

THE FOUR WEEKS OF ADVENT

During the first two weeks of Advent we light the first two purple candles. The Third Sunday of Advent is called Gaudete (Rejoice) Sunday. On this day we celebrate that our waiting for the birth of Jesus on Christmas day is almost over. Rose is a liturgical colour that is used to signify joy, so we light the single pink candle on the third Sunday of Advent.

Then on the fourth Sunday of Advent, the final purple candle is lit to mark the final week of prayer and penance as we wait expectantly for the soon-coming birth of the King of Kings.

Traditionally, each of the four Advent candles have a deeper meaning which is depicted in the lovely Four Weeks of Advent Pewter Wreath:

- The 1st Sunday of Advent symbolizes Hope with the “Prophet’s Candle” reminding us that Jesus is coming.
- The 2nd Sunday of Advent symbolizes Faith with the “Bethlehem Candle” reminding us of Mary and Joseph’s journey to Bethlehem.
- The 3rd Sunday of Advent symbolizes Joy with the “Shepherd’s Candle” reminding us of the Joy the world experienced at the coming birth of Jesus.
- The 4th Sunday of Advent symbolizes Peace with the “Angel’s Candle” reminding us of the message of the angels: “Peace on Earth, Good Will Toward Men.”

In modern day adaptations, the white candle is placed in the middle of the wreath and lit on Christmas Eve. This candle is called the “Christ Candle” and represents the life of Christ. The color white is for purity—because Christ is our sinless, pure Savior.



A Prayer for the Advent Wreath

**Lord, our God, we praise You for Your Son, Jesus Christ,
for He is Emmanuel, the Hope of all people.
He is the Wisdom that teaches and guides us.
He is the Saviour of us all.**

**O Lord,
let your blessing come upon us as we light
the first (purple) candle of this wreath.
May the wreath and its light be a sign
of Christ's promise of salvation.
May He come quickly and not delay.
We ask this in His holy name.
Amen**

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NRCDT- Registered Charity		
Our Schools: Christ the King Primary - 0116 2857261 - www.ctk.ik.org/p_Home.ikml English Martyrs' Secondary - 0116 2428880 - www.emschool.co.uk/		
Parish Hall Bookings: please contact 07586700914		



1st – 8th December 2019

Sunday 1.12	10.30am 4pm	Mr Andrew Freyne RIP Maria Jacks	Isaiah 2:1-5 Romans 13:11-14 Matthew 24:37-44
Monday 2.12	No Mass		
Tue 3.12	10am	Chinnu Pious ints Jose Augustine RIP	Isaiah 11:1-10 Luke 10:21-24
Wed 4.12	6pm	Deceased family of Doherty, Murphy RIP	Isaiah 25:6-10 Matthew 15:29-37
Thu 5.12	10am	Joseph Byrne RIP	Isaiah 26:1-6 Matthew 7:21,24-27
Friday 6.12	10am 5.30pm	Agnes & Bill Quinn RIP Adoration and Malayalam Mass	Isaiah 29:17-24 Matthew 9:27-31
Sat 7.12	10am	Susan Barnett RIP	Isaiah 30:19-21,23-26 Matt 0:35-10:1,5,6-8 Luke 1:26-38
Sunday 8.12	10.30am 4pm	Christine Hipwell RIP Patrick O'Connor RIP T.U. Jose Thuruthuvellil RIP	Isaiah 11:1-10 Romans 15:4-9 Matthew 3:1-12

**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: Tuesday, St. Francis Xavier, Priest. Wednesday, St. John Damascene, Priest. Friday, St. Nicholas, Bishop. Saturday, St. Ambrose, Bishop.

A huge thank you to all that organised our Christmas Bazaar, to the stall holders and the caterers. To all that have donated prizes for the raffle and goods to be sold. And to those who have spent money and worked behind the scenes. Thank you so much again.

In December, cinemas are showing a documentary about the monks of Mount St Bernard Abbey, Leicestershire which, as you know, is a community in our Diocese. It is the only Trappist monastery in England and it's also the home of Tynt Meadow beer, an English Trappist Ale. Here's the trailer: www.youtube.com/watch?v=7nRNM-2RyFk&t=15s For more information visit: www.facebook.com/outsidethecityfilm www.outsidethecityfilm.com Outside the city will play in December at: Phoenix Cinema in Leicester between 6th-12th December _ The Century Theatre, Coalville, 1st December 2pm <https://www.centurytheatre.co.uk> See Poster in church porch

A "TWILIGHT" RETREAT for Advent and Christmas to be held at St Joseph's, Leicester, on Wednesday 4th December, in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel (entrance at side of church). The evening of prayer, talks, reflection and music is led by Fr John Daley IC and begins with prayer at 7.00 pm concluding around 9.00 pm with a hot drink. A £3 donation is asked towards expenses.

Francis Caus Charity Senior Citizen's Christmas Luncheon: This event will take place on Saturday 7th December, upstairs in St Peter's Church Hall I, after the 12 noon Mass. There is no charge for the meal. Will all Senior Citizens wishing to attend please add their name to the list at the back of the church. The closing date for names is Sunday 10 November so that numbers can be given to the Caterer's.

Catholic Schools Carol Concert in support of Menphys. Friday 6th December 2019 at 7.15pm at DeMontfort Hall, Leicester. Tickets £6-10 available from DeMontfort Hall: Tel 0116 2333111 or email dmh-tickets@leicester.gov.uk

The 'Year of the Word' began on 29th September 2019 and to help inaugurate the beginning of the 'Year' on 1st December 2019 we are invited to come together and participate in the Evening Office of the Prayer of the Church. Services are being held throughout all dioceses. There is a special Evening Prayer resource on the theme of The God who Speaks, so let us be united in prayer as we begin this Advent journey. Evening Prayer resource: www.cbcew.org.uk/home/events/the-god-who-speaks/celebrating/evening-prayer-for-the-first-sunday-of-advent/ On Sunday 1st December, Evening Prayer is to be held at local churches (contact the Dean for your area service) but Bishop Patrick will celebrate Mass to officially begin the 'Year of the Word' at 6pm on December 1st 2019 at St Barnabas Cathedral.



An Online Radio station which is very inspiring if you cannot get to church.

Broadcasting 24/7
Prayers, Reflections, Features and Music, plus Live Masses.

Financial details: Loose Plate £247.51. Envelopes £143. Donations £180. Mass Ints £80. Thank you very much for your generous donations.
300 Club: 24th £100 Mrs B O'Rourke (189). £50 P Fisher (183). £25 M Spedding (282), Mr P Flynn (145).

Thought for the week: "So much of what we take in is about bigger, better and more. But for some of us small, simple and quiet are all we need. It's okay to be happy with a calm life." Anon

Pope Francis December Intentions: Universal - The Very Young
That every country resolutely commits to taking the necessary measures to make the future of the very young, especially those who suffer, a priority.

Charity Donations

In his Pastoral letter of last October, Bishop Patrick reminds us of how many homeless people there are in England and how we can help, not only with our prayers but also with practical things. In Leicester there are a number of hostels, which are trying to do their best with the little money they have. They rely very much on donations and need all our support to provide them with a bed for the night and food. They also need toiletries and warm items for them, such as gloves, socks, hats and perhaps, at this time of the year, when we celebrate Christmas, with a few luxury items such as biscuits and chocolates.

Please help if you can.

There will be a box in the church porch for your donations. Thank you so much.



**If You have a charity box please bring it to church to be emptied. Thank you.
Also collect your free 2020 Calendar.**



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.

We need your Help!

Volunteers are needed for cleaning of our church to join the Malayalam Community who has been doing it for the past few years every Saturday. Please contact Teresa Knott on 07877581148. Please put your name on the list in the church porch.