

Upcoming Events in Kilmacud Parish

Wednesday, December 9th

Advent Talk by Joan Freeman (time to be confirmed)

Monday 14th December

Reconciliation Reflection led by Fr Paddy - Webcam (Details TBC)

Sunday 20th December

Christmas Carols - Webcam

Please check the website to see how changes to Covid restrictions may affect these events and our Church services this December!



Fr Joe Mullan, Fr. Paddy O'Byrne, Fr Donie O'Connor MHM,
Fr Peter Johnson, Sr Catherine Greene, SMA and all the
Parish staff wish you a Blessed Advent and Christmas
Season. Thank you for your support in these challenging
times!

St Laurence O'Toole Parish Kilmacud



Advent Wreath Booklet

*We invite you to let the light of the Advent
wreath bring the hope and joy of Christ's
coming to our homes and our families.*

The Advent Season is a season filled with waiting and longing for the coming of the Lord Jesus, not only again this Christmas, but also to meet us at the end of the lives, and of our world, and in every moment in between. Advent is different from Lent, even if we use the purple colour to remind us that this is a time of special reflection. In Lent, the theme of penitence is stronger, to renew ourselves with a genuine change of heart. The Advent spiritual journey is focused on hope, and the need for proper preparation to be able to receive the Saviour of the World into our hearts. This is a joyful, expectant waiting, like waiting for a dear family member or friend to arrive safely home after a long time.

**Advent Wreath Blessing before 1st candle is lit
on Saturday eve, 28th November or Sunday, 29th
November**

Lord our God,
we praise you for your Son, Jesus Christ:
he is Emmanuel, the hope of the peoples,
he is the wisdom that teaches and guides us,
he is the Saviour of every nation.

Lord God,
let your blessing come upon us
as we light the candles of this wreath.
May the wreath and its light
be a sign of Christ's promise to bring us salvation.
May he come quickly and not delay.
We Task this through Christ our Lord.
R/. Amen.

The first candle is lit.



At Christmas we also light the white candle, representing the presence of Christ among us, and place it in the center.

Prayer/ Reflection:

We remember and pray for all those dear to us who, because of the world-wide Covid crisis, will be separated from our Christmas celebrations this year. May God protect us all until we are able to see each other and celebrate together again.



The time between Dec. 25th and Jan. 1st, the Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God, is the *Octave of Christmas*, a special time for visiting the Church to reflect, pray and also share the Nativity scene with the young and those, like Francis of Assisi, young at heart!

4th Sunday of Advent, December 19th/20th,
three purple and the rose candles are lit.



Scripture Readings, 4th Sunday of Advent, Year B:

2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8, 14, 16. 'Go and tell my servant David, "Thus the Lord speaks: Are you the man to build me a house to dwell in?"'

Romans 16: 25-27. 'Glory to him who is able to give you the strength to live according to the Good News I preach, and in which I proclaim Jesus Christ.'

Luke 1:26-38. 'But the angel said to her, "Mary, do not be afraid; you have won God's favour. Listen! You are to conceive and bear a son, and you must name him Jesus."'

Prayer / Reflection

We thank you God our Father, for the faith of Mary, in helping to bring Jesus, the sign of God's love, to our world. May our lives help others to know of that same love.



Each week there is a chance to read and spend a moment to reflect on the themes of the readings chosen.

Scripture Readings, 1st Sunday of Advent, Year B:

Is 63:16-17, 64:1, 3-8; 'You guide those who act with integrity and keep your ways in mind ... Lord, you are our Father; we the clay, you the potter, we are all the work of your hand.'

1 Cor 1 3:9; 'He will keep you steady and without blame until the last day ... because God by calling you has joined you to his Son Jesus Christ, and God is faithful.'

Mark 13:33-37 'Jesus said to his disciples: "Be on your guard, stay awake, because you never know when the time will come ..."'

Prayer / Reflection

In these challenging time, we remember and pray for all who are sick in body or spirit, that they may know the healing presence of the Lord who comes in every moment.



2nd Sunday of Advent, December 5th/6th, the 1st and 2nd purple candles are lit.

Scripture Readings, 2nd Sunday of Advent, Year B:

Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11. 'A voice cries, "Prepare in the wilderness a way for the Lord. Make a straight highway for our God across the desert."'

2 Peter 3:8-14. 'What we are waiting for is what he promised: the new heavens and the new earth, the place where righteousness will be at home.'

Mark 1:1-8. 'John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins ... he said "Someone is following me, someone who is more powerful than I am ... I have baptised you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.'

Prayer / Reflection:

'The season of Advent restores this horizon of hope, a hope which does not disappoint for it is founded on God's Word. A hope which does not disappoint, simply because the Lord never disappoints! He is faithful! He does not disappoint! Let us think about and feel this beauty.'

Pope Francis

3rd Sunday of Advent, December 12th/13th, traditionally 'Gaudete Sunday', two purple and the rose candle are lit. *Gaudete* in Latin means 'Rejoice!' and comes from the Entrance Antiphon for this Sunday: 'Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say rejoice. Indeed the Lord is near (Phil 4:4-5) This sense is reflected in the new candle colour this week, rose, a reminder of that deep-seated hope and joy underlying our Advent journey toward welcoming Jesus into our lives.



Scripture Readings, 3rd Sunday of Advent, Year B:

Isaiah 61:1-2, 10-11. 'He has sent me to bring good news to the poor, to bind up hearts that are broken; to proclaim liberty to captives, freedom to those in prison; to proclaim a year of favour from the Lord.'

1 Thess 5:16-24. 'May the God of peace make you perfect and holy; and may you all be kept safe and blameless, spirit, soul and body, for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. God has called you and he will not fail you.'

John 1:6-8, 19-28. 'A man came, sent by God. His name was John. He came as a witness, as a witness to speak for the light.'

Prayer / Reflection

Like John the Baptist, Christians today are also sent forth to be witnesses to God's love. Is there some small action we can do this week (a card sent, or a phone call to someone we have not spoken with in a while) to show our care for others?