First Sunday of Advent 2026

***GOSPEL**: Mark 13:33-37*

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.

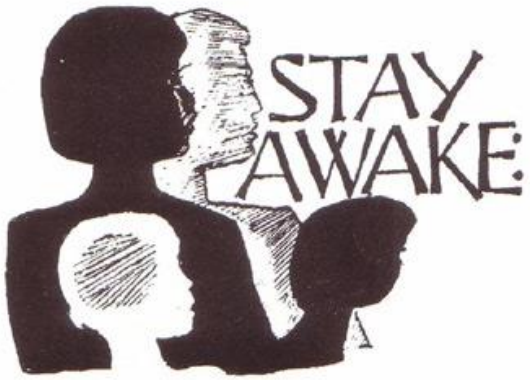
And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake!’



Reflection:

It is widely thought that Mark’s was the first gospel to be written and that it was composed in Rome just after Nero’s extremely violent persecution of the Christians of that city. One of the themes in Mark is that Jesus is a crucified Messiah and that being faithful to him will involve suffering for your beliefs. This means that they must always be vigilant and that is the theme of today’s gospel.

Today we begin Advent. This is the period when we prepare to celebrate the coming of the Christ among us two millennia ago, but we also believe that he is coming among us now and so we have to be prepared to receive him, and we know that he will come again at the end of time and we have to prepare the world for his coming. Everything we do as Christians is related to these three comings.



To watch, to stay awake, to wait for the return of the master of the house, not to sleep, this is what Jesus asks of a Christian.

