

ADVENT WEEK ONE

The season of Advent is in terms of the Church a season of preparation.
But not the preparation only of shopping and planning and arranging choirs or
readers.

There is meant to be a more spiritual aspect to our preparation.

But do we have time for spirituality.
Can we in our busy world find the time for reflection. How in the midst of the panic
of the everyday do we find the time to be aware, to be awake to the beauty of life.

Stay awake because you do not know the day.

They had been preparing for the wedding for over two years. There had already been
tears shed in frustration concerning flowers, and invitations, and Hen parties, and
place cards.

She had managed to deal with all that.

Then on the actual day they all seemed to go on about the weather. The cars were late.
One of the little bridesmaids split ice cream given by Dad down her front.
As she entered the Church there was panic in case she cried and mascara ran down her
face.

As she made the promises she focused so much upon her pronunciation that she
blocked out what she was saying.

The reception was easier apart from worrying about the seating arrangement, and the
scowling expression on Auntie Josie's face.

When eventually she went to bed to tired for romance she realised that she could
actually remember very little of the day.

She had wound herself up so much about the whole event that she herself had to all
intents and purpose missed it.

The most beautiful day of her life had passed her by in a cloud of blind panic.

So stay awake because you do not know the day

He turned to his diary and wondered where the two weeks had gone.
How long had he looked forward to that period when he was going to do all those
things

Spend at last time with the kids
Get the odd niggling house chore finished
He was going to read that book
He was going to go for meals
He was going to enjoy

He had built up to this time
Cramming in extra tasks

Excusing his family duties with this two week holiday promise

Then for the first week he had pretty much slept, and in the second week panicked.

For all that time at work he had been in a coma of delusion

Believing that he could make up for months of neglect by weeks of holiday

So stay awake because you do not know the day

Growth of children Don't miss it Stay awake
Your own youth Don't miss it Stay awake
The joy of your home Don't miss it Stay Awake
Your good health Don't miss it Stay awake
The love of your parents
The money in your pocket
Four months at the top of the championship
The laughter of relationship
The summer evenings
The chance to share
The wonderful nature of change Don't miss it Stay awake

To be Quiet takes time
To truly reflect takes energy
To be awake to reality takes meditation and discipline

So stay awake

Don't miss your life

Stay awake