

## FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Brothers and Sisters

Did you ever lose your keys? In the Advent Liturgy there is a prayer which speaks about a key. It is a remarkable prayer.

“O Key of David, what you open no one else can ever close again! What you close no one can open! O Key of David, come to lead the captives from prison! Free all those in darkness and in the shadow of death!”

The ‘Key of David’ is Our Lord Jesus Christ. He can open a door before us that no other key can open; a door that leads to new hope and peace, to truth and integrity, to purity and love.

And he can close and lock behind us the door through which fear and anxiety, bitterness and remorse, guilt and shame, have so often entered our lives, sometimes making our lives hell.

He can close the door firmly in the face of so much from our past, our history that comes to accuse us and mock us, to haunt us and humiliate us; and all the lies we have fed on and believed.

He can set us free from our captivity and slavery; from all the things that chain us and imprison us; from those dungeons where we sit in terrible loneliness or dark despair, often hating ourselves.

He can rescue us from the solitary confinement of our selfishness and greed; and from everything that prevents us from going out in love, compassion and friendship to others.

Jesus Christ, the 'Key of David', can break the hold that evil has on us, the tight grip of our repeated moral lapses, our sexual sins, our laziness and indifference, our cunning and hypocrisy.

He can help us to rise above the strange compulsive needs that our ego often inflicts on us; the addictions that seem to dominate us. He can purify our sordid desires and calm the heat of our crazy and sometimes violent thoughts; and all our disordered urges and passions.

Christ can conquer death in us; the death we daily experience when we want to escape and deny the truth about our lives; or to run away from the responsibilities we know are ours in the family, or work.

If we have lost the Key of David, Advent helps us to find it.

It can be found in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

The Church calls us, encourages us, and urges us, to make a simple and sincere confession of our sins; without fear, without anxiety. And to place our lives under the gaze of God's love and mercy.

How long since our last confession? Weeks? Months? Years? It does not matter. What does matter is that we take this opportunity now.

It is a very great gift of God to you. Do not let this opportunity pass you by.

Because of the pandemic we cannot have our usual Advent Deanery Reconciliation Service, however, there is still an opportunity for us to avail ourselves of this Sacrament of God's mercy.

Every Saturday a priest is in the Church parking lot for Confession. He will be in his car, parked near the back fence, from 1:00 – 2:00pm. Drive up, park 6ft away, turn the ignition key off, and turn the Key of David on: lower your window, and confess from your car. There are also socially distanced confessions in the Church on Saturdays from 4:30 – 5:00pm; and we are always available for confession on request - we can come to your house, and do a socially distanced confession on your doorstep.

You can confess in English, Italian, Spanish, or Swahili. The 'Key of David' will be turned in your favor.

Fr. Sean