

Advent

Each of the Advent Candle colours represents a specific element of spiritual reading for the celebration of Christmas. These three principal colours of Advent are packed with rich meaning.

The first candle of the Advent Wreath, the Prophecy Candle or Candle of Hope, is purple.

The second, called the Bethlehem Candle or the Candle of Preparation, is also purple in colour.

The third Advent Wreath Candle, named the Shepherd Candle or Candle of Joy, is pink in colour.

Pink (or rose) is also one of the colours of Advent used during the third Sunday of Advent, also known as Gaudete Sunday in the Catholic Church.

Pink or rose represents joy or rejoicing and reveals a shift in the season away from repentance and toward celebration.

The fourth Advent Candle colour is purple. It is called the Angel Candle or the Candle of Love.

White is the colour of Advent representing purity and light. Christ is the sinless, spotless, pure Saviour. He is the light come into a dark and dying world. Also, those who receive Jesus Christ as Saviour are washed of their sins and made whiter than snow.

Lastly, the Christ Candle is the fifth Advent Candle, positioned in the centre of the wreath. This Advent Candle's colour is white.

Spiritually preparing by focusing on the colours of Advent in the weeks leading up to Christmas is a great way for Christian families to keep Christ the centre of Christmas, and for parents to teach their children the true meaning of Christmas.

Advent is the season of preparation for Christmas. During these four weeks, an Advent Wreath is traditionally used to represent aspects of spiritual preparation leading up to the birth or coming of the Lord, Jesus Christ.

The wreath is a symbol of eternity and unending love. Five candles are arranged on the wreath, and one is lit each Sunday as a part of the Advent services.



Prayer for the Advent

Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
*ever faithful to your promises and ever close to your Church:
 the earth rejoices in hope of the Savior's coming and
 looks forward with longing to his return at the end of time.*

**Prepare our hearts and remove the sadness that hinders us
 from feeling the joy and hope which
 His presence will bestow, for he is Lord forever and ever.**

Amen.



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NRCDT- Registered Charity

Clergy:
Fr. Gabriel Offor
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10th – 17th December 2017

Sunday 10.12	10am 11.30am	Pat O'Rourke RIP Constanca Pereira Carvalho RIP	Is 40:1-5.9-11 2 Pt 3:8-14 Mk 1:1-8
Monday 11.12			
Tue 12.12	10am	Margaret & Patrick Regan (Anniversary)	Is 40:1-11 Mt 18:12-14
Wed 13.12	10am	Pat O'Rourke RIP	Is 40:25-31 Mt 11:28-30
Thu 14.12	9am 1pm	Funeral Mass for Una Shearer RIP Funeral Service for Wilfred Barreto RIP	Is 41:13-20 Mt 11:11-15
Friday 15.12	10am	Maria Ward RIP	Is 48:17-19 Mt 11:16-19
Sat 16.12	10am	Pat O'Rourke RIP	Ecclus 48:1-4.9-11 Mt 17:10-13
Sunday 17.12	10am 11.30am	Steve & Irene -Wed Anniv Bernie Lipper RIP	Is 61:1-2.10-11 1Thess 5:16-24 Jn 1:6-8.19-28

**Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 1 hour each day before weekly Mass
 Sacrament of Reconciliation after Mass on Saturday, or whenever required.**

Feasts of the week:

Wednesday, St. Lucy, virgin and martyr.
 Thursday, St. John of the Cross, priest and doctor.

SECOND COLLECTION NEXT SUNDAY FOR POOR AND NEEDY PARISHES.

Una Patricia Shearer RIP. Sadly passed away last week. Funeral Arrangements are: Reception into Church on Wednesday 13th December at 7pm. Funeral Mass on Thursday 14th December at 9am followed by a committal at Gilroes Crematorium. Our deepest and sincere condolences to her husband, family and friends.

Veronica Fletcher RIP. It is with sadness that we hear that Veronica passed away on Monday this week. Veronica and her husband Norman were active parishioners here at Mother of God until they returned to their native Newcastle in late 1999.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES AND MASS TIMES

Confessions: Wednesday 20th December after 6.30pm Mass.

Christmas Eve:

**Carol Service at 7pm
Vigil Mass at 7.30pm
Vigil Mass (Malayalam) 9pm**

Christmas Day Mass:

10am and 11.30am

Christmas Carol - If you would like to sing solo please do let Fr. Gabriel know.

Christmas Eve Vigil Mass: the children of the parish are invited to dress up as nativity characters at this very special mass. In addition, these children will take the lead in singing the carol "Away in a Manger," to the remainder of the congregation. Older children are also invited to take part and dress up as carol singers. We look forward to seeing them all there.

ABBA Christmas musical at St. Joseph's Church, Leicester on Monday December 18 all at 7.30pm. A unique 'interactive' feature of the production is that the audience are invited to sing the songs with the cast, who are at presented very excited at the opportunity of presenting it again. Tickets are £5 for adults, £3 concessions and, because of generous sponsorship, the entire proceeds will be distributed to charities in Hinckley, Loughborough and Leicester just in time for Christmas. Details from St. Peter's Priory, Leicester Rd., Hinckley LE10 1LW (Tel.01455 634443) or hinckleypriory@gmail.com

Pilgrimages: There are two pilgrimages next year, picking up from Leicester. One in April to Lisieux and one in June to Lourdes & Nevers. If you would like to find out more, contact Fr John McCay on 0115 981 0320 Email jmccay1982@yahoo.co.uk See details in church porch.

VACANCY: "St Augustine's Catholic Voluntary Academy, Stamford: has a vacancy for a permanent full-time head teacher commencing 1 September 2018. Full details are available from EPM, the school's HR providers, at headship@EPM.co.uk. Visits to the school can be arranged by contacting Mrs Sue Bray, School Business Manager, on 01780 762094. The closing date for applications is noon Monday 22nd January 2018 with interviews being held on Friday 26th January."

Financial details: Loose Plate £318.72. Envelopes £399.35. Thank you very much for your kind donations.

300 Club: 3 December £50 M Goodger (192). £25 C Larkin (162, C Crow (110).

Parish Hall Bookings. For any enquiries on how to book the Hall, please contact 07527829413 or email moghallbooking@gmail.com

Christmas Appeal 2017.

Please support the local charity Action Homeless, who have many hostels around the city, including one for abused women and their children. Public expenditure cuts make it very difficult for them to find money for basic toiletries such as soap, toothpaste, shower gels etc. Please help if you can by also leaving items such as chocolates, biscuits etc. under the table in the church porch. **Thank you for your support**

Thought for the week: Keep love in your heart. A life without it is like a sunless garden when flowers are dead. The consciousness of loving and being loved brings a warmth and richness to life that nothing else can bring. **Oscar Wilde**



It will soon be Christmas! Please buy your Christmas cards, diaries, candles etc. from the Repository Stall. Also Christian postage stamps, which are available at any major Post Offices.



If You have a charity box please bring it to church to be emptied. Thank you. Also collect your free 2018 Calendar.



Please keep in your prayers all the sick and housebound people of the parish. If you know of anyone who would like a visit from Father Gabriel, please let him know.

Pope Francis December Intentions: The Elderly.

That the elderly, sustained by families and Christian communities, may apply their wisdom and experience to spreading the faith and forming the new generations.

***** CAFOD: World Gift Catalogue available at the back of the Church ******



Tea/coffee in the hall after the 10am Mass on Sunday. Please join us!