

Ardmore Parish Newsletter

SUNDAY 20 DECEMBER 2020

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Christmas Mass times at Ardmore.

Vigil, Christmas Eve 5pm. 7pm. 9pm

Christmas Day. 9am. 11am. 1pm.

Sunday Mass Times. Vigil. 6pm Sunday. 9am. 11am.

Weekday Mass. Daily, 10am.

Advent Services 7pm except Saturdays.

YOUTH 2000 CHRISTMAS eRETREAT 2020

18th-20th December

Register for free at www.youth2000.ie

'Mary's Birthday Dream' I had a dream Joseph. I don't understand it, but I think it was about the birthday of our Son. The people in my dream had been preparing for about six weeks, they had decorated the house and bought new clothes. They'd gone shopping many times and bought many elaborate gifts. It was peculiar, though because the presents weren't for our Son. They wrapped them in beautiful paper and stacked them under the tree. Yes, a tree, Joseph, right inside their homes! They'd decorated the tree with sparkling ornaments. There was a figure like an angel on the top of the tree. Everyone was laughing and happy. They gave the gifts to each other Joseph, not to our Son. I don't think they even knew him! They never mentioned his name. I had the strangest feeling that, if our Jesus had gone to this celebration he would have been intruding. How sad for someone not to be wanted at his own birthday party! I'm glad it was only a dream. How terrible, Joseph, if it had been real!

'A Christmas Prayer' 'O God, our help in ages past, our hope in years to come – 'Look down upon this present, and see our need of thee ... For in this age of unrest, with danger all around. We need thy hand to lead us, to higher, safer ground ... We need thy help and counsel, to make us more aware. That our safety and security, lie solely in thy care ... And so, we pray this Christmas, to FEEL THY PRESENCE near. And for thy all-wise guidance, throughout the coming year.

GENERAL NOTICES

A series of prayer and activity resources for the 12 days of Christmas has been created by the Diocese and the Catechetical Centre in conjunction with the Northern Pastoral Network, for family prayer at home.

A Family Prayer Booklet - The Twelve Days of Christmas - has been specifically compiled with families and prayer in the home in mind. The Gospel for each day of the twelve days of Christmas is accompanied by a Gospel reflection, prayers and a link to online Christmas hymns. The booklet can be downloaded at this link: <https://www.derrydiocese.org/news/family-prayer-service-for-use-at-home-this-christmas>

Family activities for Christmas including prayers in Irish and English, how to create a crib, Christmas puzzles, word-search and lots more are also available to view at:

<https://catecheticalcentre.org/category/christmas/>

Trócaire: This Christmas Trócaire will deliver life-saving support to thousands of families across the developing world. As well as supporting people living through conflict and natural disasters, Trócaire has launched a special appeal to support families who have not been able to grow food or earn money due to Covid-19. Please consider supporting this vital work this Christmas. You can purchase one of 17 gifts for families, or else make a general donation to the Trócaire Christmas Appeal. Trócaire's Christmas Gifts range allows you to buy goats, chickens, water and many more vital items. This year there is a special Quarantine Care Kit Gift. By buying this gift you are providing vital daily care to families who have to isolate. Please visit trocaire.org to make a donation or buy a gift.

Prayer Resources for Advent: A series of Prayer resources for Advent has been created by the Diocese, in conjunction with the Northern Pastoral Network and the Catechetical Centre, for family prayer at home during the season of Advent as we prepare for the coming of Jesus at Christmas. These resources contain lots of creative ideas and tips to help families and parishes during Prayer resources for Advent the Season of Advent. A family prayer booklet has been compiled specifically with families in mind. The Gospel for each Sunday of Advent is accompanied by a family activity, prayers and a reflection. The booklet can be downloaded at this link: <https://www.derrydiocese.org/news/advent-prayer-service-for-use-at-home> Family activities for Advent including prayers, how to create a Jesse Tree, an Advent Wreath and lots more are available to view on the Catechetical Centre website at: <https://catecheticalcentre.org/family-resources/preparing-our-hearts-for-christmas-adventresources>.

An Advent Prayer - Come long-expected Jesus. Excite in me a wonder at the wisdom and power, Of your Father and ours. Receive my prayer as part of my service. Of the Lord who enlists me in God's own work for justice. Come long-expected Jesus. Excite in me a hunger for peace: peace in the world. Peace in my home, peace in myself. Come long – expected Jesus. Excite in me a joy, responsive to the Father's joy. I seek His will so I can serve with gladness, Singing and joy. Come long – expected Jesus. Excite in me the joy and love and peace. It is right to bring to the manger of the Lord. Raise in me, too sober reverence for the Lord Who acted there. And spirited resolution to serve the Father and Son. I pray in the name of Jesus Christ whose advent I hail. Amen.

Sacraments of Initiation: MyFaith.ie is a parish-based programme of preparation for First Holy Communion and Confirmation. It releases new modules every two weeks or so as the children and their families prepare for the Sacraments. Each module begins with a short lesson - for parents - on the content of that module before the next item, a taught lesson for the children. The programme is highly interactive and learning is reinforced through challenges, quizzes and interactive games which are scored but can be repeated indefinitely. This is offered to parents/guardians as a format of instruction during the pandemic.

Face Coverings/Numbers at Services: We request the wearing of face coverings as they are now mandatory upon entering and leaving the church. Some people are exempt from the wearing of face coverings, even in situations which would otherwise be mandatory. Please continue to observe social distancing, to use the hand sanitiser on entering and leaving each of our churches.

Diocesan Paper 'The Net': The December edition of The Net is now available online, on the parish website. As always, it features a wide variety of news, interesting and inspiring interviews, articles and photos from parishes across the diocese. You are invited to read The Net, on the diocesan website, at your convenience.

ACCORD Virtual Interactive Marriage Preparation Programme - 2021 Course Dates: 12th/ 13th January, 9th/ 10th February and 9th/ 10th March. Booking now online at www.accordni.com.

Sisters from the St. Elisabeth Convent: (Minsk, Belarus) are launching the very first Online Christmas Market, so that people from all over the world can purchase Christmas presents and souvenirs made with love and continuous prayer. Please, click here to participate: <https://catalog.obitel-minsk.com/christmas-market> . Every item purchased at the Online Market is a donation towards one of the Convent's ministries.