

Donnybrook

10 November 2021

Welcome

The Advent candles mark the countdown to Christmas, reminding us that Advent is a season of waiting. We wait and hope and pray.

Topic

Perhaps we do not always remember that God is also waiting in this season, waiting on our response.

Steps

On the eight of December, the story of the annunciation portrayed a key moment: Mary's response. God does not impose but calls and invites. This is the meaning of our two readings today.

In the Gospel, Jesus evokes the image of a grumpy child at play who cannot be pleased. The other children try various tacks but nothing seems to work. Those who will not be please will not bel pleased. The double image is explained as a reference to the austere figure of the Baptist and the more convivial, relaxed figure of Jesus. Neither seemed to be able to attract the people of the day.

The first reading is similar. God is a lavish giver and a lavish lover. The only thing holding him back is the human heart. The reading even evokes the ancient blessing of Abraham:

If only you had been alert to my commandments,
your happiness would have been like a river,
your integrity like the waves of the sea.
Your children would have been numbered like the sand,
your descendants as many as its grains.

Conclusion

The offer is always on the table. God is waiting for us to open our hearts to his gifts of grace and love.