The Liturgical Season of Advent

"The celebration of Advent is possible only to those who are troubled in soul, who know themselves to be poor and imperfect, and who look forward to something greater to come." Dietrich Bonhoeffer

The word “Advent” is derived from the Latin word adventus, meaning “coming.” The season of Advent lasts for four Sundays leading up to Christmas. Advent 2020 begins on Sunday, November 29th, and ends on Thursday, December 24. The first two Sundays in Advent (through December 16th) look forward to Christ’s second coming, and the last two Sundays (December 17th – 24th) look backward to remember Christ’s first coming.

Our Catechism describes Advent spirituality beautifully: “When the Church celebrates the liturgy of Advent each year, she makes present this ancient expectancy of the Messiah, for by sharing in the long preparation for the Savior’s first coming, the faithful renew their ardent desire for his second coming.”

A good, pious way to help us in our Advent preparation has been the use of the Advent Wreath.

The wreath is a circle, which has no beginning or end: So we call to mind how our lives, here and now, participate in the eternity of God’s plan of salvation and how we hope to share eternal life in the Kingdom of Heaven. The wreath is made of fresh plant material, because Christ came to give us new life through His passion, death, and resurrection. The four candles traditionally represent hope, faith, joy, and peace. Three candles are purple, symbolising penance, preparation, and sacrifice; the pink candle symbolises the same but highlights the third Sunday of Advent, Gaudete Sunday, when we rejoice because our preparation is now half-way finished.

 Occasionally, a fifth white candle is placed in the middle and is lit on Christmas Day to celebrate Jesus’ birth.

The light represents Christ, who entered this world to scatter the darkness of evil and show us the way of righteousness. The progression of lighting candles shows our increasing readiness to meet our Lord.

We invite each family to have an Advent Wreath, light it at dinner time, and say a short prayer. This tradition will help each family keep its focus on the true meaning of Christmas. In all, during Advent we strive to fulfil the opening prayer for the Mass of the First Sunday of Advent:

Grant your faithful, we pray, almighty God, the resolve to run forth to meet your Christ with righteous deeds at his coming, so that, gathered at his right hand, they may be worthy to possess the heavenly kingdom.
Priest on Duty 29th November: Priest on Duty: Fr. Joy Contact: 065 6869098

Cathedral
Remembered in Masses this Week:
Sat: 6.30pm: Marcus Edmund Kershaw Kelly, Westbourne Court.
Sun 29th 8am: No intention booked.
9.30am: John Davoren, Kilfenora.
Mary Traynor, Cappahar, Tulla Rd.
Mary & Cronan Griffin, Kildysart Cross.
11.30am: Noel McCullagh, Doora.
Hugh, Frances & Mary Gilmore, Drumcliffe Rd.
Sean & Vera Moloney, ‘Rahona’, Tulla Rd.
Maureen & Walter Bridgeman, Quin.
Mary Hayes, Loughville. 1st Anniv
David O’Connor, Silvergrove, Ballybeg. MM
Mon: 7.40am: No intention booked.
11am: Julie & Tossie Guifoyde, Hermitage & Marian Ave.
7.30pm: Eileen & Mick Keane, McNamara Park. O’Halloran family.
Tues 7.40am: Book of Intentions.
11am: Kathleen & Peter Fallon, Roscommon.
7.30pm: Noel Ryan, Summerhill.
Ned Monahan, Bramble Lane, Limerick Rd.
Patrick & Lily Greene, Clonroad.
11am: Lauren Kelleher, Bruach na hAbhann.
7.30pm: Jimmy Cronin, Clonroad.
Thurs:7.40am: No intention booked.
11am: Edward & Annie Mallon, Co. Tyrone.
Fri:7.40am: Mass for the People.
11am: Marian Rice Carmody, Kilkishen, Josephine & Denis Rice, Maureen Rice McAllister & Malone Family.
7.30pm: Therese O’Brien, Ashfield Park. MM.
Sat:11am: Paddy Kearney, Kincora Park.
Patrick & Brid Coughlan, Labasheeda.
Michael Quinn & family, Cahercalla.
Barry Family, Inagh.
6.30pm: Gerry Kenny, Old Gort Rd. MM.
Margaret Counihan, Fergus Lawn.
Patricia, Christy & Robert Cormley & Ann Kelly, Kil coc, Co. Kildare.
Sun 6th 8am: Leyden family, Carmody Street & Cloughleigh Rd.
9.30am: Martin Browne, Gallows Hill.
Paddy & Mary Cullinan, Shanaglish, Tubber.
11.30am: Dermot Molloy, Cahercalla Estate & Paschal Molloy, Old Cloughleigh Rd.
Kitty Hanrahan & Dan Herbert, Dalcassin Drive.
Peggy Malone, Dalcassin Drive.
White family, Hermitage Rd.
John & Darragh O’Halloran, Ard na Gruine.
John & Bridget Guerin, St. Flannan’s Tce.

Friary News
Once again, warm greetings from the Poor Clares and the Friars here in Ennis. As we move towards the end of yet another year, we are aware that we will soon be into the hope-filled season of Advent. It certainly has been a time with many challenges. Understandably, people feel frustrated and are waiting for a lift to the lockdown. Advent, of its very essence, speaks to us of waiting. Consequently, we have put together some scriptural reflections for these next four weeks and these will be available, both at the back of the Church and in the Mass Office. You are invited to take them away with you in the hope that they will offer you the reassuring comfort that you are not alone.

During this month of November, our focus has been very much on remembering our loved ones who have passed away. This has been a particularly poignant November as we also remember all those who have died as a result of Covid-19. May they rest in peace, Amen.

In this season, we also have the Advent Wreath, with its five candles which remind us of the four weeks leading up to Christmas and the birth of Jesus himself. Also present in our Church will be our Jesse or Giving Tree. Usually, this is a focal point for people’s heartfelt generosity in bringing along food parcels that can be distributed to the needy at this time. Sadly, this year, on account of the Coronavirus, we are unable to accept any of these parcels. However, as an alternative to the food appeal, it is hoped that food vouchers will be administered. Please contact either Jacinta Swan at 065-6828178 or Joanne Perill at 065-6845974.

Hopefully, next Wednesday Evening, we plan to have our fraternity meeting and decide the times for the masses and services for Christmas itself. We will supply you with all the relevant information in the next bulletin. In the meantime, rest assured that you are remembered each day in our thoughts and prayers.
Fr. Paschal, OFM Guardian Sr. Bernardine, Poor Clares Abbess.

St. Joseph’s
Mass intentions for scheduled Masses in St. Joseph’s Church should be booked through the Parish Office. For all other events call Fr John 0656822166.

Remembered in Masses this Week:
Sun 28th 10am: Martin & Paul Byrne, Gort Rd.
Mon 10.30am: Mick Purcell & Family, Brr.
Tues 10.30am: Pat Kilkier, St. Senan’s Rd.
Wed 10.30am: Anna Reidy, Corofin.
Thu 10.30am: Molly Kuriert, Kincora Park.
Oliver Conway, Pine Grove. MM
Fri: 7pm: Edward Ryan, Clancy Park.
Sat 10.30am: Stephen Madden, Bridge & Martin O’Regan, Kincora Park.
7pm: Martin Fitzpatrick, The Green, Lifford. 1st Anniv.
Sun 6th 11.45: Anne McNamara, Turnpike Rd.
Maura Beakey, Cahercalla Estate.

Daily Programme for this week in the Cathedral
Monday to Friday
7.40am Mass
11am Mass & Rosary
7.30pm Mass & Rosary
Saturday
11am Mass & Rosary
6.30pm Vigil Mass followed by Rosary
Sunday
8am, 9.30am & 11.30am Mass

Cloughleigh Oratory opening hours:
Monday-Saturday 12:00-1:00pm for private prayer.
Tuesday and Thursday Evening 6:30-7:00pm for private Eucharistic Adoration. Masses continue on Monday at 6:30 pm, Tuesday-Friday at 9:30a.m and Sunday at 11:00 a.m on Fr. Ger’s Facebook and at Cloughleigh Chirsti Ri Oratory Facebook page.

Support for the Parish
Thank you to all who support our parish, particularly at this difficult time. Many have been very generous. Nevertheless since lockdown in March our income has been severely curtailed in comparison to the previous year.

Some ways to support us at this time:
1.) Weekly envelopes can be left into any of the churches.
2.) Online at www.ennisparish.com via the donate button.
3.) Standing order forms available at the parish office.
4.) Remembering Ennis Parish in your will.

From a Distance Concert Series for Cultural Companions—Ennis Cathedral
This Sunday with The Villas
From 3pm—4pm
Watch on Ennis Parish Webcam
Ennis Parish Facebook Live
Listen on the Parish Radio Link 106.4fm
MC for the concerts: Nigel Bridge

Ennis Parish Office
now has available a large selection of Religious, Christmas, Baptismal Gifts, Candles, Cribs, Advent Calendars and much more.
All proceeds to Ennis Parish Restoration Fund.

Cloughleigh
Remembered in Masses this Week:
Sun 29th 11am: Martin Joseph McNulty, Hermitage.
Tue 9.30am: Book of Intentions.
Thu 9.30am: Maisie Murphy, Mullagh.
Fri 9.30am: Holy Souls.
Sun 11am: James & Mary Neylon, “Lourda”, Cloughleigh Rd.

Ennis Parish Development Fund for Sunday 22nd November 2020
£2,246.00
Envelope Collection: £2,130.00
Online donations: €116.00

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Simplify Christmas

Celebrate Christ

- Morning Prayer of the Church will be prayed at 7.30am Monday to Friday.
- The Rosary will be prayed daily after 11am & 7.30pm masses Monday to Friday and after 11am Mass on Saturday.
- Eucharistic Adoration: Monday to Friday 5pm to 7pm
- Confessions: The Sacrament will be available each evening Monday to Friday at 7pm and after the Vigil Mass on Saturday, when restrictions are lifted and public worship recommences.

The Jesse/Advent Tree
This weekend the first Sunday of Advent our churches are adorned with the Advent Jesse Tree. The Christmas Tree has become such a part of our Christmas Celebrations and its Christian significance can be understood through the Jesse Tree.

The Jesse Tree is a tree that is decorated at the beginning of Advent and represents Old Testament Events from Creation to the birth of Jesus. The Jesse tree is really an Advent Tree anticipating the coming of Christmas. Please take time during these Advent days to visit and see the Jesse Tree.

Our thanks to O’Connor’s Vegetable Shop, Market St for supplying the tree.

Christmas Food Appeal 2020

Christmas time is the busiest time for both St. Vincent dePaul and Clarenbridge who co-ordinate and share food parcels donated by the public.

However this Christmas is going to be different with Covid 19 and restrictions. The safety of the public and their volunteer members is paramount. Therefore both of these groups are asking the public that instead of buying a physical toy or items of food that they buy a voucher or make a cash donation.

Resumption of Public Mass and Worship

Following on from the Government announcements on Friday night that Religious ceremonies can be celebrated with limited congregation. We now look forward to welcoming you back to Mass from next Tuesday morning December 1st.

Face Coverings

We ask all attending our churches in line with government advice to wear face coverings while attending mass or other liturgical celebrations. Medical advice is that wearing face coverings is first and foremost about protecting others. Please continue to observe social distancing to use hand sanitisers on entering and leaving any of our churches.

New Webcam for St. Joseph's Church

A webcam has been installed in St. Joseph's Church and is now live and all masses and ceremonies are available to view online. www.ennisparish.com

Parking Restrictions in Cathedral grounds

With return to public masses, please be aware that due to works on Parish House and the Scout Hall parking is restricted at present. We thank you for your understanding.

Holy Hour

Bro Damian OFM will lead our last Holy Hour of lockdown on this Monday from 8pm to 9pm. Join us on webcam from the Cathedral or Parish radio link 106.4fm

Reaching Out This Christmas

If you have a family away from home this Christmas and would like them to receive a Christmas card from the parish, please put their names and full postal address in the box at the back of the Cathedral before 8th December.
Entrance Antiphon
To you, I lift up my soul, O my God.
In you, I have trusted; let me not be put to shame.
Nor let my enemies exult over me;
And let none who hope in you be put to shame.

PENITENTIAL RITE
P. Have mercy on us, O Lord
C. For we have sinned against you.
P. Show us, O Lord, your mercy.
C. And grant us your salvation.
P. May almighty God have mercy on us,
forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.
C. Amen.

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.
Is 63:16-17; 64:1.3-8

You, Lord, yourself are our Father
Our Redeemer is your ancient name.
Why, Lord, leave us to stray from your ways and harden our hearts against fearing you?
Return, for the sake of your servants, the tribes of your inheritance.
Oh, that you would tear the heavens open and come down - at your Presence the mountains would melt.
No ear has heard, no eye has seen any god but you act like this for those who trust him.
You guide those who act with integrity and keep your ways in mind.
You were angry when we were sinners; we had long been rebels against you.
We were all like men unclean, all that integrity of ours like filthy clothing.
We have all withered like leaves and our sins blew us away like the wind.
No one invoked your name or roused himself to catch hold of you.
For you hid your face from us and gave us up to the power of our sins.
And yet, Lord, you are our Father; we the clay, you the potter, we are all the work of your hand.

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm
God of hosts, bring us back;
Let your face shine on us and we shall be saved.
O shepherd of Israel, hear us,
shine forth from your cherubim throne.
O Lord, rouse up your might,
O Lord, come to our help. R

God of hosts, turn again, we implore,
look down from heaven and see.
Visit this vine and protect it,
the vine your right hand has planted. R

May your hand be on the man you have chosen, the man you have given your strength.
And we shall never forsake you again:
give us life that we may call upon your name. R

A reading from the first letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians.
1 Cor 1:3-9
May God Our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send you grace and peace.
I never stop thanking God for all the graces you have received through Jesus Christ.
I thank him that you have been enriched in so many ways, especially in your teachers and preachers; the witness to Christ has indeed been strong among you so that you will not be without any of the gifts of the Spirit while you are waiting for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed;
and he will keep you steady and without blame until the last day, the day of our Lord Jesus Christ, because God by calling you has joined you to his Son, Jesus Christ; and God is faithful.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation
Alleluia, alleluia!
Let us see, O Lord, your mercy
And give us your saving help.
Alleluia!

A reading from the Holy Gospel
according to Mark.
Mk 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!'

The Gospel of the Lord

PROFESSION OF FAITH
I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.
I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages.
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day In accordance with the Scriptures.
He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.
I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come.
Amen.

Communion Antiphon
The Lord will bestow his bounty,
And our earth shall yield its increase.