

# Come, Lord Jesus

## *Lord of Joy*

An Advent bulletin for the home  
Week Three: 12 December 2021



### Rejoice Sunday & Baminelli

The Third Sunday of Advent is traditionally referred to as Gaudete or Rejoice Sunday. The rose coloured candle we light this day represents this joy, which is echoed in the Entrance Antiphon

of the Mass: 'Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near.'

St John Paul II, began a tradition in Rome that continues today. On this Sunday, children and their families from across Rome come to St Peter's Square, bringing with them the figure of the infant Jesus from their crib. After the Angelus, the children raise up the figures and the Pope blesses them. The day is now also known affectionally as **Baminelli Sunday**, the Italian for babies. In many places the blessed figure is wrapped and placed under the family Christmas tree to be unwrapped and finally placed in the crib at Christmas – reminding us of the first and most important gift of Christmas!

In Advent 2019 Pope Francis once more encouraged families to have a nativity scene or crib in the home. He said that it '*... helps us to relive the history of what took place in Bethlehem. When, at Christmas, we place the statue of the Infant Jesus in the manger, the nativity scene suddenly comes alive. God appears as a child, for us to take into our arms. Beneath weakness and frailty, he conceals his power that creates and transforms all things.*'

**Suggestion for the home** Assemble a crib for your home with hay and the animal figures. As we get closer to Christmas, add the shepherds, Joseph and Mary, leaving the three Magi at a distance from the crib until January 6<sup>th</sup>. On Christmas Eve place the figure of Jesus into the crib and say a prayer together. *Look out for the diocesan prayer card for Christmas 2021 with this and other prayers for the 12 days of Christmas - available on [www.kandle.ie](http://www.kandle.ie)*

### An Advent Tradition The Nativity Scene

In about 1223 AD St Francis wanted to celebrate the feast of Christmas in a new way, helping people to recall the humble surroundings in which Jesus was born (his nativity). In the town of Greccio, near Assisi, with the help of a local landowner he set up a live crib with stable, hay and animals. The local people came at night with torches and candles to celebrate Mass. On seeing the scene they were reminded of God's love for us in sending his only son to be born in the poverty of a manger. St. Francis' initiative at Greccio popularized the making of a Christmas crib in our homes, churches, hospitals, schools and other places.



### A Blessing Prayer by the Family Crib

God of all people,  
from the very beginning of creation  
you have shown us your love:  
when our need for a Saviour was great  
you sent your Son  
to be born of the Virgin Mary.  
To our lives He brings joy and peace, justice,  
mercy, and love.  
Lord, bless our family and all who will look  
upon this crib in the coming days;  
may it remind us of the humble birth of Jesus,  
and lift our thoughts to Him,  
who is God-with-us, our Emmanuel and  
the Saviour of all. Amen.

*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](http://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.**

### SOME ONLINE ADVENT COMPANIONS

**Advent Music Playlist:** If reading a digital copy, click here for this week's Advent play list: [Catholic Advent Hymns and Carols](#) 22 Advent hymns & Carols. See previous bulletins for more playlists.

**Interactive Advent Calendar:** This annual popular offering from the Bishops' Conference is full of daily prayers and resources for the home, you'll find it at: [www.catholicbishops.ie](http://www.catholicbishops.ie)

**Free Daily Prayer App:** Universalis.com does all the calendar calculations for you, and enables you to join in the daily prayer of the Church. Every day it gives you access to the readings of the Mass of the day as well as all the texts for praying the Liturgy of the Hours/ the Divine Office, and so much more.

This Advent we ask you to pray that the Synod we are undertaking as a Church will be a means 'to move forward on the path towards being a more synodal Church in the long-term' - that is a Church that journeys together, that listens to one another and to the Holy Spirit, a Church in which we all have a part. Synodality is not about an event but a way of being Church together.

In the coming months we will be asking you to share in the conversation on how we are doing on our journey together as Church.

The Synod prayer can be accessed on: <https://www.kandle.ie/synod/>



### ADVENT THOUGHTS ON...JOY

"Joy is not the same as happiness. We can be unhappy about many things, but joy can still be there because it comes from the knowledge of God's love for us... Joy is the experience of knowing that you are unconditionally loved and that nothing — sickness, failure, emotional distress, oppression, war or even death — can take that love away." Henri Nouwen

*"The Christian identity card is joy, the Gospel's joy, the joy of having been chosen by Jesus, saved by Jesus, regenerated by Jesus; the joy of that hope that Jesus is waiting for us, the joy that - even with the crosses and sufferings we bear in this life - is expressed in another way, which is peace in the certainty that Jesus accompanies us, is with us." [Pope Francis]*

### Remembering those in need

In the Advent season we are especially called to support those in need as much as we can. There are many charities that need our assistance, including **St Vincent de Paul, Trócaire, Focus Ireland, the Peter McVerry Trust, Pieta House, the Simon Community**, to name a few. Please give what you can.

### An Advent Family Prayer at Bedtime for week 3

*You might like to light three candles on your Advent wreath or Advent Candle to begin your prayer*

Loving God,  
On this Advent night  
we turn to you in prayer.  
As we prepare to celebrate  
the birth of your Son,  
we ask your blessing on each of us.  
Open our hearts  
to the good news that you bring to us  
and help us to welcome your light  
into our lives,  
a light that gives us the gift  
of joy in the Lord.  
May we see that our deepest joy  
comes from knowing you.  
May this joy fill our hearts, our minds  
and our home.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**  
Together we pray: **Come, Lord Jesus.**

