

Come, Lord Jesus

Lord of Hope

An Advent bulletin for the home
Week One: 28 November 2021

The Prayer of Advent: Come, Lord Jesus

The traditional prayer of Advent '*Come, Lord Jesus*' brings us straight to the heart of what this season is about. The word 'Advent' stems from the Latin 'Adventus,' meaning 'coming' or 'arrival'. It speaks to our yearning for the presence of Jesus in our lives and to a deep down recognition for the need of this presence above all things.

At the beginning of a new Church year, over the Four Sundays of the Advent season we ready ourselves for the joy of Christmas when we remember and commemorate the birth of Christ. But Advent is also about preparing ourselves for His second coming. We are reminded of this second coming in many phrases that we hear or say at Mass, for example 'as we look forward to his second coming', 'when he comes again in glory', 'as we await the blessed hope and the coming of our Saviour'. This second coming is a central theme from the beginning of Advent right up to the 17th December. At that point, our attention and preparation shifts more to the commemoration of His first coming on the feast of the Nativity.

And yet as we prepare to remember his coming at Christmas and to anticipate his Second Coming, we also recognise that the risen Christ is always coming to us. In these Advent days, Jesus, 'God with us', the Lord who is HOPE, PEACE, JOY & LOVE, reaches out to us and walks with us. As we journey through these days are we ready to welcome him again and again into our life? Are we ready to pray *Maranatha! Come, Lord Jesus!*

POPE FRANCIS - "*Advent is a continuous call to hope. It reminds us that God is present in history to lead it to its ultimate goal and to its fullness, which is the Lord Jesus Christ. God is present in the history of humanity, He is the 'God-with-us', He walks beside us to support us.*"

A Suggestion for the Home

Why not create a prayer space in your home for Advent? You might like to make your own **Advent wreath** or have a special Advent candle to use in the prayer space, including perhaps purple coloured cloth/ribbons and evergreens. **You'll find a short video on creating an Advent prayer space on kandle.ie.**

An Advent Tradition for Church and Home:



THE ADVENT WREATH

The advent wreath has a rich meaning. The **circle** of the wreath, with no beginning or end, symbolises the eternity of God. The **evergreen** reminds us of the everlasting life we have in Christ while any pine cones or pods in the wreath represent new life and resurrection.

The **four candles** represent the four Sundays of Advent. **Purple** is traditionally a colour of penance and prayer while the **rose** pink candle that is lit on the Third Sunday (Gaudete/Rejoice Sunday) marks our joy as we move ever closer to Christmas.

As you light a candle on your Advent wreath for the first time, pray this prayer of blessing and take a moment to talk to God about how you will journey through Advent this year, alone or as a household. Finish your time of prayer with the Advent prayer: Come, Lord Jesus!

A Blessing Prayer

Loving God,
let your blessing come upon us
as we light this wreath.
May it be a sign of hope for us
as we prepare for your coming
and may it turn our hearts to you
in the days ahead.
Give us your peace and love
as we wait in joyful hope.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

ADVENT THOUGHTS ON...HOPE

*So let us enter Advent in hope,
even hope against hope.
Let us see visions of love and peace and justice.
Let us affirm with humility, with joy, with faith,
with courage: Jesus Christ
-- the Life of the world. [Daniel Berrigan SJ]*

God of light, shine forth, show us how to bring hope to others. God of mercy, help us to comfort your people and share in their joy. God of hope, make us an Advent people, preparing the way for life in all its fullness. Amen. [Catherine Gorman/CAFOD]



Society of St. Vincent de Paul

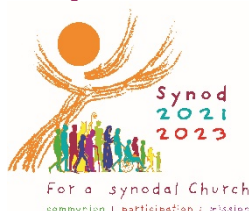
Please remember the vital work of St Vincent de Paul this Advent

SOME ONLINE ADVENT COMPANIONS

Interactive Advent Calendar: This annual popular offering from the Bishops' Conference goes live on November 28. Full of daily prayers and resources for the home, you'll find it at: www.catholicbishops.ie

Advent Music Playlist: Each week we'll share a different playlist of Advent music. This week it's one compiled by the American Liturgical Composer, Tony Alonso. It contains over 10 hours of music and can be accessed on Spotify here: [Advent playlist compiled by Tony Alonso](#)

Pray As You Go Online Audio Advent Retreat - STEPPING BEYOND: A short weekly session available on the Mondays of Advent and inspired by Pope Francis' letter on friendship. The weeks of Advent are a call to a deeper reflection on the life of Jesus as he stepped beyond his world into ours as our companion and friend. Advent is a time to help us prepare to welcome Jesus our Saviour, God made man in Bethlehem, and to hear his call to Step Beyond ourselves. <https://pray-as-you-go.org/article/advent-2021-stepping-beyond>



The Church across the world is in Synod. Pope Francis reminds us of the meaning of the word itself. It is about journeying together, listening to one another with love & respect, & listening to the Holy Spirit alive in our hearts & in our Church. We are called to do this in our parishes, in our communities, in our homes. This Advent let's pray that in the days ahead we will discover more & more how to journey together in faith.

"What the Lord is asking of us is already in some sense present in the very word 'synod'. Journeying together — laity, pastors, the Bishop of Rome — is an easy concept to put into words, but not so easy to put into practice" Pope Francis

What are the Advent Sunday Readings saying to me?

ADVENT SCRIPTURE SHARING

Why not spend time reflecting on the Sunday Scriptures this Advent alone or with others? See www.kandle.ie for our weekly Scripture Sharing Reflections on the Advent Sunday readings. Look out for a local scripture sharing group in your parish. If there isn't one, why not create one yourself and invite others to it?

Many thanks to Sr Kate Cuskelly, Sr Cecilia Molloy, Sr Joan Pierce and Sr Ann Wash for preparing these reflections and prayers.

An Advent Prayer Week One



In Advent we invite you to take a moment before bedtime to light your Advent wreath or candle. Pause and thank God for your Advent day. Bring to God any worries or concerns you may have. Pray this prayer in union with the rest of our diocesan family.

Loving God,
on this Advent night we turn to you in prayer.
As we wait for the coming of your Son,
we ask you to bless our family and all those in
need of your care this night.
Free us from any worry or distress
that we may have
and help us to welcome your light into our lives,
a light that gives us your gift of hope.
May your hope fill our hearts,
our minds and our home.
We ask this through
the One who was, who is and who is to come,
Christ our Lord. **Amen.**
Come, Lord Jesus, Lord of Hope.