

A night scene in a snowy landscape. A caravan of people on camels and horses is moving across the snow. The sky is dark and filled with stars. A large white circle is centered in the upper half of the image, containing the text "MY DAILY VISITOR".

MY
DAILY
VISITOR

ADVENT 2022



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Fr. Patrick Mary Briscoe, OP

Aleteia + 

COMPANIONS ON YOUR JOURNEY OF FAITH

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Sign up for a free newsletter to be notified whenever a new video is posted, and enjoy additional content for your Advent journey.

Advent Prayer of Saint John Paul II to the Virgin Mary

May the Virgin Mary help us to open the doors of our hearts to Christ, redeemer of man and of history; may she teach us to be humble, because God looks upon the lowly; may she enable us to grow in understanding the value of prayer, of inner silence, of listening to God's Word; may she spur us to seek God's will deeply and sincerely, even when this upsets our plans; may she encourage us while we wait for the Lord, sharing our time and energies with those in need.

Mother of God, Virgin of expectation, grant that the God-who-comes will find us ready to receive the abundance of his mercy. May Mary Most Holy, Woman of the Eucharist and Virgin of Advent, prepare us all to joyfully welcome Christ's coming and to celebrate worthily his sacramental presence in the mystery of the Eucharist.



WHAT DO WE ACTUALLY HOPE FOR?

Hope can be a troublesome word. Not troublesome because it's bad. Maybe *confusing* is what I mean? Yes, that's better.

Hope can be a confusing word, because it has so many meanings. We use hope casually in our day-to-day conversations. We say: "I hope my Amazon order comes today." "I hope dinner is good." "I hope no one notices I spilled coffee on myself at work."

We use *hope* to express a myriad of things we want to see come about. And here's what I think is the odd thing: We use *hope* regardless of whether we're looking toward something relatively inconsequential or something of cosmic significance. I find myself saying both: "I hope the TSA line at the airport moves quickly," and "I hope Jesus comes back tomorrow."

So what's the problem? If the word *hope* can convey both something small and something great, it's easy to lose sight of its meaning. Pope Benedict XVI taught: "We need the greater and lesser hopes that keep us going day by day. But these are not enough without the great hope, which must surpass everything else." To understand hope, we have to be able to differentiate "mouse hopes" from "elephant hopes." We have to sort through what hope means.

For Christians, the "great hope" can have only one meaning. The highest and purest and ultimate hope is God, who created and redeems us.

What do we actually hope for? In the most proper sense of the word then, we hope to be with him.

NOVEMBER 27, 2022

First Sunday of Advent

Matthew 24:37–44

Reflect We begin the holy season of Advent by contemplating the end times. This theme might seem off-putting to us. Thinking of the apocalypse doesn't easily harmonize with the nostalgic and warm feelings of the holiday season. But here we are, beginning Advent, with Jesus warning us: "Stay awake! For you do not know on which day your Lord will come" (Mt 24:42). And yet with a second glance we can see just how appropriate it is. As we begin Advent we begin a new liturgical year. We begin again the special time of preparation, preparing for the graces the Lord will give at Christmas, but also preparing in a deeper way for his coming again in glory.

Pray Lord Jesus, make the words of the prophet my own: "Come, let us walk in the light of the LORD!" (Is 2:5). May I live every day more radiantly in your light. Amen.

Live Today, set up an Advent wreath in your home. Light the first candle and take a moment to think of Jesus' words in today's Gospel.



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