

ADVENT 3 2025

“What did you go out into the wilderness to see?”

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Within the Roman Catholic faith there are many elements of comfort and sanctuary

There are teachings considered over two thousand years

There are practices with familiarity and identity

There are the example and inspiration of fellow pilgrims and saints

Our faith can be a place in our lives where we feel at home

However your home has changed

There is no refuge from age, or circumstance

Thus as well as being the place where we can find the ever present love of the risen Christ Jesus

It can also be the place of the crucifixion of Christ and the lifelong challenge

Jesus asks

What did you go out into the wilderness to see?

What are you prepared to see?

Many do not want to see beyond the TV screen, producing smiling celebrity, creating drama to divert from lived reality, advertising expectations to lure in the cash and complacent conformity.

Are you only prepared to see what is agreeable? The comfort of the apparently happy. The submission to the norm as dictated by fashion or convention. The introduction to join the crowd and leave thinking and decisions to others.

This is Advent are you looking or hiding behind what all the others seem to say.

You are more than just one of the crowd.

Jesus asks

What did you go out into the wilderness to see?

What are you prepared to see?

Many of you must make the difficult decisions. But for the greater part those in comfort can avoid the inconvenience of choice. Income that covers the basics of existence. The heating paid. The weekly shop managed. Relationships established.

However should sickness come then there must be choices. Crisis, usually within family disturbs the pattern of day to day existence. Change is inevitable. So do you wait for circumstance to remove all the other possibilities? Do you rely upon others to remove your responsibility. Do you blame the world and bury your head in desperation.

This is Advent are you deciding or hiding behind your fears

You are a disciple of Christ chosen to make decisions

Chosen to take the risk and choose.

Jesus asks

What did you go out into the wilderness to see?

What are you prepared to see?

Most of us would prefer the easy answers

Black and white, Right and wrong.

Enough for a child preparing for their first confession, but not for you.

Do we administer heroine to a dying person. Is this pain relief or euthanasia.

Do I confront the person drinking too much, or keep the peace.

Do I act upon my health, or push through to potential collapse.

Do I support the killing in the Ukraine, or capitulate

Do I know what the answer is?

This is Advent a time to consider questions posed by life, circumstance, change, responsibility.

To recognise that there is not always an easy answer

You are a disciple of Christ Chosen like St Peter to try, potentially to fail, and to try again.

Chosen to take the risk and act with faith upon uncertainty.

This is Advent

As members of the faith of Christ crucified and risen

Now is a time to seek wisdom

Even when it is uncomfortable.