

Waiting in Hope

An Advent bulletin for the home
Week One: 29 November 2020

The Meaning of Advent

We have all done a lot of waiting in these past months – waiting for different levels of restrictions to pass by, waiting for daily figures from the government, waiting to be able to visit loved ones again, waiting for news of a vaccine or a cure.

The season of **Advent** is also a time of waiting. But, in contrast to much of the waiting we have had to do this year, our advent waiting is characterised by hope and expectation and joy. And this is because we are waiting in confidence for One who has already come to us, who is daily coming to us and who will come to us again – Jesus Christ.

The word 'Advent' stems from the Latin 'Adventus,' meaning 'coming' or 'arrival'. In the Church calendar, the First Sunday of Advent marks the beginning of a new year. Over the Four Sundays of the Advent season we ready ourselves for the joy of Christmas when we remember and commemorate the birth of Christ. But Advent is also about preparing ourselves for His second coming. We are reminded of this second coming in many phrases that we hear or say at Mass, for example 'as we look forward to his second coming', 'when he comes again in glory', 'as we await the blessed hope and the coming of our Saviour'. This second coming is a central theme from the beginning of Advent right up to the 17th December. At that point, our attention and preparation shifts more to the commemoration of His first coming on the feast of the Nativity.

Waiting in hope this Advent, we know that Jesus is our light, our salvation, the One for whom we long. How will you ready yourself to welcome Christ into the centre of your life, with all its bits and pieces, once more? As a new Church year begins, will you give yourself the gift of a new relationship with Christ? For through Him hope overcomes despair, peace overcomes division, joy overcomes desolation, love overcomes hatred. ***Maranatha! come, Lord Jesus!***

Linking with your Parish Take time alone or as a family to visit your local church to see the Advent wreath and for a moment of quiet prayer.

A Suggestion for the Home

Why not create a prayer space in your home for Advent? You might like to make your own Advent wreath or have a special Advent candle to use in the prayer space, including perhaps purple coloured cloth/ribbons and evergreens. **Go to [kandle.ie](https://www.kandle.ie) for a video on creating a prayer space.**

An Advent Tradition for Church and Home:



THE ADVENT WREATH

The advent wreath has a rich meaning. The **circle** of the wreath, with no beginning or end, symbolises the eternity of God. The **evergreen** reminds us of the everlasting life we have in Christ while any pine cones or pods in the wreath represent new life and resurrection. The **four candles** represent the four Sundays of Advent. **Purple** is traditionally a colour of penance and prayer while the **rose** pink candle that is lit on the Third Sunday (Gaudete/Rejoice Sunday) marks our joy as we move ever closer to Christmas.

A Blessing Prayer

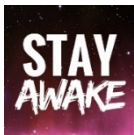
Loving God,
let your blessing come upon us
as we light this wreath.
May it be a sign of hope for us
as we prepare for your coming
and may it turn our hearts to you
in the days ahead.
Give us your peace and love
as we wait in joyful hope.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

See [kandle.ie](https://www.kandle.ie) for a short video on making a wreath for your home

Weekly Advent Gospel Link

Beginning this Sunday, for the next year on a Sunday we will hear mainly from the Gospel of Mark.

Today, as we step into the season of Advent, the gospel urges us to 'stay awake'. (Chapter 13, Verses 33-37) This passage is a strong reminder to us, as we wait for the coming of the Lord, to live in and pay attention to the present moment. In faith, we trust that Jesus is coming to us all the time. While we wait for his Second Coming we need also to be ready to welcome Him into our lives today. *Are we ready to do this? Are we prepared to let Jesus into the 'stuff' of our lives, into all those corners where he can bring His hope, light, peace and love? What would that mean? What might that look like?*



See [kandle.ie](https://www.kandle.ie) for weekly Scripture reflections on the Advent Sunday readings by Fr Liam Lawton

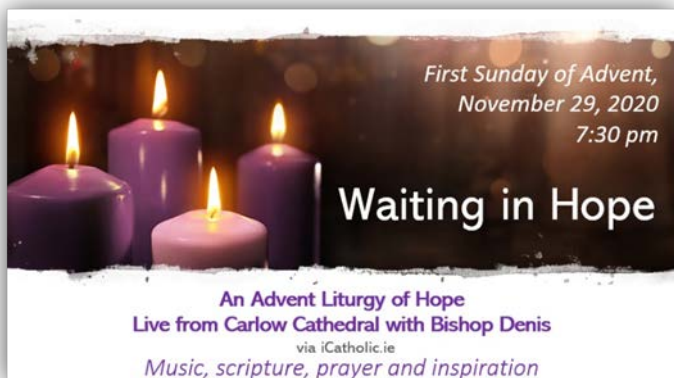


Please remember the vital work of St Vincent de Paul this Advent



For an online Advent Calendar with great resources for parish, school and home behind a virtual door each day go to:

www.CatholicBishops.ie



An Advent hymn to think about...

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

In many parishes the first sound of Advent is the singing of this traditional hymn. The text for the verses comes from what are known as the 'O antiphons' that are sung on the last days of Advent. We'll hear more about those in our final Advent Bulletin.

Sometime around the year 1100 an unknown author took these antiphons and turned them into a metrical Latin poem. Eventually, an Anglican priest named John Mason Neale translated the Latin text into English. It was published in an 1853 hymnal by Thomas Helmore, using a 15th century French melody. From these origins we now have one of the most popular and well known Advent hymns.

The verses convey a plaintive mood of longing and yearning for God with each verse giving a name for Jesus that is full of hope. Notice how the petition of the verse is met by the joyful promise of the refrain – 'O Come, O come, Emmanuel...Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel'. In this Advent season we can call on God to come to us, knowing in faith, hope and joy that God answers us. You can listen to a recording of this hymn, sung by the choir of Clare College, Cambridge, on this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xPV8PEBTAQ0>

An Advent Family Prayer at Bedtime for week 1

You might like to light your Advent wreath or 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.
Free us from any worry or distress that we may have
and help us to welcome your light into our lives,
a light that gives us your gift of hope.
May your hope fill our hearts, our minds and our home.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**
Together we pray: **Come, Lord Jesus.**



WAITING IN HOPE – A LITURGY OF HOPE An Invitation from Bishop Denis

Bishop Denis is inviting people across the diocese to join with him for this service of prayer at **7:30 pm, Sunday, November 29**, to begin the Advent journey together. In his invitation he says, *'together let us wait in hope, let us turn down the dial and be gentle with one another and ourselves as we prepare in the strangest of times to welcome Jesus, Emmanuel, among us.'*

Please have an individual candle ready for use.

Access this livestream on: **iCatholic Facebook page** <https://facebook.com/iCatholic>, the **KANDLE Facebook page** as well as on the **YouTube channel** <https://youtube.com/c/icatholicplayer>