

Advent Liturgy



**DERRY DIOCESAN
CATECHETICAL
CENTRE**

Opening Hymn: O Come, O Come Emmanuel

Invite all those present to make the Sign of the Cross

Leader: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you.

Introduction: Leader

We gather together as a school community to welcome the Advent season; a time of preparation, of anticipation, of excitement as we wait and prepare to celebrate the great feast of Christmas - the birthday of Jesus on 25th December.

Waiting is a part of life. We are well used to it. In the last few years, we have waited for a vaccine, waited for schools to open up completely, waited for permission to have a school formal, prizegiving.

But the waiting of Advent is different . . . because we as a church family of faith focus during the next four weeks on the great light of God's presence! As we celebrate the season of Advent we rejoice, in the first coming of our Saviour Jesus Christ; we await his second coming in glory, and we praise God for the coming of Jesus, Emmanuel, into our lives.

Listen for a moment to a reading from Isaiah 9 written hundreds of years before the first Christmas. Listen carefully to the way the person writing was trying to imagine what it was going to be like . . . the writer is excited... the writer is anticipating what it would be like when God would come into the world... when God would keep his promise to come as our Saviour.

Student:

The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light;
on those who live in a land of deep shadow a light has shone.
You have made their gladness greater,
you have made their joy increase.

For there is a child born for us, a son given to us
and this is the name they give him:

Wonder-Counsellor, Mighty-God, Eternal-Father, Prince-of-Peace

Hymn: WAIT FOR THE LORD (Taize) - YouTube -

Gospel: A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew 1:18-24

This is how Jesus Christ came to be born. His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph; but before they came to live together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a man of honour and wanting to spare her publicity, decided to divorce her informally.

He had made up his mind to do this when the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, and said, 'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit.

She will give birth to a son, and you must name him Jesus, because he is the one who is to save his people from their sins. Now all this took place to fulfil the words spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

*The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son
and they will call him Emmanuel,
a name which means God-is-with-us.'*

When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had told him to do; he took his wife to his home.

Hymn: O Come Divine Messiah - YouTube

Prayers of Intercessions:

We present our petitions to the Lord, who looks on us, with kindness, as his children.

1 As we celebrate Advent, we pray that we will stay awake and realise that Jesus comes in unexpected ways. May Advent be a time of grace and new beginnings.

Lord Hear Us. . . Lord Graciously Hear Us

2 We pray for our world, a world waiting for God, that the light of Jesus may break through darkness. We remember the people who bring Jesus into our lives each day- our family, our parish, our school

Lord Hear Us. . . Lord Graciously Hear Us

3 We pray for peace- peace in our world, peace in our homes, peace in our hearts. May we always strive to bring Jesus into the lives of others.

Lord Hear Us. . . Lord Graciously Hear Us

4 We pray for all who are sick or distressed in any way, mind, body and spirit. We remember all who are in need through poverty, hunger or homelessness. May we be supportive in our response to need.

Lord Hear Us. . . Lord Graciously Hear Us

5 We pray for our young people, for all young people, remembering those who live without love, those who suffer through poverty, hunger and violence.

Lord Hear Us. . . Lord Graciously Hear Us

6 We pray for those who have died, especially those from our own families or from our school community. May they experience the peace and joy that comes from being with Jesus

Lord Hear Us. . . Lord Graciously Hear Us

7 We take just a minute to think of our families - especially those we live with and we pray God's blessing on them for Advent and Christmas (Quiet moment)

Concluding Prayer:

We place these and all our intentions before Jesus, our Saviour as we pray together the prayer that Jesus himself gave us.

Our Father. . .**Closing Prayer:****Leader:**

Come Lord Jesus do not delay! We place our trust in your love; strengthen us and raise us up, for you live and reign with the Father in unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

All: Amen

Leader:

Let us bless the Lord

Thanks be to God

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

Closing Hymn: Come to Set Us Free - YouTube