

*Second Week of Advent Tuesday 6th December 2022*

*Reading 1, Isaiah 40:1-11; Responsorial Psalm, Psalm 95:1-2, 3, 10-13; Gospel, Matthew 18:12-14*

When we lose something, no matter how trivial, we can be driven to distraction in our search for it. Imagine you are about to leave the house and suddenly your keys are missing. You frantically dash about (or I do anyway) lifting cushions, searching rooms, checking drawers, only to discover them in the pocket of the jacket you're wearing! There are, of course, far more serious and traumatic losses in our lives: a job, a relationship, the unspeakable pain of grief at the death of someone you love very much. We experience a depth of longing for what we have lost that is beyond words, such yearning drives our emotions and animates our pain, will we ever be found again?

Our Gospel today teaches us that God longs for us, especially when we are lost, he yearns for us in the depths of his Sacred Heart and takes the initiative to search for us. "Indeed, though we were once lost and could not approach you, you loved us with the greatest love..." (Eucharistic Prayer for Reconciliation I, Roman Missal).

No shepherd would risk leaving behind ninety-nine sheep to go in search of the one that is lost. Jesus is teaching us, however, that God does take the risk, an attitude of sacrifice that leads Jesus to his passion, so that we can be found and brought home. "...for your Son, who alone is just, handed himself over to death..." (Eucharistic Prayer for Reconciliation I Roman Missal).

Do you feel lost? Stay put! The Lord seeks you out, allow him to find you. This Advent let him seek and meet you in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. He takes the risk of becoming flesh so that we can be found. May we take the risk of opening our hearts to Him.

**Alleluia, alleluia! The day of the Lord is near; Look, he comes to save us.  
Alleluia!**

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