

# Sunday Homily

## 1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

28 NOVEMBER 2021

YEAR C

DIVINE OFFICE WEEK I

“And then they will see the Son of Man  
coming in a cloud with power and great glory.”

### Illustration

Today's scripture readings seem to come from another world. Jeremiah looks forward to honesty and integrity in the land. Paul expects us to live a completely blameless life. And Jesus speaks of a day when “the powers of heaven will be shaken”. Jeremiah and Paul, and even Jesus himself, may appear so much concerned with another world that they seem irrelevant to the world in which we actually live today.

Nothing could be further from the truth! Their world was as disordered as ours. Jeremiah preached as the Babylonian armies began their destruction of Jerusalem. Paul wrote when the first Christians were beginning to despair under the pressure of persecution. And Jesus' words are his last before his passion. Their message was for a world like ours.

But how, in the midst of such chaos and suffering, could the visions of today's readings be recognised as real and relevant? The answer is illustrated in the lesson given in a simple way by an elderly lady in a nursing home. She had been paralysed for years but had retained the use of her hands. With these hands she produced the most beautiful embroidery one could ever wish to see. One day she showed a visitor her latest creation, a beautiful pattern of flowers and birds. “This”, she said, “is the way God sees our world: a thing of beauty, ordered and harmonious.”

Then, reversing the material, she showed the other side: the little tufts and loose ends, the irregular patterns. “And this”, she added, “is the world we see: disordered, problems unresolved, questions unanswered. But it will not always be like this. Next time you come I will have tidied up that side too and it will be as good as the other. This is what God will do at the end of time. God will tidy up what human beings have disturbed, and put right what has gone wrong.”

### Gospel Teaching

Jesus Christ taught us to look at the world through his own eyes – the eyes of God. When we look at the world using our own eyes we can be filled with confusion. But using Christ's vision we recognise something ordered and beautiful. We see a purpose in life; we are given true insight. The necessary “tidying up” comes, of course, at the end of time when the Son of Man appears “with power and great glory”, but the picture can already be recognised.