

**November 27, 2022**

**Father Ed's Sunday Reading**  
**(continued)**

**27 Nov 2022 –**

**1st Sunday in Advent, A**

Our response should be not fear, but awe and wonder. John Betjamen has expressed it beautifully in this Christmas poem:

'Is it true? and is it true,  
this most tremendous tale of all,  
a baby in an ox's stall?  
The Maker of the stars and sea  
become a child on earth for me,  
that God was man in Palestine  
and lives today in bread and wine.'

Let's imagine ourselves in that stable on the first Christmas night. See there a girl from Nazareth with her quiet husband and a new baby. Then go up to Jerusalem and tell the priests what you saw. Say that helpless, newborn baby is the Anointed One, the long awaited Messiah, the Son of God. They would think you were out of your mind; they would accuse you of blasphemy; they would tell you that God is not like that. They have studied the scriptures and they know God cannot be small and vulnerable like that. But the Son of God has chosen to come among us just like that.

That is the great, joyful surprise of our faith. The presence of God among us is not what we expect, not where we expect.

That's how we miss it. As we begin Advent, we are invited not to miss the amazing gift of God.

Be awake and look for God in the most unlikely places. Find God's call to our goodwill in the doorway where the homeless sleep. Look for God's presence where refugees are corralled. Grace is present not only in comfortable places and spaces! God is looking out from the wrinkled faces of senior citizens. It's great to be alive and wide-eyed like a child, at the beginning of our new year of grace. We can welcome this time of Advent with a heartfelt céad míle fáilte [one hundred thousand welcomes]