

Come, Lord Jesus

Lord of Love

An Advent bulletin for the home
Week Four: 19 December 2021

Linking with Your Parish

In the hustle and bustle of final Christmas preparations why not: Take some time this week to visit your parish church for a moment of quiet prayer to God. Check out the schedule for individual confession or the parish reconciliation service. Find out the arrangements your parish has in place for Christmas Mass attendance. See if there is anything you can do to help your parish in celebrating the Christmas Masses safely and joyfully this year.

A Suggestion for the Home for Christmas

When the time comes to place the figure of Jesus into the crib, have the youngest member of the household carry the baby Jesus to the nativity scene. The family might like to say a prayer and sing a favourite Christmas carol together as they do this. See www.Kandle.ie for a prayer that can be used.

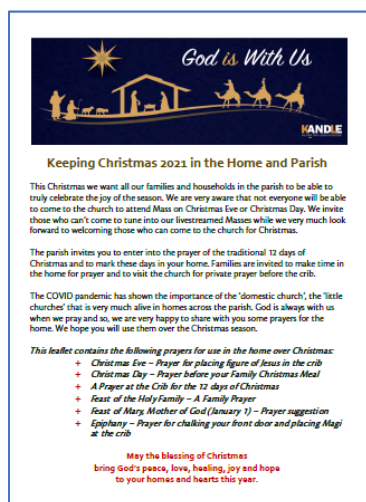
A family might do this when they come home from Mass or, if the family is joining a livestream of Christmas Mass, before Mass begins light a candle and place the infant figure beside it. At the end of Mass the family can 'process' together to the crib, with the youngest carrying the infant.



Keeping Christmas 2021 in the Home and Parish - a Family Prayer Companion

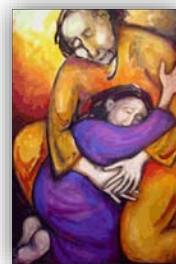
A four page leaflet for the home is now available on the Advent Resource page of www.kandle.ie

It contains some prayers for the 12 days of Christmas, including:



- + Christmas Eve – Prayer for placing figure of Jesus in the crib
- + Christmas Day – Prayer before your Family Christmas Meal
- + A Prayer at the Crib for the 12 days of Christmas
- + Feast of the Holy Family – A Family Prayer
- + Feast of Mary, Mother of God (January 1) – Prayer suggestion
- + Epiphany (January 6) – Prayer for chalking your front door and placing Magi at the crib.

An Advent Tradition



Reconciliation: Celebrating God's Forgiveness

An important aspect of preparing for Christmas for many people is the celebration of the sacrament of reconciliation or confession. The honest assessment of our lives that Advent calls for will, invariably, lead us to seek God's forgiveness, mercy and love. As we draw closer to Christmas take some time to consider: *What in your life would you like to change? From whom do you need to share or seek forgiveness? For what do you want to say sorry to God?*

Look out for the schedule of individual confession or parish reconciliation service in your parish. If you are isolating and unable to attend, be assured that a sincere prayer asking for the Lord's mercy is already part of the journey to the Sacrament. Already before confession, a person on that journey enjoys the forgiveness of God.

See overleaf for the text of An Act of Contrition.

*A last chance to reflect on the
Advent Sunday Readings -
what are they saying to me?*

ADVENT SCRIPTURE SHARING

See www.kandle.ie for our weekly Scripture Sharing Reflections on the Advent Sunday readings.

If you haven't had a chance to do so, why not take time for yourself this week and treasure God's word to you in your heart.

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

SOME ADVENT THOUGHTS ON...LOVE

Divine love - the love that changes lives, renews history, liberates from evil, fills hearts with peace and joy.

Tonight the love of God has been revealed to us: it is Jesus... Christmas reminds us that God continues to love us all, even the worst of us. To me, to you, to each of us, he says today: "I love you and I will always love you, for you are precious in my eyes"...At Christmas, the question is this: "Do I allow myself to be loved by God? Do I abandon myself to his love that comes to save me?"

...Let us receive the gift that is Jesus, in order then to become gift like Jesus. (Pope Francis)

*God so loved the world
that he gave his only begotten son. (John3:16)*

"Do not waste your time bothering whether you 'love' your neighbour. Act as if you did." (C.S. Lewis)

SOME ONLINE ADVENT COMPANIONS

Advent Music Playlist: If reading a digital copy, click here for our final Advent play list suggestion: [Catholic Advent Hymns and Carols](#) where you can enjoy listening to 22 hymns in these last days of Advent.

Video Reflections on Advent Hope, Peace, Joy & Love: The Diocesan Commission for Liturgical Formation has produced four short reflections (between 2-3 mins each) led by people from across our diocese. They can be viewed at <https://www.kandle.ie/advent-resources/>

Interactive Advent Calendar: It's not too late to treat yourself to these resources. This annual popular offering from the Bishops' Conference is full of daily prayers and resources for the home: www.catholicbishops.ie

Act of Contrition

O my God, I thank you for loving me. I am sorry for all my sins, for not loving others and not loving you. Help me to live like Jesus and not sin again. Amen.

Praying as we journey to a more synodal Church...

At Christmas we remember that God is with us, walking with us and showing us the way. Please make the synod prayer part of your weekly prayer routine as we seek to truly become a Church that walks with our God and with one another.

We stand before You, Holy Spirit,
as we gather together in Your name.
With You alone to guide us,
make Yourself at home in our hearts;
Teach us the way we must go
and how we are to pursue it.
We are weak and sinful;
do not let us promote disorder.
Do not let ignorance lead us down the wrong path
nor partiality influence our actions.
Let us find in You our unity
so that we may journey together to eternal life
and not stray from the way of truth
and what is right.
All this we ask of You,
who are at work in every place and time,
in the communion of the Father and the Son,
forever and ever. Amen.

An Advent Family Prayer at Bedtime for week 4

You might like to light all the candles on your Advent wreath or your Advent Candle to begin your prayer.

Loving God,

On this Advent night we turn to you in prayer.

As we make our final preparations to celebrate the birth of your Son, we ask your blessing on our family.

Help us to welcome your light into our lives, a light that gives us the gift of love.

You showed us the greatness of your love in Jesus, Emmanuel, God-with-us.

You love us with an everlasting love.

May your love fill our hearts, our minds and our home.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Together we pray: **Come, Lord Jesus.**

