

Thursday 1st December 2022

Reading 1, Isaiah 26:1-6; Responsorial Psalm, Psalm 117:1, 8-9, 19-21, 25-27; Gospel, Matthew 7:21, 24-27

Growing up as a child in Hartlepool, I was lucky to be able to visit the seaside on numerous occasions. My grandparents would take me to the Fish Sands on the Headland, where we would have Fish and Chips from Verrills and then I would build sandcastles. You had to make sure you had the right kind of sand that you could build the castle, but inevitably there would always be a bit of a turret missing as the sand hadn't compacted properly, and so it would lead to disappointment that it wasn't perfect.

Our life at times can be like the sandcastle, we start off with good intentions, but in time it begins to crumble, or maybe doesn't come out as perfect as it should. As children, we could knock the sandcastle down and begin again, but God doesn't work like that. God looks at us and loves us. He made us and we are precious in his sight. It's just often we don't get it right and like our Gospel passage, we don't build our life on firm foundation, upon the solid rock.

At times we might cut corners or not pay attention to detail and so things can come tumbling down around us; we forget to allow the Lord to work in and through us who is our strength and support; our keystone.

Advent is a time to begin again, to prepare to meet Jesus as that vulnerable baby in the manger. When we look on Jesus, we remember our own vulnerability and that we may not always get it right first time, but then we remember, no matter what we have done or failed to do, we are still loved; God never abandons his Faithful People.



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