

Come, Lord Jesus

Lord of Peace

An Advent bulletin for the home
Week Two: 5 December 2021

An Advent Tradition

As we move through Advent the Christmas tree will begin to appear in more and more homes, signalling that we are getting closer to the feast of Christmas.

In the midst of winter, the evergreen tree, dressed with lights, reminds us of the life and light that comes to us through Christ. The colourful decorations of the tree are a reminder of the paradise tree of the garden of Eden, hung with the bright colour of fruit.



Families are invited to say the following prayer together when they put up the Christmas tree in their home.

A Blessing Prayer

Lord God,
let your blessing come upon us
as we gather around this tree.
May its light
and the cheer it gives us
be a sign of the joy
that fills our hearts.
As we delight in this tree
may we come to
the knowledge and joy
of the Christmas gift
of salvation and peace.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
R. Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

An Advent Character & an invitation for us to walk in faith: St Joseph

The year of St Joseph draws to a close on December 8th. If you haven't had a chance to ponder his story perhaps now is a good time! As an Advent character, his was a supporting role in the truest sense of the word, and yet his choices mattered so much! Joseph's story can remind each of us that our willingness to take the journey of faith affects everything. It tells us that walking in faith will require something of us, perhaps more than we thought we were capable of. But it also tells us that if we say yes to God and trust in God's path for us, like Joseph, we, too, can find our place in the greatest story ever told. We, too, can experience God-with-us. Walking in faith, we, like Joseph, can recognize the coming of the Divine into our hearts and call his name Jesus.



*Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer,
Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.
To you God entrusted his only Son;
in you Mary placed her trust;
with you Christ became man.
Blessed Joseph, to us too,
show yourself a father
and guide us in the path of life.
Obtain for us grace, mercy and courage,
and defend us from every evil. Amen.*

Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

On Wednesday, December 8, we celebrate this feast day of Mary. We remember that from the first moment of her existence in the womb of her mother Anne, Mary was preserved free from Original Sin. She was full of grace. See https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bqeUpvMXLk8&feature=emb_logo for a short video on the meaning of this feast.

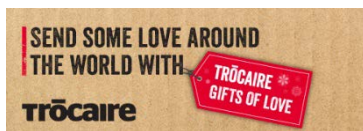
Linking with your parish in Advent

Does your parish have a website, Facebook page, Twitter account or other social media? Why not look it up and follow what's happening in your parish?

ADVENT THOUGHTS ON...PEACE

In his letter, *Amoris Laetitia*, Pope Francis writes: "In the family, three words need to be used. I want to repeat this! Three words: 'Please', 'Thank you', 'Sorry'. Three essential words! ...Let us not be stingy about using these words, but keep repeating them, day after day...never let the day end without making peace in the family."

From Advent PEACE by Lindy Thompson: As one flame, shared candle to candle, can fill a sanctuary with light, so be it with your peace, from one heart to another, one interaction at a time, until no place in the world is without your light. Amen. Isaiah 52:7 "How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion, 'Your God reigns!'"



REMEMBER OTHERS THIS ADVENT

WWW.TROCAIRE.ORG/GIFTS

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: This week our featured Spotify music playlist is: [Music for Advent with John Rutter and the Cambridge Singers](#). 25 Advent hymns to travel with you during the week ahead!

Pray As You Go: A daily audio reflection on the Advent readings of the day. www.Pray-as-you-go.org



Walking together in Advent: A synodal journey

As we make our Advent journey, this image, taken from the Universal Synod logo, reminds us that Christians walk together. Listening to, caring for and supporting one another - there is no one greater than the other. Let us pray this Advent that each of us can be that Christian to and with one another. Let us pray that we can be part of making our parishes grow even more to be places where we can travel as companions together.



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 <https://www.kandle.ie/advent-resources/> 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 – in person or online?

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

'A voice cries in the wilderness;
Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight.
Every valley will be filled in, every mountain and hill be laid low, winding ways will be straightened and rough roads made smooth.
And all shall see the salvation of God.' (Luke 3:4-6)

*Prepare the way of the Lord,
make straight his paths.*

An Advent Family Prayer at Bedtime for Week 2

We invite you to take a moment before bedtime to pause and thank God for your Advent day. Bring to God any worries or concerns you may have, any places of conflict or disturbance in your life. Pray this prayer in union with the rest of our diocesan family. You might like to light the first two candles of 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 wait for the coming of your Son,
we ask you to bless our family.
Comfort us with your healing
and help us to welcome your light into our lives,
a light that gives us the gift of peace.
Help us to forgive and to love,
and to bring your peace where it is needed.
May your peace guard
our hearts, our minds and our home.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**
Together we pray: **Come, Lord Jesus.**