



Advent meditation 26 by Father Robbie Low

## ADVENT XXVI

Being people of the New Covenant we instinctively react to any mention of 'keys' by looking to Peter. And we are right to do so. Jesus' commissioning of Peter, on the strength of Peter's confession of Faith, deliberately and pointedly involves the gift of the keys. Jesus is referencing a passage in Isaiah ch.22. Let me explain.

The steward of the royal household wore the key on his shoulder. It was more than the sign of office. It was the key that could open or lock the palace and the power to grant audience with the king. It was both a security issue and an access issue. The bearer of the keys had to be a man of absolute integrity and trust, utterly dedicated to the interests of his master. (In the Isaiah text an incompetent and therefore untrustworthy steward is being replaced.)

The key – bearer has the devolved authority which he must exercise in accordance with the Master's wishes. They are a sign of authority, the royal command. Christ, therefore, is once again rehearsed as the ultimate bearer of the chosen and eternal dynasty. Exit, entry and access depend on the keys. Not for nothing does Jesus declare, 'I am the way, the truth and the life- no man comes to the Father but by me'. The keys of His kingdom he hands to Peter, to the foundation of the Church. The will of the Lord and of the Steward(s) of the mysteries of Christ must be as one. The Church, in the person of Peter, bears a massive

responsibility. Well, you may say, God help a dodgy Pope. And you would be right but it is deeper than that. We are the Church too. How we handle the keys, the access to Jesus, the security of the Kingdom, the clarity of God's Word and Will are vital.

Spiritual exercise:

How do I make Jesus accessible to those who don't know Him?

Am I a good steward? How do I defend the Kingdom and spread its sway?