

**Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> November 2021**



Greetings my dear brothers and sisters to you and your families.

This week we begin our season of Advent. A quiet time of personal reflection, preparation and waiting for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Reflection is an interesting notion. We can do this before something or we can do this retrospectively. The insights we gain from reflection can be life changing and they can often change our hearts and minds. As we enter this season as a family and one Church, we can do much to prepare ourselves mentally and spiritually.

This week as we begin to focus our minds on the birth of Christ, I invite you to reflect on this story below:

A Dish of Ice Cream

In the days when an ice cream sundae cost much less, a 10 year old boy entered a hotel coffee shop and sat at a table. A waitress put a glass of water in front of him.

“How much is an ice cream sundae?”

“£1.50” replied the waitress.

The little boy pulled his hand out of his pocket and studied a number of coins in it.

“How much is a dish of plain ice cream?” he inquired. Some people were now waiting for a table and the waitress was a bit impatient.

“£1” she said brusquely.

The little boy again counted the coins. “I’ll have the plain ice cream,” he said.

The waitress brought the ice cream, put the bill on the table and walked away. The boy finished the ice cream, paid the cashier and departed.

When the waitress came back, she began wiping down the table and then swallowed hard at what she saw.

There, placed neatly beside the empty dish, was 50 pence – her tip.

This is a simple story that requires no explanation. Perhaps we can all reflect on this and consider where there is haste on our lives and the little acts of kindness that surround us every day! This week my message is 'Think before you Act'.

May your advent week be blessed. We remain forever united in love and prayer for one another.

Yours,

Rev Fr Nicholas Nwanzi