



See the joy that is coming to you from God

Advent Sunday
29th November 2020



A message from the Dean

On behalf of the chapter and parish I welcome you to Saint Mary's Cathedral, Limerick. You are very welcome, whether you are visiting for the first time or for the 1000th time! We share in worship which has been offered here for 850 years.

Advent is a season of expectation and preparation, as the Church prepares to celebrate the coming (adventus) of Christ in his incarnation, and also looks ahead to his final advent as judge at the end of time. The readings and liturgies not only direct us towards Christ's birth, they also challenge the modern reluctance to confront the theme of divine judgement.

In the northern hemisphere, the Advent season falls at the darkest time of the year, and the natural symbols of darkness and light are powerfully at work throughout Advent and Christmas. The lighting of candles on an Advent wreath was imported into Britain from northern Europe in the nineteenth century, and is now a common practice. At the beginning of the service the church is cast into darkness symbolising the theme of this morning's service light out of darkness.

Niall

The Very Rev'd Niall J. Sloane,
Dean.

Devotional Prayers

Before Service

O Lord, open our Lips, that our mouths may proclaim your praise, and purify our hearts that we may worthily magnify your glorious Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Spirit of God, without Your presence our worship is in vain.
May each one of us feel You near, may we be uplifted, may our worship be true, may we go from this place with Your presence in our hearts. Amen.

Lord God You are here, may we come to You with a mixture of humility and joy.
May we feel Your nearness and learn from You. Amen.

Lord, it is not easy to be humble; but in this service we ask for humility, so that it is You who may be seen by each person here.
May Your will be done. Amen.

Before a Celebration of the Holy Eucharist

Cleanse us, O Lord, and keep us undefiled, that we may be numbered among those blessed ones, who, having washed their robes, and made them white in the Blood of the Lamb, stand before your throne, and serve you day and night in Your Temple.
Amen.

Father in heaven, you have made us for yourself; our hearts are restless until they rest in you. Fulfill this longing through Jesus, the bread of life, so that we may witness to him who alone satisfies the hungers of the human family.
By the power of your Spirit lead us to the heavenly table where we may feast on the vision of your glory forever and ever. Amen.

After Celebration

O God, who in this wonderful Sacrament
left us a memorial of your Passion:
grant, we implore you,
that we may so venerate
the sacred mysteries of your Body and Blood,
as always to be conscious of the fruit of your Redemption.
You who live and reign forever and ever. Amen.

After Service

Grant, O Lord, that what we have sung with our lips we may believe in our hearts, and may always steadfastly fulfil; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

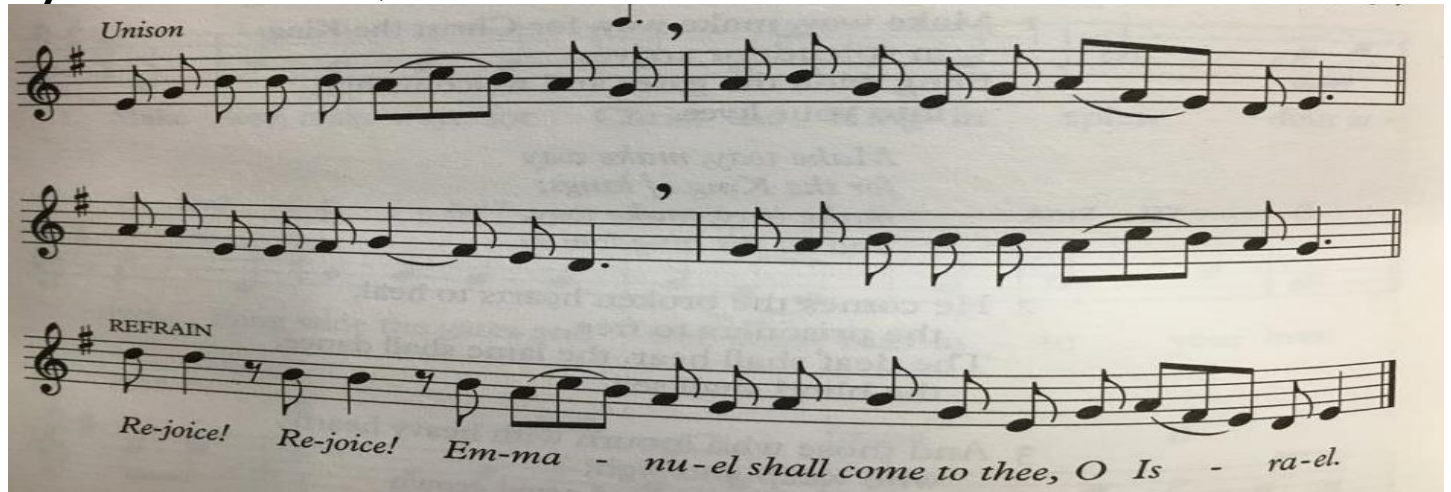
Order of Service



Please stand for the entry of the Clergy

WELCOME & INTRODUCTION

Hymn 135: O Come, O Come Emmanuel



1
O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear:
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

7
O come, Desire of Nations, bring
all peoples to their Saviour King;
thou Corner-stone, who makest one,
complete in us thy work begun:
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

Tune: *Veni Emmanuel*

Words: *J.M. Neale, 1818-66*

BIDDING PRAYER AND INTRODUCTION

It is time for us to wake out of sleep, for deliverance is nearer to us now than it was when first we believed. It is far on in the night; day is near. Let us therefore cast off the deeds of darkness and put on our armour as soldiers of the light.

The Grace and peace of God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you **and also with you.**

My brothers and sisters, we enter today the solemn season of Advent in which the Church bids us prepare to celebrate the coming of Christ; a coming that we recall in the Child of Bethlehem; a coming that we experience in the gift of his Spirit, in the bread of the Eucharist, in the joy of human lives that are shared; a coming we wait for when God

gathers up all things in Christ. Let us in this holy season reflect on the coming of Christ who brings light to the world. Let us leave behind the darkness of sin, walk in the light that shines on our path, and renew within ourselves the hope of glory to which he beckons us. And as we turn towards the light, let us have on our hearts all those who see no light, for whom all is darkness and despair. Let us pray that they too may be illumined by Christ who is our light.

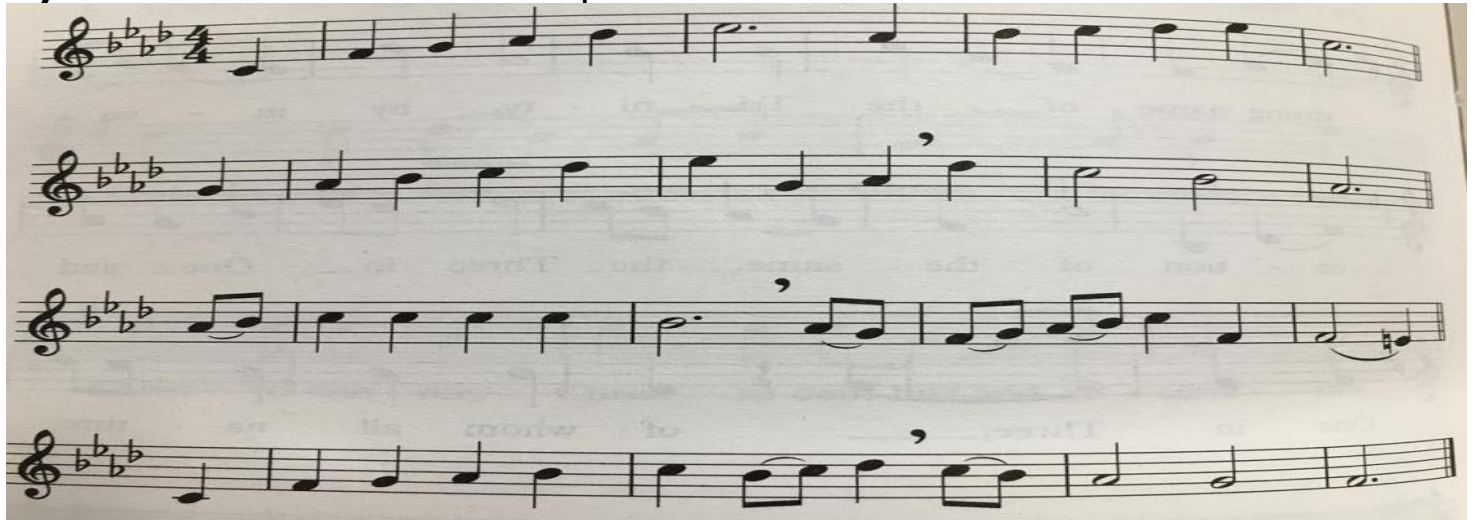
The congregation prays silently, after which the Minister draws the prayers together in the Collect of Advent Sunday

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness and to put on the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility; that on the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Hymn 323: The God of Abraham praise



The God of Abraham praise,
who reigns enthroned above;
ancient of everlasting days,
and God of love;
to him uplift your voice,
at whose supreme command
from earth we rise, and seek the joys
at his right hand.

Tune: *Leoni*

Words: *Thomas Olivers, 1725-99*

The Lighting of the 1st Candle on the Advent Wreath

God of Abraham and Sarah, and all the patriarchs of old, you are our Father too. Your love is revealed to us in Jesus Christ, Son of God and Son of David. Help us in preparing to celebrate his birth to make our hearts ready for your Holy Spirit to make his home among us. We ask this through Jesus Christ, the light who is coming into the world.

Amen.

Lord Jesus, light of the world, born in David's city of Bethlehem, born like him to be a king: be born in our hearts at Christmas, be King of our lives today.

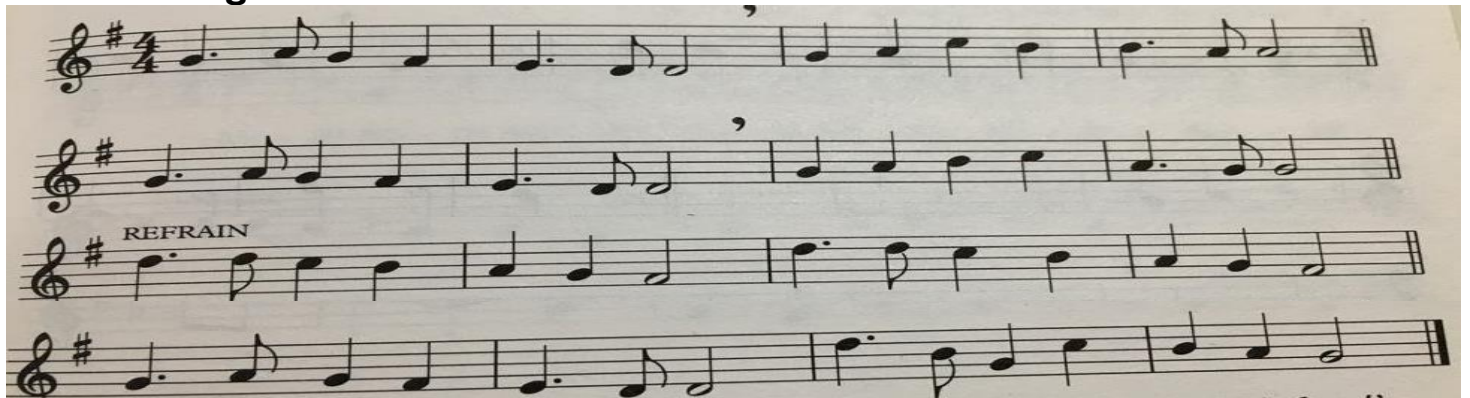
Amen.

The Candle is lit

People of God: awake! The day is coming soon when you shall see God face to face. Remember the ways and the works of God. God calls you out of darkness to walk in the light of his coming. You are God's children.

Lord, make us one as we walk with Christ today and for ever. Amen.

Advent Song



Light the Advent Candle one
Now the waiting has begun
We have started on our way
Time to think of Christmas Day
Candle, candle, burning bright
Shining in the winter night
Candle, candle, burning bright
Fill our hearts with Christmas Light

Tune: Humility

PATTERNS OF READINGS - LOOKING FOR THE LIGHT

Reading: Genesis 1: 1-5 ~ And God said: Let there be light

Music: Nun komm der Heiden Heiland BWV 599 (from Orgelbuchlein) ... J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

Reading: Isaiah 45: 2-8 ~ I form light and create darkness

CONCLUSION

The night is far spent, the day is at hand.

Let us therefore cast off the works of darkness and put on the armour of light.

Come, O Lord, comfort the soul of your servant.

Even so, Lord, come.

O Lord Jesus Christ, come

at evening time, with light,

and in the morning, with your glory,

to guide our feet into the way of peace.

He who receives our prayers says:

Surely I come quickly. I am the root and offspring of David, I am the bright and morning star.

Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus.

BLESSING

Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you, scatter the darkness from before your path, and make you ready to meet him when he comes in glory; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be with you and remain with you always.

Amen.

Organ Voluntary

Final (Symphony II) ... Louis Vierne (1870-1937)

SAINT MARY'S CATHEDRAL – GENERAL INFORMATION

Opening Times

The Cathedral is open every day except the 26th, 27th December and 1st January. No charges are made for those who come to join our worship or who wish to pray privately, and everyone is welcome.

Supporting the Cathedral

Saint Mary's Cathedral is a registered charity, and we do not receive state aid. In 2016, the running costs of the cathedral and its ministry to the city were €3,581 a week. By purchasing a ticket or making a donation or legacy, you are contributing towards the maintenance of Saint Mary's Cathedral and helping preserve it for future generations. Thank you!

The Cathedral Choir

Whilst Saint Mary's Cathedral is a church in the full tradition of the Church of Ireland, membership of that church is not a pre-requisite for joining the cathedral choir. If you love singing, church/choral music and historic buildings, then why not get in touch with us? We'd be pleased to hear from you. You don't need to be an expert singer. What we are looking for are young people with a pleasant singing voice, who are able to sing in tune and who have an interest in, and commitment to, this kind of music-making within the context of this magnificent medieval cathedral. Potential choir members should please contact the Organist and Choirmaster to arrange an informal meeting at the cathedral. Contact: organist@limerick.anglican.org / 061 310293

Become a Friend

The Friends of Saint Mary's exist to support the Dean & Cathedral Chapter in maintaining and enhancing the Cathedral and its surroundings. Assisting and supporting the Dean and Chapter in maintaining and improving the services, music, fabric, fittings, furniture, ornaments, monuments and facilities of the Cathedral. Encouraging the interest and participation of young people through education and activities. Stimulating and maintaining public interest in the Cathedral. Supporting the needs of the Cathedral's mission in the modern world.

There Friends are united in their desire to support and maintain this 850-year-old Cathedral. Joining the Friends helps ensure that we can continue this important work.

Please visit the website for full details – www.cathedral.limerick.anglican.org

Facilities

Car parking is available in the grounds of the Cathedral or in the adjacent Car Park

There are toilets on site.

There is a small gift shop located within the Cathedral where visitors can purchase souvenirs of their visit.

Guided/Public Tours are available. School Groups can be accommodated.

Service Notes

- Services will be recorded and may be viewed online on: www.churchservices.tv and the Cathedral website (www.saintmaryscathedral.ie) within the 90 days following the service. After that time recordings will be destroyed however exceptions may apply and recordings

could last longer if the Cathedral required it. Occasional services may be recorded and will be advertised on both websites www.churchservices.tv and www.saintmaryscathedral.ie and/or other communication channels of the Cathedral). If you would like further information on a particular event, please contact the Cathedral office.

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THIS WEEKS NOTICES

A letter from the Dean:

Dear Parishioners,

Today is Advent Sunday, the beginning of a new Church year. It marks the beginning of the preparation for the feast of Christmas. This year more than others we have a lot of preparing to do!

Advent & Christmas in LCP

As you will have seen in the media, etc. it is anticipated that churches will reopen during the week. Therefore, from next Sunday public worship will resume in churches (with a limit of 50 persons) with services being held in Saint Michael's at 10am, the Cathedral at 11.15am and Abington at 11.30am. The clergy plan to run a service for young families and a 'Blue' Service (for those for whom Christmas may not be a joyful time) – more details on this and the pattern for services on Christmas Eve and Day will follow in due course. In the meantime, may I draw your attention to the online Advent course which commences on Tuesday 1st at 8pm, to join in please email dean@limerick.anglican.org.

Thank you

As we near the end of a very challenging financial year for everybody, I want to thank each one of you for your continued support of the parish. I fully understand the other financial demands that everyone is facing at this time. Thank you for your online donations, cheques and stewardship envelopes. Our churches may have been closed for public worship, but our work and ministry continue and we still have to pay our bills. Our parishioners and friends have been most generous and supportive and I thank you most sincerely for remembering our parish in these difficult times.

With every good wish for a blessed Advent,

Niall.

Prayers about the Coronavirus outbreak: Keep us, good Lord, under the shadow of your mercy in this time of uncertainty and distress. Sustain and support the anxious and fearful, and lift up all who are brought low; that we may rejoice in your comfort knowing that nothing can separate us from your love in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

Advent Sunday: In addition to the 11.15am service this Sunday, there will be a short service of Holy Communion livestreamed from the Cathedral at 10.30am.

Music for Advent Sunday: The Cathedral Choir have produced a piece of music for this Sunday. Please view it at <https://youtu.be/Asc4AD2Ut08>. Thank you to the Director of Music for organising this.

Advent Course in LCP: The clergy intend running a short weekly course during Advent entitled 'Finding meaning in Advent'. The course will be run at 8pm for four Tuesdays beginning on 1st December. Each week will last a max of 30 mins and will be conducted via Zoom. A guest speaker will talk on a chosen piece from Art, Music, Drama and Poetry and its relationship to the Advent story. Each talk (which lasts a max of 15mins) will be followed by 15 min group discussion/comment. If you are interested in joining this, please email dean@limerick.anglican.org. Please see attached notice for more information. A link for the course will be emailed to all interested parties on Tuesday afternoon. Attendance at all sessions is not a requirement for signing up.

Family Service: We are exploring the idea of holding a short (20 mins) on-line family service during the month of December. We would love for as many children and parents in the parish to be involved. If you are interested or would like to find out more, please email the Dean.

Congratulations

- to Trevor and Tracey Lyttle on the recent birth of their second grandson Oisín Trevor Lee.
- to Avril Condell on celebrating a special birthday recently.

Bishops Appeal

Please see the attached newsletter from Bishops Appeal.

Newslink 2021

As you are aware, the Newslink magazine covers news and information from the churches and schools around the United Dioceses of Limerick, Killaloe and Ardfert, it's a bright colourful magazine which is full of news and events.

Advance Notice: This year we have an option in how we receive the Newslink 2021:-

COST : €40 for the Magazine this includes delivery 'to the pew' for 10 issues in 2021.

Or €30 for the new e-Newslink (PDF) for 10 issues in 2021.

Booking forms will be sent out with the December edition to our regular subscribers, if you need more information or would like to receive Newslink 2021 please contact Gillian Cheatley (LCP Local Distributor) or The Dean.

The Newslink team of Ros, Janet and Gordan are working very hard to improve the magazine, please continues to support them.

Consider a Gift Voucher for an annual subscription to your person of choice, If interested, Contact Janet Bray on newslink@limerick.anglican.org – it's a great Christmas Gift for someone special.

Gifts from An Post:

- For the duration of the lockdown parishioners will be able to give their stamped letters to their postman/woman instead of taking them to a post box. Especially useful for those cocooning again!!
- Recognising the increased restrictions in nursing homes across the country, An Post will ensure FREE delivery of all card and letter mail addressed to residents of Nursing and Care homes in the State until 31st January 2021. Just write FREEPOST where the stamp would normally be affixed. So, why not bring a little joy to someone you know in a Nursing/Care home!!

Livestreaming: Log onto www.churchservices.tv/limerickstmarys Services will be on air at 11.15am on Sundays and 10.30am on Thursdays.

Remembrance Book: Please remember those whose anniversaries occur at this time among them: Ann O'Reilly, Elma Mc Millen, Gabrielle Hanrahan, Denis Leonard, Anne Reidy, Alice Hanley, Edward Mc Conkey, Jonathon White and James Howes.

Cycle of Prayer: *Church of Ireland:* The Diocese of Cork, Cloyne & Ross and Bishop Paul Colton. *Anglican Cycle of Prayer:* The Lusitanian Church and Rt Revd Jorge Pina Cabral, Bishop of the Lusitanian Church. *Diocese:* Growth, unity, and service in the future united dioceses of Tuam, Limerick and Killaloe.

Prayers for the Sick: Your prayers are asked for the sick in our community, especially, Rose McNamara, Andrew Prior, Anne Greenaway, Dean Sandra Pragnell, Harold Armstrong, Lorraine McCarthy, John Nix, Archie Brown, Terry Cusack, Sylvia Martin, Norman Lynas, Joe Boyle, Pat Fogarty, Frank Sheahan, William Morrissey and Alice O'Connell.

NOTE ABOUT PRAYER LIST: If you wish to place a name on the list, please email your prayer request to limerickcityparishnews@gmail.com. Under GDPR regulations please ensure you have the consent of the named person(s) before submitting a name. For confidentiality reasons the clergy would appreciate NOT being asked on the status of people. Whilst we appreciate people are showing care and concern, it can compromise the relationship between pastor and parishioner. Thank you.

CONTACT DETAILS

- The Very Rev'd Niall J. Sloane (Dean): The Deanery, 7 Kilbane, Castletroy
Email: dean@limerick.anglican.org ; Tel: 061-338697. Day off: Friday
- The Rev'd Bernie Daly (Dean's Vicar): The Vicarage, 50 Ballinvoher, Fr Russell Road, Limerick
Email: deansvicar@limerick.anglican.org ; Tel: 061-302038. Day off: Monday
- Clergy Emergency Number: Tel: 087-3524046. (Strictly Emergency Calls Only).
- The Parish Office: Saint Mary's Cathedral, Bridge Street, Limerick, V94 E068.
Email: cathedral@limerick.anglican.org ; Tel: 061-310293.

LIMERICK CITY PARISH ~ WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Deadline for notices 12 noon every Wednesday.

To be added to the email circulation list: Please email limerickcityparishnews@gmail.com

www.lcp.limerick.anglican.org