

We have now received updated guidelines from the government which confirms that very little has changed for places of religious worship; appropriate social distancing is required, masks are to be worn, hard surfaces sanitised, limitations on singing, etc.

Face Masks

As per government guidelines, please wear a face covering in church. Those who are leading/reading at the service may remove their face covering whilst they are leading/reading but must observe social-distancing whilst doing so.

Contact Tracing

We are obliged to get the contact details of everyone who attends this service. These will only be used in the event of someone attending the service being diagnosed with Covid-19, in which event, they will be passed to the health authorities for Contact Tracing purposes. Please complete the form which is available at the church doors and drop into the box provided. If they are not required for Contact Tracing purposes, they will be destroyed after 28 days.

Singing

We have been instructed that while choirs can sing as long as they are socially distanced from each other or that children's choirs operate in pods, that the members of the congregation are not to sing, shout, chant or raise their voices to each other! Over the past few weeks, there has been some 'musical muttering into masks'! The organist, is going to play the tune of the hymns chosen for this service and I invite you to reflect upon the words which have been included in this service sheet as you listen to the music.

A new Church Year begins today. The four weeks of Advent (Latin adventus – coming) are about the coming of God's Kingdom; God's values and God's ways into our world.

It is a season of hope in which we look forward to 'the last day when Christ shall come again' to establish that Kingdom on earth. We also look back to those who have figured in the unfolding story of God's coming to rule his people in justice and peace.

Greeting

May the light and love of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Opening Response for Advent

*Faithful and wise,
full of integrity,
God is our friend.*

*Honest and true,
keeper of promises,
God is our friend.*

*Strong and upright,
lover of justice,
God is our friend.*



Lighting the First Candle on the Advent Wreath

The Advent wreath, or Advent crown, is a Christian tradition that symbolizes the passage of the four weeks of Advent in the liturgical calendar of the Western church. The Advent Wreath is traditionally a Lutheran practice, albeit it has spread to many other Christian denominations. It is usually a horizontal evergreen wreath with four candles and often, a fifth, white candle in the centre. Beginning with the First Sunday of Advent, the lighting of a candle can be accompanied by a Bible reading and prayers. An additional candle is lit during each subsequent week until, by the last Sunday before Christmas, all four candles are lit. Some Advent wreaths include a fifth, white "Christ" candle which can be lit at Christmas. The custom is observed both in family settings and at public church services.

The ring of the Advent wreath of evergreens decorated with candles was a symbol in northern Europe long before the arrival of Christianity. The circle symbolized the eternal cycle of the seasons while the evergreens and lighted candles signified the persistence of life in the midst of winter. Some sources suggest the wreath—now reinterpreted as a Christian symbol—was in common use in the Middle Ages, others that it was established in Germany as a Christian custom only in the 16th century.

In this season of Advent, we are here to watch and wait and pray for the coming of the light into the world. We long for the day when the things of darkness - selfishness and greed, suffering and oppression - shall be no

more. The candles on our Advent Wreath will remind us of the story of how, through the years, through different people, and finally in Jesus Christ, God's Kingdom comes on earth.

The first candle is to remind us of the patriarchs (the leaders God sent before Jesus), and so today, we think of Abraham and Sarah, Isaac and Jacob, Moses and David who God called to be the founders and leaders of his people Israel.

Blessed be God for ever.

Abraham and Sarah were promised that, through their descendants, all the world would be blessed.

Blessed be God for ever.

Moses and David, good and faithful leaders of God's people, paved the way for a greater One to follow.

Blessed be God for ever.

The first candle is lit.

As we light this first candle, we celebrate the faith of Abraham and Sarah, Isaac and Jacob, Moses and David.

Like them we put our faith in God who fulfilled his promises by sending his Son Jesus Christ to be the Saviour and King of all. Amen.

Hymn - One Candle (Frère Jacques)

Repeat each line.

One candle,

burning slow.
Advent weeks of waiting,
four to go.

Mary's waiting,
Joseph too.
Waiting for the baby,
coming soon.

The Jesse Tree

The Jesse Tree represents the family tree, or genealogy of Jesus Christ. It tells the story of God's salvation plan, beginning with creation and continuing through the Old Testament, to the coming of the Messiah. The name comes from Isaiah 11:1, "Then a shoot will spring from the stem of Jesse, and a branch from his roots will bear fruit."

The Jesse Tree shows Jesus' family tree. Today, we are putting a dove for creation, an apple for Adam and Eve, a rainbow and ark for Noah, stars for Abraham, a ram for Isaac and a ladder for Jacob on the tree.

Hymn No. 135 (Veni Emmanuel)

[Verses 1-2]

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.*

2. O come, thou Wisdom from above

who ord'rest all things through thy
love;
to us the path of knowledge show
and teach us in her ways to go:

[Please kneel or sit]

A Penitential Liturgy for Advent

We live in a world oppressed by sin, a
world of hunger, pain, injustice.

***We acknowledge that we are part
of this world
and have not always played our part
in confronting the darkness and
bringing the light of Christ to
troubled places.***

We are part of the Body of Christ, a
Body which is broken by the sin of its
members.

***We recognize that we belong to the
broken body of Christ,
that our lives are touched by the
sin of others,
and that our sin touches their lives.***

We are unique individuals created in
the image and likeness of God.

***We confess that we do not live up
to God's dream for us:
that where God says: 'Let there be
light!',
we fear to come out of the
shadows;
where God says: 'You are the salt
of the earth',
we rest content with blandness;
where God says: 'Before I formed
you in the womb, I knew you',***

*we live estranged from him,
afraid of the power of God's love
for us.*

We gather as people aware of the
shadow that sin casts upon the world.

[A time for silent reflection]

*We celebrate as people who are
healed by the tenderness and
compassion of God;
who are blessed by God's power to
dispel the darkness of our hearts
and minds and souls;
who are loved, along with all of
God's children, weak and vulnerable,
today, and every day.
May God hold us in the palm of his
hand. Amen.*

The Collect for the First Sunday of Advent

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 and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Hymn No. 135 (Veni Emmanuel)

[Verses 3-4]

3. O come, O come, thou Lord of
might,
who to thy tribes, on Sinai's height,
in ancient times didst give the law
in cloud, and majesty, and awe:

*Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O
Israel.*

4. O come, thou Rod of Jesse, free
thine own from Satan's tyranny;
from depths of hell thy people save,
and give them vict'ry o'er the grave:

The Ministry of the Word

The Old Testament Reading - Jeremiah 33: 14-16

14 The days are surely coming, says
the Lord, when I will fulfil the
promise I made to the house of Israel
and the house of Judah. ¹⁵In those
days and at that time I will cause a
righteous Branch to spring up for
David; and he shall execute justice
and righteousness in the land. ¹⁶In
those days Judah will be saved and
Jerusalem will live in safety. And this
is the name by which it will be called:
'The Lord is our righteousness.'

This is the Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Hymn No. 119 (Cross of Jesus)

[Verses 1-2]

Come, thou long-expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us;
let us find our rest in thee.

Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art;
dear desire of every nation,
joy of every longing heart.

The New Testament Reading - Luke

21: 25-36

25 'There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. ²⁶People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷Then they will see "the Son of Man coming in a cloud" with power and great glory. ²⁸Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.'

29 Then he told them a parable: 'Look at the fig tree and all the trees; ³⁰as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. ³¹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. ³²Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all

things have taken place. ³³Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

34 'Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, ³⁵like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.'

This is the Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Hymn No. 119 (Cross of Jesus)

[Verses 3-4]

Born thy people to deliver,
born a child and yet a king;
born to reign in us for ever,
now thy gracious kingdom bring.

By thine own eternal Spirit,
rule in all our hearts alone:
by thine all-sufficient merit,
raise us to thy glorious throne.

The Sermon

[Please stand if you are able]

The Response

A Creed for Advent by Cally Booker

*We believe in God,
robed in splendour,
veiled in mystery,
ruler alike of darkness and light.*

*We encounter God in Jesus Christ,
who was tortured and put to death,
but whose radiance could not be
quenched;
whose touch brings a blaze of colour
to a dull, drab world:
reviving the weary,
healing the wounded,
dazzling the satisfied.*

*We walk with God,
guided by the light of God's loving
spirit,
who enters the shadowed places of
our hearts
and leads us into truth and life.*

*We wait for God,
and for the fulfilment of God's
promises,
for the time when the darkness will
hold no fear
and the light will no longer blind,
but creation will be made whole
once more
and God's peace will reign for ever.
Amen.*

*We believe in the Holy Spirit who
loves us and lives in us, so that we
can give hope, love and life to
others.*

November is traditionally the month of remembering. On the first and third

Sundays of November, we gave thanks for, and remembered those, who have been part of our lives who have gone home to God, and we do so, again today. The following names are of those whom we have been asked to remember by name. There is a candle lit on the altar/communion rails for each person or family. There are also some who wish to remember their loved ones privately today rather than having their names mentioned, and one of the large candles on the altar rails is lit to remember them, and the other one is lit to remember all who have died from COVID-19.

The Lee Family and the Dunne Family
Tineke Klaasen
Noelle O'Donnell
Ruth Howe
Doreen Gibson-Brabazon
Betty Dunne
Vere Wynne-Jones
Dorothy Knight
Irene Roycroft
Maeve Coll
Bridget O'Byrne

Hymn No. 135 (Veni Emmanuel)

[Verses 5-6]

5. O come, thou key of David, come,
and open wide our heavenly home;
make safe the way that leads on high,
and close the path to misery:

*Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O
Israel.*

6. O come, thou Dayspring, come and
cheer
our spirits by thine advent here;

disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadows put to
flight:

Advent Intercessions

As we begin a new year in the life of
the Church, let us pray together.

When we pray that your kingdom
might come, give us the enthusiasm
and commitment to play our part...

O God, keep us awake to you:
and alive to your call.

God, we see signs of hate, distrust
and greed in our world, clearly, every
day.

May we just as clearly see, the signs
of hope, goodness, and kindness;
loving service, encouragement, and
thanksgiving...

O God, keep us awake to you:
and alive to your call.

We bring to you those who are
exhausted with ongoing pain and
weakness,
who are worn out with anxiety and
worry,
who are vulnerable and frail with
illness or infirmity or age...

O God, keep us awake to you:
and alive to your call.

We pray for all who have come to the
end of their earthly life,
and for those whose lives feel empty
without them.

Give comfort to the bereaved, and
eternal peace to all who rest in your
love.

O God, keep us awake to you:
and alive to your call.

Let us sum up our prayers and praises
in the words which Christ has taught
and say:

Our Father...

The Blessing for Advent

We seek God's ways;
may we walk in God's truth.

We seek God's friendship;
may we live in God's justice.

We trust in God's promises;
may we delight in God's love.

May the God of pilgrimage,
Maker, Traveller, Spirit of adventure
and joy,
bless us all the days of our journey
home. ***Amen.***

*Due to the Covid-19 restrictions we will be
having a retiring collection; there are
baskets at the doors of the church in which
you may place your collection or envelope.
You may wish to donate to the church
online or electronically and the treasurers
would be happy to give you the required
details.*

Hymn No. 135 (Veni Emmanuel)

[Verses 7-8]

7. O come, Desire of Nations, bring

all peoples to the Saviour King;
thou Corner-stone, who makest one,
complete in us thy work begun:

*Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O
Israel.*

8. O come, O come Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear:

The Dismissal

In the daytime,
through the night time,
keep us on the right path.

In our learning,
in our growing,
keep us on the right path.

In our living,
in our dying,
keep us on the right path.

*In the interests of trying to keep all who
come to our churches safe, please take
away this service sheet and any other items
that you may have brought with you or used
in church this morning. Thank you.*

Stay well and stay safe.



CHRISTMAS — FAIR —

***PJ's Christmas Coffee
Morning and Mini Fair
with Raffle and
Santa Claus
which was scheduled for
Saturday 4th December
2021 has been***

***cancelled
due to the increased
number of COVID-19 cases
and the need to limit social
contacts and gatherings.***

The raffle will go ahead.

**For the past number of years,
we have been fundraising for a
new heating system and to
make St Philip and St James'
Church more user-friendly for
those who have particular
additional needs or
requirements.**

**We are sending two books of
raffle tickets to every
household in the parishes, and
asking if you would sell them,
and return the money and the**

**counter-foils to The Rectory
before Wednesday 1st
December 2021 please. We
would really appreciate your
support.**

**We realise that some people
may not wish to sell or buy
raffle tickets. If that is the
case, please return the tickets
as soon as possible to The
Rectory so that they may be
sold elsewhere.**

CHRISTIAN MEDITATION

in the Canon Osborne Barr Room

Tuesday afternoon—3.30pm—4.10pm

Contact Irene on 087-2755423

irene.reid1052@gmail.com

Wednesday 1st December 2021

St Thomas' Church at 10.30

Midweek Holy Communion Service



Bring your own mug for a cuppa afterwards!

Services next Sunday

8.30 Holy Communion in St
Thomas' Church

10.30 United Service of Holy
Communion in St Philip and St
James' Church
(live-streamed)

BOOTERSTOWN AND CARYSFORT

SELECT VESTRY

THURSDAY 2ND DECEMBER 2021

19.30 HOURS VIA ZOOM

MOUNT MERRION

SELECT VESTRY

WEDNESDAY 8TH DECEMBER 2021

20.00 HOURS VIA ZOOM



Confirmation Class

**Saturday in The Canon
Osborne Barr Room St Philip
and St James' Parish Centre
18.30-19.15 hours**

Joint Hall Manager Required for the Monk Gibbon Hall (St Thomas' Church Hall)

As you will be aware, the Monk Gibbon Hall has been looked after by volunteers since the Parish Office had to close and the role of Parish Secretary was made redundant.

We are looking for someone to work with Hilary Turner in the administration and management of the Monk Gibbon Hall. There is a Monk Gibbon Hall mobile phone and a Monk Gibbon Hall email address through which enquiries are made and business is conducted. The phone bill is paid for by the parish.

If you think that you could help with looking after the Monk Gibbon Hall, please contact me, or if you would like to find out what is involved in this role as Joint Hall Manager, or to get further information, then please get in touch.

Person to Tweak the Timer Clocks in the Monk Gibbon Hall (St Thomas' Church Hall)

We are also looking for someone to liaise with the Hall Managers of the Monk Gibbon Hall and who will set the timer clocks - there are two! - for the heating and the hot water. These are currently set up for the current schedule of activities, but will need changing from time to time, and at the end of a term, and at the beginning of a new term. It is not an onerous task but you would be greatly assisting the Hall Managers if you could take on this responsibility.

Please contact me if you have any questions, and/or if you think you could help with this.