



Second Sunday of advent

ADVENT

Newsletter

Our Lady of Mount Carmel & St Patrick

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.*

Mark 1: 2-3

John the Baptist - Prepare

John the Baptist appears on the Advent scene. Echoing the prophet Isaiah in the first reading he tells us to prepare a way for the Lord in our lives.



The Lord, who will come with power, is nonetheless gentle; Isaiah tells us that the Lord is one who brings consolation to a people in exile and also to a shepherd who feeds his flock and gathers the lambs into arms and leads them to their mother ewes.

The Day of the Lord

On this second Sunday of Advent the story moves on but the first Advent theme of the Day of the Lord. In the second reading St Peter writes that this day will come *'..like a thief in the night'* and exhorts us to live holy and saintly lives. If we do this he will find us at peace.



Advent Sundays 2 & 3

Preparing for the coming of the Lord does not mean we pretend that Christ has not come into our world. Rather it is recognising Christ's enduring presence with us today and preparing ourselves to meet the living Christ daily.

Advent Prayer Cards

As part of our preparation for the **National Eucharistic Congress** which will take place in September 2018 the Archdiocese has distributed prayer cards for us during this season. You may wish to use it as part of your prayer during this season.



Pastoral Letter

There is a pastoral letter from Archbishop McMahon this Sunday. There are copies of it at the back of church.

FAITH IN FOCUS: RAISED VOICES

It's so hard to hear yourself think in December. The TV screams at us through adverts that are desperate to get us to buy their products. Cosy Christmas fireside scenes, talking reindeers, food and drink, comfortable sofas, the must-have gifts: this is dangled before us as the epitome of what Christmas is all about. And when we think that we'll have a nice quiet read, the papers are packed with full-page adverts reminding us of what we've already seen for sale on TV!

There are other voices trying to get through to us in the lead-up to Christmas. One of them is Isaiah's. Today he tells us that our time of being enslaved is over. We have been set free and have been offered the greatest Christmas present of all: sharing the life of God's Son.

But Isaiah's voice clashes with the other sounds of Christmas because he tells us that if we want to go beyond the tinsel and baubles then we have to do some personal spadework. If we really want to experience the true meaning of Christmas, then we have to make sure we're not just drifting along with the Christmas crowd but instead are keeping ourselves focussed on the reason for our feast. And this means fine-tuning the way we live, resetting our spiritual compasses and going out to meet our God who is coming.

Advent is not a mini-Lent but it is a time to remember that repentance, turning back to God, is a Christian constant. "Here is your God" says Isaiah. And our God still comes to us today and everyday. Advent challenges us to find God's face in the ordinary events of our daily existence. And if there are aspects of our lives that prevent us from seeing this face, then Advent asks us to make changes.

When God comes it is not to point a finger but to lend a hand. The God we ask into our Advent lives is not the vengeful judge but the loving saviour. God always comes to set us free not to condemn us. But, of course, if we are genuinely to welcome Jesus into our lives this Advent and Christmas, then we have to know what we need to be set free from.

Otherwise we might as well just join the shopping queue.

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advent

Suggestions for doing something a little extra....

Send a Card to Christian parishes in the Holy Land

In recent years many people have sent cards and one of their priests, Fr David Neyhaus SJ commended this saying 'This is a beautiful act of solidarity'.

There are several copies of how to do this at the back of our churches and addresses of parishes in Israel and in the Palestinian authority. It is important never to send a card directly to a parish but to send them to the Latin Patriarche from where they will be delivered to the parishes. This address is also on the information sheets.

CAFOD World Gifts What do you give to someone who has everything? Try something new. Give a gift on behalf of someone which will really help those who need it. You find CAFOD World Gifts catalogues at the back of church which are full of ideas for gifts: £28 will buy a goat for someone which will provide up to 12 pints of milk for a family; the goat will also provide much needed fertiliser. £10 will teach someone to read and £8 will provide a family with 5 fruit tree saplings plus the tools and training to grow their own nursery.

CAFOD Fun Run Wednesday 27th December at Wavertree Park. See details on the notice board.

Nugent Care - Light up a Life 2017

Cathedral, Wednesday 13 December 12.30pm Led by Bishop Tom Williams. Light up a Life is a service held in the Cathedral every year where we remember our loved ones both past and present. More details on the notice board.



ADVENT



Adoremus September 2018:

National Eucharistic Pilgrimage and Congress

WANTED - Hospitality: I received an email from a parish in London asking if any parishioners can offer hospitality for the night of 7th September for their parishioners who will be attending the Congress. Altogether about 10 beds will be needed. I will be able to offer two places in the presbytery; if anyone is prepared to share their house for a night please contact me.

St Patrick's Tombola after Mass next Sunday.

John Southworth

MASSES AND SERVICES

In Church this week

- No Mass on Monday
- All other Masses at the usual times

Sunday 10th December

2nd SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Sat 5pm	Agnes & James McNulty	OLMC
Sun 9.45am	Parishioners	St Patrick
Sun 11.15am	Mary McKenna, Christine & Baby Charlotte	OLMC

Monday 11th December

9am NO MASS OLMC

Tuesday 12th December

11am	Funeral Service: William Leece	OLMC
7pm	Frances Comer	OLMC

Wednesday 13th December

10am Sean Bassett St Patrick

Thursday 14th December

10am	John Herity	St Patrick
2.15pm	Funeral Service: Ian Carey	OLMC

Friday 15th December

10am	Joe McNicholas	OLMC
1pm	Funeral Service: Lynn Williams	OLMC

Sunday 17th December

3rd SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Sat 5pm	Parishioners	OLMC
Sun 9.45am	Bernadette Morgan	St Patrick
Sun 11.15am	Fred Keeley	OLMC

Sacrament of Reconciliation:

Saturday at OLMC 4-4.30pm

Thursday Evening Service 7pm

Evening Prayer for Advent

Bonus Ball / Mount Carmel and St Patrick

The bonus ball for Wednesday 6th December: No 16

Christmas Mass Times

Monday 25th December

Midnight Mass

- Mass will begin at 11.30pm at OLMC with Carols from 11pm

Christmas Morning -

- 9.45am at St Patrick's
- 11.15am at OLMC

CollectionsMany thanks

OLMC Sat Loose £110.82 Sun Loose £62.41
Envelopes £123.05 Total £296.28

St Patrick Envelopes £0 Loose £123.25

OLMC Rest Box £12.99 Buy a Brick £10.00

Raffle: £26.00

Please Pray For.... Those who have died: William Leece, Ian Carey, Lynn Williams.

The sick: Tony Robinson, Bridget Dyson, Carol Pickford, Betty Billingsley, Sharon Gray, Tommy Duffy, Mary Frances, Audrey McKenna Ian McCafferty, Betty Christian, Bernard Duffy, Helen Melarange, Jack Davies, Joan Higgins, Michael McNicholas, Billy Thompson, Freya Matheson, Pat Smedley, Rene Humphreys, Clifford Browne, Gary Hollinson, Jackie Heath-Anderson, Ted Cunningham, Anne Deuchar, Charlotte Rice, Irene Finneran, Lisa Balshaw, Mary Kewley, Claire Kearney, Lyn Barton, Betty Devine, Kathleen Devine, Joseph Baxendale, Ann Chapman, Nadia Kent, Susan Roberts, Alex Sielski, Lee Foster, Paula Lacey, Denise King, John Dunning, Tommy Huyton, Emily Rolands, Angela Kent, David Majoury, Donald Smith, Pius Laizer, Maria Jones, Mary O'Toole, Sally Wilkins, Michael Murphy, Margaret Chung, David Stevenson, Thomas & John Paul Conroy, Keith Holden, Kathleen Crownay, Joanne Fairbrother, Eileen Edwards, Erin Caulfield, Lisa Ginley, Lillian O'Connor, Owen Hall, Anne Brannigan, Thelma Mainwaring, Cheryl and Lenny Hart, Sheila Chapman, Elaine Gorry, Alexandra Reid, Winifred Williamson, Kathryn Reid, Wally Williams, Chrissy White, Nicholas Maher, John Hodson, Terry Macklin, Muriel Minshull, Maureen Ryan, Mary Ryan, Regna Lewis, David Shea, Steven Binks, Holly and Lucy Brown.