



### **FATHER ANTON'S WORDS OF WISDOM:**

Christmas is now less than a month away and if you're anything like me you're asking yourself: where did the time go? As I get older it seems that time seems to go by quicker, and oftentimes life seems like one big blur. As we anticipate the celebration of LOVE incarnated in the person of Jesus, I think all of us need to slow down a bit, myself included, and contemplate the miracle that we remember year after year. The readings through Advent help us to call to mind what is most important in our lives and how we can "re-centre" ourselves with the "Ground of our Being - God". Unless we allow ourselves to have the "God experience" we will never fully know just how much we are loved, nurtured and celebrated. We have heard in the readings since the beginning of the Pre-Christmas

Fast sage advice that is really not that difficult to understand or to practice - all we need is the will to do so. We are told to deal with ourselves and others with humility and patience, learning to be tolerant of others and our perception of their shortcomings. We are asked to live lives united in the love of God through each other. (Ephesians: 4: 1-6) We are reminded that all that is expected of you and me is that we "love our God with all our hearts, all our souls and all our minds, and that we love others as we love ourselves." We are also told that we are all God's children regardless of the colour of our skin, our lifestyle, our religion, and whether we are rich or poor or in between. We are called through Christ to be servants of one another, and recognizing that in helping another, regardless how much or how little; we are to see in them the divine. (Luke 10: 25-3) We are also told to be careful where we lay our treasure. So often we use "things" to fill a void in our life that can only be filled by God. Things give us pleasure for a few moments and eventually we are looking for something more; but when we invite God to share our life he will always be our "enough." (Luke 12: 16-21) We know then that to achieve all of these wonderful gifts we must be aware of our lives. We must know what to celebrate and what

to change in order that the God experience is possible. We must fill our lives with truth, justice, the gospel of peace which is nurtured by faith. (Ephesians: 6: 10-17) We must also have a faith that is unwavering; knowing that our encounter with Jesus will change our lives of forever. We will come to understand that there is no right or wrong time to speak out against injustice, or to assist someone in need: now is the time! (Luke 13: 10-17) We must always reach far within ourselves to discover the Jesus within in order that we may reach out to others and discover the Jesus that walks among us. Christmas is the celebration of "God with Us!", and Advent, when properly observed is a joyful anticipation of remembering that first Christmas; when love embraced humanity, the world, and all that was in it, lifting us up as holy, and allowing us to experience the love of a God that is so great, that it has no boundaries. That love was, is, and continues to be unconditional, ever flowing and life giving.

**Let us pray: Loving God, we anticipate the celebration of your entering human history and sharing our lives; not just our burdens and sorrows, but also our joy. As we prepare for the celebration of the Miracle of Christmas once more, help us to empty ourselves of all that would prevent your love to overflow from within us, so that through us, that same love may be experienced by another. Amen.**