

# Ardmore Parish Newsletter

SUNDAY 29th NOVEMBER 2020

First Sunday of Advent

[www.ardmoreparish.com](http://www.ardmoreparish.com)

## Mass Times

Sunday Mass: Vigil 6pm (Saturday) Sunday 10am and 11am.

Weekday Mass: 10am

Daily religious Service 7pm approx - 30mins (Sunday – Friday)

In this time of the Covid Circuit Breaker for two weeks from 27th Nov – 11th Dec.

No Congregation allowed for Mass or Service times. Though Church is open for prayer, daily from 10.30am – 6.45pm.

Requiem and Wedding Masses allowed with max attendance of 25 people total.

Mass and Services are available on-line at Church Media. T.V. You will find St Marys Church, Ardmore, Derry.

Also Mass and Services are broadcast online on Facebook at Ardmore Parish Facebook page.

## Mondays of Advent

On each of the four Mondays of Advent, Bishop Donal is inviting you to a series of diocesan reflections on the theme of **Spiritual Preparation**. Each reflection will last one hour, with an opportunity for discussion, and will be presented on Zoom. These reflections are exclusively for the priests of the diocese, to support you in your ministry. The idea for the series of reflections arose from the recent deanery meetings.

**Bishop Donal gives a brief background to the reflection series and his invitation to you on a video which can be viewed at this link:**

**<https://youtu.be/itfG4uF9CCY>**

THE FOUR MONDAYS OF ADVENT | AFTERNOON TALKS | 2:30pm on Zoom

**Monday, 30th November 2020** - *Preparing the way of the Lord with Mary: Fr Donncha O hAodha.* Fr Donncha is a native of County Galway in Ireland He worked as a secondary school teacher for a few years, and was ordained for the Opus Dei Prelature in 2001. He lives and works in Dublin, Ireland. He is a frequent visitor to our diocese and will begin our series of reflections

**Monday, 7th December 2020** - *Prepare for the Joy of the Lord in the light of human suffering: Fr Billy Swann.* Fr Billy is a priest of the Diocese of Ferns. He is currently based at St Aidan's Cathedral, Enniscorthy, County Wexford and provides input to Bishop Robert Barron's *Word on Fire* platform.

**Monday, 14th December 2020** - *Preparing the Way of the Lord in the routine of our lives: Fr Vincent Sherlock.* Fr Vincent is a priest of the Diocese of Achonry. He is currently serving in the parish of Kilmovee, County Mayo. Vincent has given Parish Missions and retreats to priests, including to the priests of our diocese, two years ago.

**Monday, 21st December 2020** - *Prepare for meeting the Lord beyond this time of the coronavirus: Fr Hugh Lagan.* Fr Hugh is an SMA priest based in Dromantine, County Down. He has been working in America, South Africa and England with the St Luke's Institute which priests and Religious in their formation to live in ministry with joy.

You are invited to mark the dates and times in your diary.

***The Zoom link and access details will be emailed to you on the morning of each refectioin.***

## Prayer for Vocations

As we prepare to celebrate the end of the current Church year with the Solemnity of Christ the King and welcome in the new Church year during the season of Advent, the diocese is hoping to use this season as an opportunity to encourage prayer focusing on vocation. At 6pm during Advent a vocation themed holy hour will be led and live streamed from churches, throughout the diocese at 6pm Sundays -

First Sunday of Advent – St Mary's Church, Creggan - Fr. Daniel McFaul

Second Sunday of Advent – Church of St Pius X, Merville - Fr. Pat O'Hagan

Third Sunday of Advent, St Mary's Church, Killyclogher - Fr. Declan McGeehan

Fourth Sunday of Advent – St Joseph's Church, Banagher - Fr. Michael McGavigan

**FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT : GOSPEL: ST. MARK 13.33-37 'STAY AWAKE'**

This First Sunday of Advent is the first day of the new liturgical year – Year B – when we will listen, most Sundays, to the Gospel of St Mark. Advent gets its name from the Latin word *adventus*, meaning ‘coming’ or ‘arrival’.

In December, our immediate thoughts might be on Christmas and, of course, it is Christmas, the celebration and the wonder of the birth of Jesus, our Saviour, that our Catholic faith asks us to prepare for, in our hearts and minds, during this Advent season. The preparation of which the Gospel speaks today, however, is for the coming of the Lord at the end of time, when He will take all creation to Himself. Jesus tells us to ‘*Stay Awake*’ - to be ready! In effect, we are called to live our daily lives to the best of our ability, guided by Scripture and prayer, and nourished by the Eucharist so that when the time comes, we will, one day, earn a place in God’s heavenly kingdom.

We pray today that we will use well the opportunities that the prayerful Season of Advent provides for spiritual growth so that, as we journey together in hope, we will be a watchful people, well prepared for the Christmas celebrations.

**THE NEW CHURCH (LITURGICAL) YEAR** starts today, on the First Sunday of Advent. It is Year B. We will listen, most Sundays, to the Gospel of St Mark. While Mark’s Gospel is presented in the Bible as the second of the four Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke & John), it is believed to be the first written of the four Gospels (thought to have been written between 50 – 70 AD). It is the shortest of the Gospels, with just 16 chapters.

Mark’s Gospel tells of the ministry of Jesus, from His baptism by John the Baptist to His death and burial and the discovery of the empty tomb. Presenting Jesus as the Son of God, and the messenger of God, Jesus is pictured by Mark as a man of action and authority. He presents His teachings in a straightforward, vigorous way, with emphasis on what He did, rather than on His words. Mark was not one of the first disciples of Jesus, but he was a companion of Peter (Simon Peter) and, although the book was written by Mark, much of it is thought to be the eye-witness accounts of Peter during Peter’s ministry with Jesus. Most importantly, Mark’s Gospel gives us a vivid portrayal of authentic discipleship and, as the disciples of today, we are called to apply it to our lives in a practical manner.

## **S Y M B O L I S M O F T H E A D V E N T W R E A T H**

**The Advent Wreath draws us to focus on the advent (coming) of the Light of Christ into the world.**

- ♦ The wreath is made of evergreens, signifying everlasting life.
- ♦ The circle of the wreath, which has no beginning or end, symbolises the eternity of God,

unending love, the immortality of the soul, and the promise of everlasting life in Christ.

♦ Cones and berries can be used to decorate the wreath, and are symbolic of the fruits of salvation.

♦ The four candles represent the four weeks of Advent: (1. Hope, 2. Peace, 3. Joy and 4. Love).

They are lit gradually – one each week – drawing us out of darkness into light. This symbolises not only First Coming of Christ into the world, but His Second Coming at the end of history.

♦ Three candles are purple, the penitential colour used in Advent (and Lent). One candle is rose; it is lit on the third Sunday of Advent, known as Gaudete Sunday, (Gaudete meaning Rejoice), symbolising our joyful expectation of the imminent coming of the Light of Christ.

♦ The white candle in the middle represents Christ, and is lit on Christmas Day

### **ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION**

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.

I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul.

Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart.

I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You.

Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

**ACT OF CONSECRATION TO THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS** *In times of calamity and disaster such as the outbreak of a plague which in these days is called Covid-19 or Corona virus – we take the advice and example of the Saints and consecrate our parish and our family and friends to the safety and Protection of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus*

**CHILDREN IN CROSSFIRE'S ADVENT APPEAL** – has begun and they have shared this video with us asking for support. You can still collect an Advent box at the back of the chapel if you are in for private prayer. You can also donate online: [www.justgiving.com/fundraising/advent-appeal](http://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/advent-appeal)

This year's appeal is raising funds to help provide hand washing and sanitation facilities to 700 schools in Tanzania, especially vital right now. It costs only £20 to provide a whole school with hand sanitiser and cleaning supplies. Thank you for your support.