



Vox Populi

10 December 2025

This Sunday, December 14, the Church celebrates Gaudete Sunday, the third Sunday of Advent.

Gaudete is Latin for "rejoice", a reference to Saint Paul's words in the Letter to the Philippians where it says: "Rejoice in the Lord always; again, I will say, Rejoice... The Lord is at hand" (Phil 4:4-5).

Pope Benedict XVI said this joy at God's closeness was not only about a nearness to Christ's return or to Christmas, but rather a closeness of His love.

"The Church, illuminated by the Holy Spirit, already at that time understood increasingly better that God's 'closeness' is not a question of space and time but rather of love: love brings people together," he said.

"This coming Christmas will remind us of this fundamental truth of our faith and in front of the manger we shall be able to savour Christian joy contemplating in the newborn Jesus the Face of God who made himself close to us out of love."

In several churches, vestments and altar clothes will change from violet to rose, and the rose-coloured candle of the Advent wreath will be lit. The change in colour is a sign of joy, moving from the penitential violet to the more vibrant rose.

In the middle of this penitential season, this Sunday offers us a glimpse at the nearing celebration of Christmas, when God was made flesh and became man.