

*Marie Louise,
Woman of Waiting and Hope*



In her early years in the poorhouse at Poitiers Marie Louise lived a very insecure life eagerly waiting for Montfort's infrequent visits. Fr Besnard tells us in no uncertain terms: 'Montfort left her without a guide, without consolation, without any resources to speak of. Her status as a religious is not regularised. She wore a habit worn by no one else as yet. She was superior of a congregation that would not exist for years. She would be vulnerable...with no one to turn to in times of adversity, no one to guide her initiatives or to see to her needs'. Yet in the waiting she continued to live in hope, never thinking of herself but always being of compassionate service to poor people in the Poitiers poorhouse thereby sowing the seeds of the future congregation .

*I see, my dear Daughters,
in God's decrees
a seedbed of Daughters of Wisdom.*

Fr Besnard / Marie Louise p 81

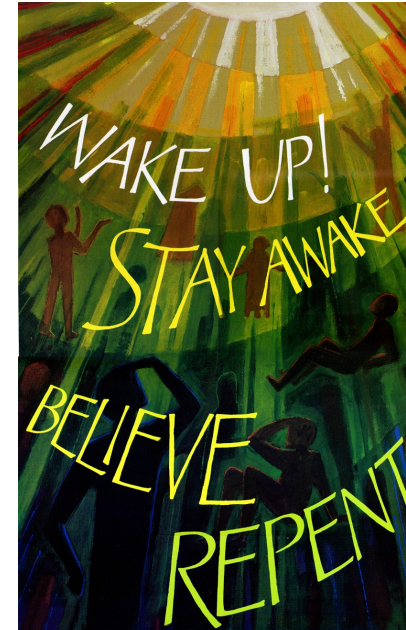
This Advent what can we learn from Marie Louise, a woman of faith and amazing hope? Following in her footsteps let us be witnesses to hope in this time of waiting! Let us go forth sowing seeds of hope each day! **Today, amid so much darkness, we need to see the light of hope and to be women and men who bring hope to others. To protect creation, to look upon all peoples with tenderness and love, is to open up a horizon of hope; it is to let a shaft of light break through the clouds; it is to bring the warmth of hope to all!**



Pope Francis Evangelii Gaudium

*What I say to you I say to all:
Stay Awake!*

Mark 13:37



*Our faithfulness to the Gospel
animates us so as to bring about
the advent of God
in the heart of the universe.*

RL 4

First Sunday of Advent 2020

*We are waiting for our
Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed.*

Mark 13:37

On the first Sunday of Advent a cry goes out to all the people of God: you must wake up now and **Stay Awake! The time has come!** Advent is the great season of waiting for the coming of the Lord Jesus at Christmas and for His coming at the end of time. Today's Collect reminds us that **'we must be resolved to run forth to meet Christ'**. Advent is thus a time of anticipation, waiting, hope, listening and watchfulness that calls us to return to God and believe in His faithfulness and love and who will never give up on us for

*Lord, you are our Father;
we the clay, you the potter,
we are all the work of your hand.*

Isaiah 63:8

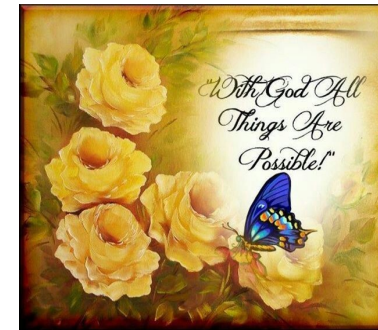
Advent offers us both assurance and challenge. We are assured of the Lord's coming but also challenged to consider how we prepare for the Lord's coming. What are we waiting for? Are we living day-to-day in such a way that we are ready when He comes? We all know that waiting of any kind can be difficult and this year has been a troubled time of waiting worldwide for an end to the pandemic which has caused much suffering. As we wait, Advent calls us to persevere on our faith journey, to never give up, for God remains faithful to His promises.



The witness to Christ is indeed strong among you

1 Cor 1:3-9

Our Christian hope is a strong theme of Advent which finds expression in St Paul's letter to the Corinthians when he writes about the graces they have received and how they witness to Christ **'while waiting for the Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed'**. As we affirm that Christ has come, that He is present in our world today and will come again, how can I witness to hope this Advent? Take some moments to quietly reflect on how I can practise patient, hopeful waiting in my daily life and relationships.



As winter days darken we long for the light and today's Gospel reminds us to be alert and awake to the Lord's continual presence among us and within us day and night. In a sometimes dark world we seek the light. As witnesses to Christ this Advent St Paul reminds us to **'shine like bright stars among the people of this world'**. (Phil 2:15) **Can I be that bright star for others?**

*My soul is waiting for the Lord,
I count on his Word.
My soul is longing for the Lord
for with the Lord there is mercy
and fullness of redemption.*

Psalms 130