PATHWAYS IN ADVENT

Second Sunday of Advent



Pathway:
The Church as a Community of Belonging

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 1:1-8

The beginning of the Good News about Jesus Christ, the Son of God. It is written in the book of the prophet Isaiah: *'Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way. A voice cries in the wilderness: Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight'* and so it was that John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. All Judaea and all the people of Jerusalem made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. John wore a garment of camel-skin, and he lived on locusts and wild honey. In the course of his preaching he said, 'Someone is following me, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to kneel down and undo the strap of his sandals. I have baptised you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.'



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

"The Church seeks to be a community for all to whom she has given birth in the waters of Baptism. At our Baptism, we were each welcomed 'with great joy' into the Christian community, and we were marked with the sign of the cross as a sign that we 'belong to Christ'"

From the Working Document
Pathway 2: The Church as a Community of Belonging

"The foundational truth of our faith is that we belong, first and foremost, to God. Because we belong to God, we are inherently bound to the rest of creation – we belong to the Earth we call home and we belong to each other as members of one human family."

The Working Group on Belonging

"The foundational building block of the parish community is the family and the parish itself is a family of families."

From the Working Document
Pathway 2: The Church as a Community of Belonging

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

How can I, and others in my parish, be a voice that invites those living in the wilderness of unbelonging to experience a welcoming Church?

Prayer of Intercession

May we learn to welcome one another on our pilgrim journey together so that all can find a home in Christ.
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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