

My first Advent Message:

As we enter into Advent and prepare for the 1st coming of Jesus the King, the church, at the end of Ordinary Time, took our Mass readings from St. John's Revelation (last book in the Bible), and The Gospel of St. Luke. Both used language that sounded like the "End of the World," at the 2nd Coming of Jesus.

Remember this "end of the world" language found in New Testament Books such as Revelation, and the Gospels; language such as rumors of wars, signs in the sky, kingdoms falling, earthquakes and famines should not be read only in the "future tense."

The Church has taught from the beginning that we see this same language and imagery in the Old Testament. It is not always associated with the END OF THE WORLD. It also refers to past powerful kingdoms that have also passed away. Such as the Old Testament Kingdoms of Egypt, Assyria and Babylon. Or more recently the Kingdoms of the Greeks, the Romans, and the USSR. These old and present-day kingdoms, with their rumors of war and famine, too shall pass away. To one day be replaced by Jesus' kingdom to come.

This language is to remind us to live for Jesus Christ in the moment, and to submit to His Divine Will for us and our families each and every day. The end will come, but during the period of the church, during these rumors of wars and kingdoms, Jesus wants us to be with Him each moment of each and every day.

To prepare for the end of this world:

Everything we are building on earth: careers, families, wealth, retirement, the good and bad—they too will pass away. It does not mean we should not continue to build and enjoy these good things in the present, but we should place them all under the Divine Lordship of Christ the King. This is a powerful and liberating thing to do as we prepare for the coming of the Lord—

at His birth, His daily Sacramental Presence in our lives, and His future coming at the end of human time.

**Vivat Jesus,
Father Vic Gournas**