PATHWAYS IN ADVENT

First Sunday of Advent



Pathway:
The Church that Proclaims the Gospel

Process

Opening Prayer

Say the opening prayer together

Gracious God, we wait for you in hope.
As we walk the Advent pathway,
may we be alert to the wonders of your deeds
and the signs of your presence in our world.
Open our hearts and minds to hear and share the
message of hope, joy, peace, reconciliation and love
as we await your coming and respond to our
Baptismal call to live the Gospel in our daily lives.
We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen

Proclaim the Gospel

Read the Gospel passage aloud slowly. Pause.
Re-read the passage, noticing what is striking you as you hear the words of the Gospel

Reflect and Share

Pause for a time of silence to listen to what God is saying to you in this Gospel text
In turn, each person shares what stays with them
Listen to one another without interruption
Pause before hearing from the next person, in order to receive what has been shared

Response after each person shares

ALL: Your word, O Lord, is a lamp for my feet and a light for my path.

(Psalm 118:105)

Gospel Text

Mark 13:33-37

Jesus said to his disciples:
'Be on your guard, stay awake, because you never know when the time will come. It is like a man travelling abroad: he has gone from home, and left his servants in charge, each with his own task; and he has told the doorkeeper to stay awake. So stay awake, because you do not know when the master of the house is coming, evening, midnight, cockcrow, dawn; if he comes unexpectedly, he must not find you asleep. And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake!'



Kildare and Leighlin
Diocesan Commission for Liturgical Formation

Read and Reflect on the Pathway

The following quotes are taken from the Irish Synodal Assembly working document, October 2026, 'Is not this what God asks of you?'

Micah 6:8

"We envisage a Church that is missionary in its outlook. One where it's members are confident in proclaiming the Gospel and committed, by virtue of their baptism, to extend an invitation to others to engage in a living relationship with Jesus Christ"

The Working Group on Formation and Catechesis



[Following the example of Jesus] The Church in Ireland cannot fail to look outwardly with compassion on the 'crowd' which struggles to find meaning and hope in a world that promised salvation through politics, economics, secularism, technology, and individualism but has failed to deliver, with enormous cost in human terms. It is in this world that we are called to walk alongside our brothers and sisters with the Gospel of Jesus Christ, calling them to a saving encounter with Him who is "the way, the truth, and the life" (John 14:6)

From the Working Document
Pathway 1: The Church that proclaims the Gospel

Reflect and Share

Your word, O Lord, is a lamp for my feet and a light for my path.
Prayerfully consider these quotes.
Notice what draws you, where you see something of the Gospel, where the Spirit might be inviting us/you to change, deepen or begin again in the light of this pathway.
Listen to one another without interruption, pausing briefly before moving on to the next person.

Respond in Action

Taking to heart the words of the Gospel, how will you be awake to opportunities to proclaim the Good News to others, through words and deed?

Prayer of Intercession

May we dare to hope of a Church capable of transforming all by authentic witness, service and joyful proclamation of the Gospel.
R. Is not this what God asks of us?

Concluding Prayer

Say the closing prayer together

Loving God,
we give praise and thanks
that you have sent your Son to be
our light in the darkness of this world.
As we await your coming, help us to be
a Church that proclaims the gospel,
a Church of welcome and belonging,
a Church where the wounded find a place of healing,
a Church that accompanies one another
and a Church that empowers each of us
to be ministers of your gospel.
May your Word be a lamp for our feet
and a light for our path.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.
Maranatha. Come, Lord Jesus.

Learn more about the Synodal Pathways at www.synod.ie or

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