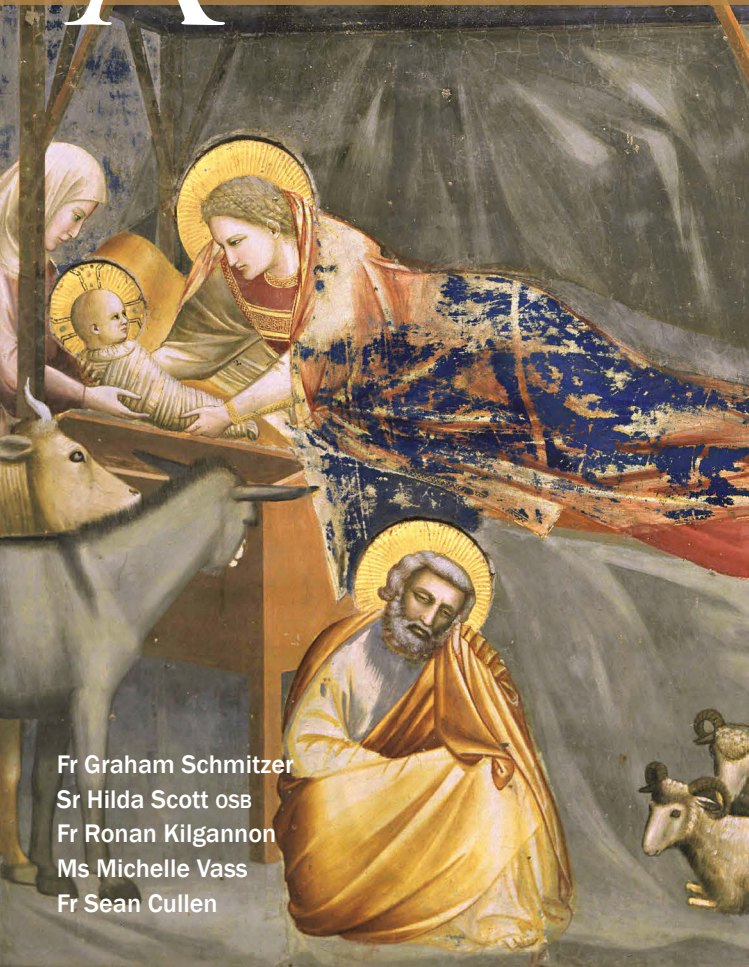




AWAKEN

Daily Advent & Christmas Reflections 2012



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FIRST WEEK OF
ADVENT



4 December 2012

*Tuesday of the first week
of Advent*



“I bless you, Father, for revealing these things to mere children.” (Luke 10:21)

Today the Church appeals to our memory - looking back over what God has already done should fill us with love for Him and confidence for the future. Today's Reading from the prophet Isaiah was preceded by a passage which described the land of Judah, destroyed by invading Assyrians, as a forest cut down and burned. Amongst the ruins remains a stump, a symbol of Jesse, the father of King David from whose family tree would come the Messiah.

So, when things may sometimes seem completely black and utterly hopeless, it is never so for God. He is always one step ahead, preparing our future and offering us hope. The future Messiah would be a King who would rule with perfect justice, and if the world would accept this justice there would be a return to the conditions of Paradise. The wolf would live with the lamb, meaning previous enemies would be reconciled.

But there is a condition – we must change and become like little children. A child is completely dependent on his parents. We must rid ourselves of our self-sufficiency.

Lord, help me to tear down the barriers that keep me from You. Help me to stop thinking I can make it alone. Amen.

Fr Graham Schmitzer

*Today's Readings: Isaiah 11:1-10; Psalm 71:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17;
Luke 10:21-24*