



29 November 2009

Dear Parishioners,

In his poem “Mystery”, Cardinal Basil Hume writes:

**The meaning of things, and their purpose,  
Is in part now hidden  
But shall in the end become clear.  
The choice is between  
The Mystery and the absurd.  
To embrace the Mystery  
Is to discover the real.  
It is to walk towards the light...**

Advent is that time set aside when, once again, we are given the chance to “embrace the Mystery”. It is this choice that gives life purpose and meaning for, without an awareness of the Mystery God is, life seems rather absurd. Without the Mystery God is, this mad rush to buy and to decorate, to prepare the way for Christmas, doesn’t make much sense at all. Perhaps this is why many tend to feel let-down and in a funk afterwards: when the focus is on the ‘stuff’ rather than the Mystery behind it all.

The primary symbol of Advent is light. Each week, a candle is lit on the advent wreath to urge us toward the light and to that illuminating hope God is. In the Mystery of Christ, we see that God is One-with-us to the end; One who continues to shine out within our darkened world. In a simple child-like manner, and by the gift of flame, Advent announces that God is more real than any darkness, shame or fear.

May we keep this Advent and not let it slip by unnoticed. Let us embrace the Mystery and walk towards the light...

Sincerely,

*Father Tim Clark*