

Convent 2015

Friends, Rock or Sand? Today's reading from the Gospel of St Matthew is about building firm foundations for the future. One of the great foundation stones of our Advent preparation is Repentance.

Advent calls each one of us to live a life of repentance, not regret.

There are many people who cling to memories of past sins, holding on to guilt and shame, reliving things long ago confessed, as though they happened yesterday. They struggle with regrets, often revisiting shame as though they were archeologists, digging for historical artifacts that must be preserved.

Such is not the case with God, for His interest is not in our past, but in our future. Advent is all about the future! Confessed sins are counted as nothing, for God looks with interest on the transformed heart that has been made anew, with contrition. God looks to our future, for His loving mercy is upon the person who have confessed their sin, and that sin is counted as nothing. "Though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as wool", so says Isaiah. God is interested in what we are doing with our future, and as a loving Father takes pleasure in the steps we take in our journey towards Him.

For us to constantly look back is to reject the very role of confession, for if we cling to past regrets, we are rejecting the very meaning of repentance, which means a change of heart and taking a direction that is all about the future.

Transformation is not something that happens in an instant, but is a life-long journey towards holiness, and as long as we look to the future with hope, transformation of the heart continues, and our past becomes but a fading memory.