

Ministry Update



A Newsletter for clergy, parish sisters and staff,
and all involved in ministry in the parish,
from Kildare and Leighlin Faith Development Services

Advent 2020

Stepping into Advent Together – An Invitation from Bishop Denis

Bishop Denis and the Diocesan Commission Liturgical Formation are inviting people across the diocese to begin the Advent journey with him in a moment of prayer and a spirit of hope.

The Bishop will lead a livestreamed service of music, prayer, scripture and reflections at **7:30pm on Sunday, November 29** from the Cathedral of the Assumption, Carlow.

You can access this livestream on the **iCatholic Facebook page** <https://facebook.com/iCatholic>

and the **KANDLE Facebook page** as well as on the **YouTube channel** <https://youtube.com/c/icatholicplayer>

Please have an individual candle ready to light and to hold during this service.

See page 4 of this bulletin for a prayer for use within the liturgy.

In the words of Bishop Denis, *'together let us wait in hope, let us turn down the dial and be gentle with one another and ourselves as we prepare in the strangest of times to welcome Jesus, Emmanuel, among us.'*



Keeping Advent in the Home



Diocesan Resources for the season of Advent

- All resources mentioned below will be available from the Advent page on www.kandle.ie
- Parishes will receive a **weekly 2 page e-bulletin**, **'Waiting in Hope'** for the four Sundays of Advent to share with parishioners. This contains interesting Advent material including blessings for the home, a weekly gospel link, looking to an Advent hymn and to an Advent tradition each week, and lots more!
- Fr Liam Lawton has prepared this year's Advent **weekly scripture sharing** material. This can be done alone or as a family or as part of a group. Parish groups might consider using zoom as a way of coming together to reflect on the Sunday readings.
- **Short videos** on preparing a **family prayer space** in Advent and the making and blessing of an **Advent wreath** are also available with thanks to the youth groups in Naas and Newbridge parishes.
- A **family prayer** for each of the four weeks of Advent.

A timely Advent resource and an invite to a launch from one of our own!

'Advent News Too Good to Keep' is a thought-provoking selection of scripture readings and reflections designed to accompany the reader through the season of Advent. This accessible and practical guide, which also includes inspirational quotations and questions to prompt the reader to effect change in their day-to-day lives, is the perfect companion for this essential period in the Church calendar.

The author, Gerard Gallagher, is a pastoral coordinator in the Archdiocese of Dublin and has worked in youth and young adult ministry for over twenty-five years. He is also very active in his home parish of Naas-Sallins-Two Mile House and we, in the diocese, are delighted to congratulate Gerard on this publication.

If you wish to get a copy of Gerard's book it can be ordered at the following link at a price of €7.99.

<https://www.veritasbooksonline.com/advent-news-too-good-to-keep-9781847309792-46126/>



Facing the challenges of this Christmas in the parish - we are in this together

While many people will join in the celebration of Christmas Masses remotely, we earnestly hope that as many as possible will be able to gather in their local church to celebrate the great feast of Christmas together. In order to be able to do this safely, with all the necessary health measures and precautions, parishes will need more assistance than ever this year.

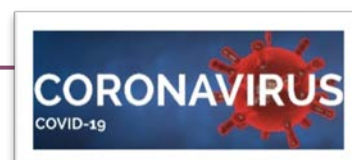
Can you help your parish this year? Can you ask others to offer their help? Parishes will likely need assistance in stewarding, cleaning and sanitising, preparing the Church decorations, as well as in the normal liturgical ministries, e.g. Readers and Ministers of Holy Communion. Parishes are also under great financial pressure as they make their preparations for Christmas. We are in this together and this task is too great to leave to a handful of parishioners. What help does your parish need? What can you do to help make Christmas special and safe this year in your parish?

Notice for Choir Directors

Choir directors might be interested in this event on December 3rd from 6-7:30 pm. This 8th, free, Sing Ireland webinar will bring people together from across the group singing community, to share what they have tried and are doing in their choirs under current circumstances.

Luke O'Neill will begin the webinar by speaking about the international progress on vaccines and the future trajectory of the pandemic. This will give valuable insight into the potential timelines for singing groups and face to face singing.

Attendance is free but must be registered in advance. You can register via the following link: <https://www.singireland.ie/news/group-singing-during-pandemic>



Online Advent Scripture Course

"Resilient faith: Advent spirituality for a time of pandemic."

For those interested in digging deeper into the Advent scriptures and Advent spirituality for the times we are living in, then you might be interested in this 6 video series that can be viewed in your own time, concluding with a live webinar on 10 December.

The three presenters are highly experienced and popular presenters in the field of scripture. This initiative is following on from the very successful summer school.

If you want to register you can do so at the following link:
<https://form.jotform.com/203044927209958>



The six video presentations
will be available online from 23 November onwards.

1) *Praying the Psalms in Advent: (two videos)*

Honest prayers when life is hard

Jessie Rogers

2) *Reading Mark in Advent: (two videos)*

Wakefulness in Winter as We Attend to the Gift

Sean Goan

3) *Learning from Paul: (two videos)*

Holding on to the word of life (Phil 2:16)

Kieran J. O'Mahony OSA

Webinar date

Webinar: 10 December 7.30 pm

Cost €20

*(per household for online all access to
six video presentations and one online webinar)*

Interactive Advent Calendar from Bishops' Conference

This online Advent Calendar will go live
on Sunday 29 November - the First
Sunday of Advent. The *theme for this
year's calendar is hope*. Click on a door
each day for a wealth of prayer
resources, reflections and Advent
inspiration.

If we let Christ into our lives, we lose
nothing, nothing, absolutely nothing of
what makes life free, beautiful, and
great. No! Only in this friendship are the
doors of life opened wide. Only in this
friendship is the great potential of
human existence truly revealed.

— Pope Benedict XVI —



Advent Calendar 2020



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 29 Nov	2 30 Nov	3 01 Dec	4 02 Dec	5 03 Dec	6 04 Dec	7 05 Dec
8 06 Dec	9 07 Dec	10 08 Dec	11 09 Dec	12 10 Dec	13 11 Dec	14 12 Dec
15 13 Dec	16 14 Dec	17 15 Dec	18 16 Dec	19 17 Dec	20 18 Dec	21 19 Dec
22 20 Dec	23 21 Dec	24 22 Dec	25 23 Dec	26 24 Dec	Nativity of Our Lord	

Pope's Intention for December

Each year, the Holy Father asks for our prayers for a specific intention each month. You are invited to answer the Holy Father's request and to join with many people worldwide in praying for this intention each month.

For a Life of Prayer

We pray that our personal relationship with Jesus Christ be nourished by the Word of God and a life of prayer.

Diocesan Carol Service Radio Broadcast



A Diocesan Carol Service in the company of Bishop Denis Nulty and Bishop Dermot Farrell - an evening of music, song, prayer and reflection on the Christmas story from the parishes of our two dioceses.

Sunday, 20th December, 8pm live on KCLR 96fm.

Congratulations to all involved.



A SPECIAL INVITATION FROM THE CATHEDRAL PARISH

Parishioners across the whole diocese are invited to join Bishop Denis for a livestream of the Cathedral Parish Carol Service on Sunday, December 20 at 8pm. While many of us will miss our traditional carol services, this promises to be a very special moment of shared hope, joy and song as we approach Christmas.



This service of carols, readings and prayers can be accessed on **iCatholic Facebook page** <https://facebook.com/iCatholic> and

the **KANDLE facebook page**, <https://www.facebook.com/KANDLEi/> as well as on the **YouTube channel** <https://youtube.com/c/icatholicplayer>



Spring Zoom Meetings for Parish Pastoral Councils

In early 2021, the Diocesan Covid Support team will host a series of meetings with representatives from parish pastoral councils to offer councils an opportunity to share how things have been in these past difficult months and share ideas for working as a parish pastoral council into the future.

Look out for more details in the new year!



Advent Music Playlists

If you have access to Spotify, you might like to listen to the following Advent music playlist in the coming weeks – or explore other ones out there!

<https://open.spotify.com/playlist/3GklRyxvODdna523HCMUbA>

Looking out for one another this Advent

In the coming days may we continue to be patient and to care for one another, as we navigate these strange days. May we especially look after the most vulnerable and needy among us.

Please remember and support, as you can, the work of so many incredible charities here in Ireland, including St Vincent de Paul, Trócaire, the Samaritans, the Peter McVerry Trust, Focus Ireland, Pieta House and our local food share charities in Newbridge, Graiguecullen and Portlaoise parishes, to name but a few.



Prayer for Advent liturgy – Waiting in Hope

Lord, the light I choose to let into my life today
is based on my hope in you.
It is a small flame, but I believe that it can dispel a bit more
darkness this night.
I join this flame to the flames that are lighting
in homes across our diocese
for it is through us that Christ's light will shine,
in the midst of the struggles and cares of the world. Amen.

