

3rd December 2023

1st Sunday of Advent – Hope

The first Advent candle is lit – Purple

Jesus In Our Midst

The Advent wreath is a Christian tradition symbolising the passage of the four weeks of Advent. It is a circle of evergreen foliage that holds five candles. The circle represents God's infinite love and mercy, and the evergreens the hope of eternal life.

During the season of Advent one candle on the wreath is lit each Sunday, until all candles are lit. The candles represent hope, love, joy and peace. Traditionally there are three purple candles, one pink candle and a white candle which is lit on Christmas Day.



Today's Reading

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

A reading from the Gospel according to Mark

(Mark 13:33-37)

Jesus said to his disciples: "Be watchful! Be alert! You do not know when the time will come. It is like a man traveling abroad. He leaves home and places his servants in charge, each with his own work, and orders the gatekeeper to be on the watch. Watch, therefore; you do not know when the Lord of the house is coming, whether in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or in the morning. May he not come suddenly and find you sleeping. What I say to you, I say to all: 'Watch!'"



SCAN ME

Make an Advent Wreath

Scan this QR code with your mobile phone for instructions of how to make an Advent Wreath

Pause for Thought – Hope

Advent is a time to be waiting and watchful. The candles of the Advent wreath give us light to watch for Jesus.

As baptised Catholics each one of us has a responsibility to share the Good News of the Gospel.

Think of ways you can share the Good News in your everyday life.

Who has been a sign of hope for you?

What were their actions?

Hope is like a light shining in a dark place. As we look at the light of the candle, we celebrate the hope we have in Jesus Christ.

We light the first Advent candle in the wreath, representing hope. Hope, because God is faithful and will keep the promises made to us.

As we light the candle, we ask God to fill our hearts and minds with hope.

***Light the first purple candle
– the candle of hope***



God of Hope, we enter your holy season of Advent giving thanks to You for the love You have for all of us.

We begin to prepare for the celebration of the birth of our Lord and Saviour, Your Son, Jesus.

With the promise of Your Son, we live with great hope and anticipation; Hope in the knowledge of the love You continue to give us.

Hope in the knowledge that Jesus is coming into our lives and hearts to heal us and love us.

We are a people of hope, and no matter how difficult times sometimes are, we know that Your Son is coming and that you continue to shower us with Your love.

Amen.



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Music suggestion

Scan this QR code with your mobile phone to listen to:

Hope for Everyone by Matt Maher