

## **Reflections on 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent. 25A.**

*Mass: Isaiah 2:1-5; Psalm 121; Romans 13:11-14; Matthew 24:37-44.*

Today's readings provide a desire and vision of peace for humankind. Remembering that the word 'peace' translates the Hebrew 'shalom'. Shalom means, literally, may all your broken pieces be brought together. It does not just mean our usual English sense of all things being ok and everything is nice and peace-full! Bringing the broken bits together is like trying to bring a shattered leg back together, it is painful. The world has sought peace from time immemorial. Often this has been through violence, war and oppression. From Putin's war against Ukraine, intended to strengthen Russia against the West, to slavery and racial injustice or apartheid, intended to protect or sustain white supremacy. The Gospel tells us that only by coming to God can we find and reach true peace. The gift of peace is true community living and through the Body of Christ, his Church, that true community can be found. That of course is the Church's task, to be at the centre of community. It is Christ who is the source of peace, but we need to prepare for his coming into our lives. We begin a new year in the liturgy with God asking us to be aware and awake to our calling as Christians to realise the Church as the House of God, the source of Peace. Above all to allow Christ the healer into our broken world.