

# OUR LADY QUEEN OF PEACE

## Parish News

**Parish Priest:** Father David Manson  
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**Christmas Office Hours:** Tue 22nd December 9-3, Wed 23rd December 9-12  
**Closed until Tue 5th January**

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT (B) 19th/ 20th December 2020



**Do you know anyone who needs support; physically, emotionally or spiritually? Please contact Fr David on 01376 326779 or email: [braintree@dioceseofbrentwood.org](mailto:braintree@dioceseofbrentwood.org).**

**SICK PARISHIONERS:** Please pray for all our parishioners in this uncertain time. We remember especially: Gwen Rushton, Elvira Kitteridge, Kathy McBrierty, Mary Davis, Catherine Hughes, Cecilia Omoyinbo, Val Harding, Kathleen Haigh, Mary Rooney, Megan Delaney, Isaac Barry, Peter Beard, Bernard Boylan, Chris Brodie, Barbara Mansell, Janet Cash, Mary Delaney, Josie Pullum, Frances Weaver, Rachel Stokes, Bob Bothello, Brenda Sewell and Maria Wray.

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Louis Dawson, Mieczyslaw Dzierza, Walter Petchy, Mary Bolton, Eleanor Firman, Irene Fitzsimmons, Janet Williamson, Doris Abrams, Anne Warwick, Jim Ryan, Annie Geraghty, Nicola Berriman and Czeslaw Olechnowicz. May they all rest in peace.

**CHRISTMAS OFFERINGS OVER THE CHRISTMAS PERIOD:** This is your personal gift to Fr David. Gift-aiders please use your second collection envelope.

**CRIB OFFERINGS:** Donations can be placed into the box next to the crib. All offerings will be sent to the Brentwood Catholic Children's Society to support the children and families who need their help. We would ask you take a moment to pray for those children and families for whom Christmas may be a difficult time.

**100 CLUB DRAW:** The draw for December will take place on Tuesday 5th January. Good luck!

**THANK YOU:** We would like to say a big thank you to FareShare & Tesco Store in Braintree for their kind donation of bread.

**CONFESSIONS:** Due to Covid restrictions, there are no Confessions at the moment. When guidelines enable us to resume; we will let you know.

Dear Children of the Parish

We are unable to have the Children's Service this year but we would still like you to be involved with helping celebrate Christmas. With that in mind, we would love it if you could draw or colour in a picture of the Nativity which we will then display at the back of the church.

Please put your name on the picture and post it through the Presbytery door for the attention of Jacqui and Clare.

Also we would love it if you still made and sent in your birthday cards for Jesus.

Thank you in advance,

*Jacqui and Clare*



# The Liturgical Season of Advent

The liturgical season of Advent marks the time of spiritual preparation by the faithful before Christmas. Advent begins on the Sunday closest to the Feast of St. Andrew the Apostle (Nov. 30). It spans four Sundays and four weeks of preparation, although the last week of Advent is usually truncated because of when Christmas falls.

The celebration of Advent has evolved in the spiritual life of the Church. The historical origins of Advent are hard to determine with great precision. In its earliest form, beginning in France, Advent was a period of preparation for the Feast of the Epiphany, a day when converts were baptized; so the Advent preparation was very similar to Lent with an emphasis on prayer and fasting which lasted three weeks and later was expanded to 40 days. In 380, the local Council of Saragossa, Spain, established a three-week fast before Epiphany. Inspired by the Lenten regulations, the local Council of Macon, France, in 581 designated that from Nov. 11 (the Feast of St. Martin of Tours) until Christmas fasting would be required on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. Eventually, similar practices spread to England. In Rome, the Advent preparation did not appear until the sixth century, and was viewed as a preparation for Christmas with less of a penitential bent.

The Church gradually more formalized the celebration of Advent. The *Gelasian Sacramentary*, traditionally attributed to Pope St. Gelasius I (d. 496), was the first to provide Advent liturgies for five Sundays. Later, Pope St. Gregory I enhanced these liturgies composing prayers, antiphons, readings, and responses. Pope St. Gregory VII (d. 1085) later reduced the number of Sundays in Advent to four. Finally, about the ninth century, the Church designated the first Sunday of Advent as the beginning of the Church year.

Despite the sketchy history behind Advent, the importance of this season remains to focus on the coming of our Lord. (Advent comes from the Latin *adventus*, meaning coming.) The *Catechism* stresses the two-fold meaning of this coming: When the Church celebrates the liturgy of Advent each year, she makes present this ancient expectancy of the Messiah, for by sharing in the long preparation for the Saviors first coming, the faithful renew their ardent desire for His second coming (No. 524).

Therefore, on one hand, the faithful reflect back and are encouraged to celebrate the anniversary of the Lords first coming into this world. We ponder again the great mystery of the incarnation when our Lord humbled Himself, taking on our humanity, and entered our time and space to free us from sin. On the other hand, we recall in the *Creed* that our Lord will come again to judge the living and the dead and that we must be ready to meet Him.

A good, pious way to help us in our Advent preparation has been the use of the Advent Wreath. (Interestingly, the use of the Advent wreath was borrowed from the German Lutherans in the early 1500s.) The wreath is a circle, which has no beginning or end: So we call to mind how our lives, here and now, participate in the eternity of Gods plan of salvation and how we hope to share eternal life in the Kingdom of Heaven. The wreath is made of fresh plant material, because Christ came to give us new life through His passion, death, and resurrection. Three candles are purple, symbolizing penance, preparation, and sacrifice; the pink candle symbolizes the same but highlights the third Sunday of Advent, Gaudete Sunday, when we rejoice because our preparation is now half-way finished.

The light represents Christ, who entered this world to scatter the darkness of evil and show us the way of righteousness. The progression of lighting candles shows our increasing readiness to meet our Lord. Each family ought to have an Advent wreath, light it at dinner time, and say the special prayers. This tradition will help each family keep its focus on the true meaning of Christmas. In all, during Advent we strive to fulfil the opening prayer for the Mass of the First Sunday of Advent: Father in Heaven, ... increase our longing for Christ our Savior and give us the strength to grow in love, that the dawn of His coming may find us rejoicing in His presence and welcoming the light of His truth.



# The Christmas Story

by Leanne Guenther

Once upon a time,  
A long, long time ago.  
Begins the story of a baby,  
That most of you should know.



His daddy's name was Joseph,  
And Mary was His mom,  
This babe was very special  
He was God's only Son.

Some angels came from heaven,  
And they began to sing.  
To the shepherds in the fields below,  
"Glad tidings do we bring!"

A bright star lit the heavens,  
To light the magi's way,  
To the baby in the manger  
Who was born on Christmas day.

And all who gathered round Him,  
Rejoiced and praised His birth.  
For the babe, the King, named Jesus,  
Is our Saviour here on earth!

## RESPONSE TO THE PSALM

I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord.

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the handmaid of the Lord:  
let what you have said be done to me.  
Alleluia!

## **PROFESSION OF FAITH**

I believe in one God,  
the Father almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the Only Begotten Son of God,  
born of the Father before all ages.  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father;  
through him all things were made.  
For us men and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,  
and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary,  
and became man.  
For our sake he was crucified under [Pontius Pilate](#),  
he suffered death and was buried,  
and rose again on the third day  
in accordance with the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory  
to judge the living and the dead  
and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father [and the Son],  
who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.  
I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins  
and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

## **THE MYSTERY OF FAITH**

**When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup,  
we proclaim your Death, O Lord,  
until you come again.**

## MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS

|  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| <b>FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT (B)</b><br><b>(Expectant Mothers)</b><br><br>Saturday 19th December<br><br><br>Sunday 20th December | 6.00pm<br><br><br>9.00am<br><br>11.00am | Coleen Lobo RIP<br>(Henriques)<br><br><br>Debbie Gibson RIP<br>(Maria Playle)<br><br>Ints John & Peggy White             |
| Monday 21st December   |   | Mo Mass  |
| Tuesday 22nd December<br>Mass  | 9.30am                                  | Patrick McDermott RIP<br>(Mark)  |
| Wednesday 23rd December<br>Mass<br>Followed by Private Prayer<br>(until 10.30am)   | 9.30am                                  | Ints Eric & Isauria Coyle  |
| <b>THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD</b><br><b>CHRISTMAS EVE</b><br>Thursday 24th December  | 6.00pm<br><br>10.00pm                   | Mark Digby RIP<br>(Digby)<br><br>Harold Rigdon RIP<br>Kay Stephens RIP<br>(Rigdon)                                       |
| <b>CHRISTMAS DAY</b><br>Friday 25th December   | 9.00am<br><br>11.00am                   | Alan Doleman RIP<br>(Doleman)<br><br>People of the Parish  |
| <b>SECOND DAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF CHRISTMAS</b><br>Saturday 26th December   | 10.00am                                 | Special Intentions   |
| <b>THIRD DAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF CHRISTMAS</b><br><br>Saturday 26th December<br><br><br>Sunday 27th December                  | 6.00pm<br><br><br>9.00am<br><br>11.00am | Joe & Annie Wigfall RIP<br>(Family)<br><br><br>Christopher Burgess RIP<br>(Mark)<br><br>Michael Joseph McKeown<br>(Paul) |