

# LITURGY FOR THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT (Saturday Vigil)

## ENTRANCE PROCESSION

O come let us follow the voice we have heard for our God is faithful, and faithful God's word. As pilgrims we journey, by faith through the night, for God's Son is our sun; we walk in the light.

Yes, now is the hour to rise from our sleep, to follow the road, though both narrow and steep, to leave works of darkness and hasten toward day. O see how Christ Jesus in love shows the way!

So let us set out with the gospel as guide, for God will go with us and stay at our side, and love shall impel us to climb every height, our hearts overflowing with joy and delight.

## PENITENTIAL RITE

Kyrie eleison (3). Christe eleison (3). Kyrie eleison (3).

*These words are transliterated from the Greek:*

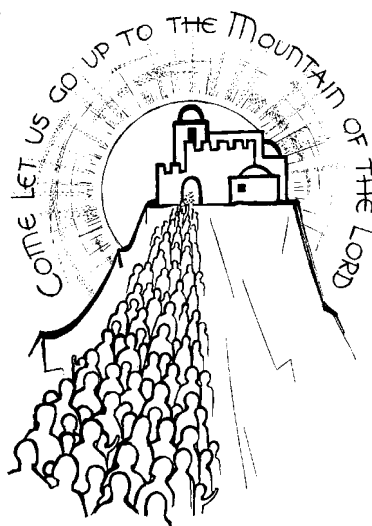
Κύριε ἐλέησον. Χριστέ ἐλέησον. Κύριε ἐλέησον.

*meaning: Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy.*

## FIRST READING

Isaiah 2:1-5

The vision of Isaiah son of Amoz, concerning Judah and Jerusalem. In the days to come the mountain of the Temple of the Lord shall tower above the mountains and be lifted higher than the hills. All the nations will stream to it, peoples without number will come to it; and they will say: Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the Temple of the God of Jacob that he may teach us his ways so that we may walk in his paths; since the Law will go out from Zion, and the oracle of the Lord from Jerusalem. He will wield authority over the nations and adjudicate between many peoples; these will hammer their swords into ploughshares, their spears into sickles. Nation will not lift sword against nation, there will be no more training for war. O House of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord.



## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Response:  
*I rejoiced when I heard them say: 'Let us go to God's house.'*

I rejoiced when I heard them say: 'Let us go to God's house.' And now our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem.

It is there that the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord. For Israel's law it is, there to praise the Lord's name.

For the peace of Jerusalem pray: 'Peace be to your homes! May peace reign in your walls, in your palaces, peace!'

For love of my brethren and friends I say: 'Peace upon you!' For love of the house of the Lord I will ask for your good.

## SECOND READING

Romans 13:11-14

You know 'the time' has come: you must wake up now: our salvation is even nearer than it was when we were converted. The night is almost over, it will be daylight soon - let us give up all the things we prefer to do under the cover of the dark; let us arm ourselves and appear in the light. Let us live decently as people do in the daytime: no drunken orgies, no promiscuity or licentiousness, and no wrangling or jealousy. Let your armour be the Lord Jesus Christ; forget about satisfying your bodies with all their cravings.

## GOSPEL

Matthew 24:37-44

Jesus said to his disciples: 'As it was in Noah's day, so will it be when the Son of Man comes. For in those days before the Flood people were eating, drinking, taking wives, taking husbands, right up to the day Noah went into the ark, and they suspected nothing till the Flood came and swept all away. It will be like this when the Son of Man comes. Then of two men in the fields one is taken, one left; of two women at the millstone grinding, one is taken, one left. 'So stay awake, because you do not know the day when your master is coming. You may be quite sure of this that if the householder had known at what time of the night the burglar would come, he would have stayed awake and would not have allowed anyone to break through the wall of his house. Therefore, you too must stand ready because the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.'



## PREPARATION OF GIFTS HYMN

Word made flesh 743

## HOLY, HOLY

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he, O blessed is he, who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.

## MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

When we eat this bread and drink this cup we proclaim your death, Lord Jesus, until you come in glory, until you come in glory.

## RECESSIONAL HYMN

Christ be our Light 439

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# Parish of Our Lady and St Cuthbert

The Catholic faith community serving North Carrick



Parish Priest: **Father Stephen G McGrattan**

Our Lady and St Cuthbert's Presbytery, 28 Dailly Road, Maybole, KA19 7AU

Telephone: 01655 882145 Fax: 01655 882173 Email: [info@olasc.org.uk](mailto:info@olasc.org.uk) Web: [www.olasc.org.uk](http://www.olasc.org.uk)

### Sunday Masses

Saturday Vigil 5.30 pm. Sunday 9.30 am

### Weekday Mass this week

Mon 7 pm; Thu 9 am

### Celebration of the Word and Eucharist

Tue, Wed, Fri 9 am

### Mass intentions this week:

Sat: Elizabeth McCann (Ann)  
Sun: Jean and William Wallace (Ann)  
Mon: Anne Dickins (RIP)  
Thu: Michelle McFarlane (RIP)

### Sacrament of Confession

After Vigil Mass and when requested

### Sacrament of Baptism

Forms available at the back of the church

### Sacrament of Marriage

At least six months notice is required

## PARISH PRAYER

Lord our God,  
we the people of Our Lady and Saint Cuthbert's Parish  
offer ourselves to you to be your people in this place,  
to be your Church in this community,  
to be agents of peace and forgiveness and love.  
Help us to face what the future holds,  
and to make new beginnings in your name.  
Amen.

## PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

Lord, make me a better person: more considerate toward others,  
more honest with myself, more faithful to you.

Help me to find my true vocation in life and grant that through it  
I may find happiness myself and bring happiness to others.

Grant, Lord, that those whom you call to enter priesthood  
or religious life may have the generosity to answer your call,  
so that those who need your help may always find it.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

## THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT SUNDAY 2nd DECEMBER 2007

Today Jesus reminds us that he will return one day and that each generation should be prepared. No one knows the exact timing of his coming and with the passage of time it is easy to let down our guard. The material world would persuade us that the only reality is what we see and hear around us, and God can be pushed to one side as other seemingly more pressing events call for our attention. Christmas, though primarily about the birth of Christ, can be filled with so many distractions which distort its whole significance. We have constantly to remind ourselves that *Jesus is the reason for the season*

The Church offers us the season of advent to recall us to this inner spiritual reality. The words of Christ will come to pass most assuredly, and Jesus is anxious that we do not forget why we are here upon this earth. As we approach the celebration of his birth, it's good to give him some extra time - to reflect on the momentous event which took place in Bethlehem over 2000 years ago. As we grasp the reality of the entry of God into our human family, we will celebrate his birth and look forward to his second coming with ever growing wonder.

Items for inclusion in this newsletter should be given in writing to David Kiltie (882644 or [david.kiltie@virgin.net](mailto:david.kiltie@virgin.net))

Last week's collection £568.14  
Thank you.

## THE MEANING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

The Advent wreath is part of our long-standing Catholic tradition. However, the actual origins are uncertain. There is evidence of pre-Christian Germanic peoples using wreaths with lit candles during the cold and dark December days as a sign of hope in the future warm and extended-sunlight days of Spring. In Scandinavia during Winter, lighted candles were placed around a wheel, and prayers were offered to the god of light to turn "the wheel of the earth" back toward the sun to lengthen the days and restore warmth.

By the Middle Ages, the Christians adapted this tradition and used Advent wreaths as part of their spiritual preparation for Christmas. After all, Christ is "the Light that came into the world" to dispel the darkness of sin and to radiate the truth and love of God (cf. John 3:19-21). By 1600, both Catholics and Lutherans had more formal practices surrounding the Advent wreath.

The symbolism of the Advent wreath is beautiful. The wreath is made of various evergreens, signifying continuous life. Even these evergreens have a traditional meaning which can be adapted to our faith: The laurel signifies victory over persecution and suffering; pine, holly, and yew, immortality; and cedar, strength and healing. Holly also has a special Christian symbolism: The prickly leaves remind us of the crown of thorns, and one English legend tells of how the cross was made of holly. The circle of the wreath, which has no beginning or end, symbolizes the eternity of God, the immortality of the soul, and the everlasting life found in Christ. Any pine cones, nuts, or seedpods used to decorate the wreath also symbolize life and resurrection. All together, the wreath of evergreens depicts the immortality of our soul and the new, everlasting life promised to us through Christ, the eternal Word of the Father, who en-



tered our world becoming true man and who was victorious over sin and death through His own passion, death, and resurrection.

The four candles represent the four weeks of Advent. A tradition is that each week represents one thousand years, to sum to the 4,000 years from Adam and Eve until the Birth of the Saviour. Three candles are purple and one is rose. The purple candles in particular symbolize the prayer, penance, and preparatory sacrifices and goods works undertaken at this time. The rose candle is lit on the third Sunday, Gaudete Sunday, when the priest may wear rose vestments at Mass; Gaudete Sunday is the Sunday of rejoicing, because the faithful have arrived at the midpoint of Advent, when their preparation is now half over and they are close to Christmas. The progressive lighting of the candles symbolizes the expectation and hope surrounding our Lord's first coming into the world and the anticipation of His second coming to judge the living and the dead.

The light again signifies Christ, the Light of the world. Some modern day adaptations include a white candle placed in the middle of the wreath, which represents Christ and is lit on Christmas Eve. Another tradition is to replace the three purple and one rose candles with four white candles, which will be lit throughout Christmas season.

Since Advent is a time to stir-up our faith in the Lord, the wreath and its prayers provide us a way to augment this special preparation for Christmas. Moreover, this good tradition helps us to remain vigilant in our churches and homes and not lose sight of the true meaning of Christmas.

### ADVENT PENITENTIAL SERVICE

There will be an advent penitential service in Our Lady and St Cuthbert's on Monday 10th December at 7 pm. This provides us all with an opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Confession before Christmas. The children in primary four will receive this sacrament for the first time.



### CHRISTMAS EVENTS

The annual parish Christmas lunch for senior citizens will take place in the church hall on Sunday 30th December at 2.00 pm. The lunch is for parishioners and their spouses. **Because of the popularity of this Christmas lunch and the limited number of people we can cater for using the parish hall facilities, those attending the lunch strictly must be parishioner or the spouse of a parishioner.** Please put names on the list at the back of the church.

A Christmas with Dickens evening at Blairquhan Castle on December 4th at 7.00 pm will enchant you with Dickensian storytelling and music. Jim McManus will appear as Dickens, Carolyn Allen as soprano, Deryck Hamon as Bass, with Dame Marjorie Hutton on piano and as director. Tickets at £20 per person include festive mulled wine and mince pies. Please contact Anne at Blairquhan (770239) or Diana Sinclair on 0131 337 4341 or 07961 073101.

### BEREAVEMENT AND GRIEF

We all experience grief in our lives. It is a normal response to a life-changing event. But too often that experience can seem so overwhelming that it could adversely affect our lives, and our relationship with others. If you or someone you know is experiencing the loss of someone close to them, either recently or in the past, and would like to talk with someone please contact Maureen Hay on 01655 331083.

Remember to take your Advent Extra and your Galloway Diocese News

**RACE NIGHT:** Thank you to all who supported the race night on Friday 21st to raise funds for our young people to travel to World Youth Day in Sydney. They raised a magnificent £1407.

**ST CUTHBERT'S RECIPE BOOK:** St Cuthbert's Primary pupils will sell recipe book they have made up from family recipes at Masses next weekend. Cost £2.

**LIFE FERTILITY CARE:** are giving a talk on naprotechnology in Edinburgh on Thursday 6th December at Holy Cross Church hall, 11 Bangholm Loan, Edinburgh. Naprotechnology is a pro-life solution to IVF and the results are comparable to IVF itself. In the USA it is proving particularly effective.

**ADVENT EXTRA:** This bright publication offers articles, prayers and children's activities to help us journey through Advent to be ready for the birth of Christ at Christmas. It is a good resource to help us focus on what the Advent and Christmas season is really about.

**AYRSHIRE HOSPICE LIGHT UP A LIFE SERVICE:** This is a memorial service for all those connected with the Ayrshire Hospice who have lost loved ones. It is also a chance to celebrate the ongoing work of the Ayrshire Hospice within the community; and finally the symbolism of light shining in the darkness and the hope of Christmas marked in a lively way. The service takes place on Wednesday 5th December in St Columba's Church, Midton Road, Ayr at 7.30 pm. Tickets, donation £2 for adults, are available from the Ayrshire Hospice, the fundraising office or at the door on the night.

**DIOCESAN CAROL SERVICE:** The Diocesan Carol Service will take place in St Margaret's Cathedral on Wednesday December 19th at 7.30 pm. This event will be a mixture of congregational and choral singing and set in a prayerful atmosphere of candlelight.

**HEALING IN THE SPIRIT RETREAT:** 27-31 December directed by Fr Jim McManus CSsR and Miss Marie Hogg. In the peace and quiet of St Mary's, hundreds of men and women have found inner peace, the gift of renewed faith and the healing of the inner hurts of a life time, during this time of retreat. A perfect way to bring your year to a reflective and prayerful close. Treat yourself or a loved one to this special time, "the best holiday ever", as one grateful retreatant put it. It could be defining moment for you or them. Contact 01738

624075 or [copiosa@aol.com](mailto:copiosa@aol.com) for more information.

**YOUTH PANTOMIME:** The youth trip to the pantomime before the youth Mass on 15th December has been changed. The reason for this is that there is a weekend of events to mark the 250th year since Robert Burns parents were married in Maybole. Fr Stephen and the Parish Council think the Burns' events that weekend should be supported. So, young people, our youth event will be to go to the reenacted wedding of William and Agnes Burns — Robert's mum and dad — in the Collegiate Church at 12 pm for a 12.30 pm start. We will then be piped round to Maybole Castle for a Hog Roast lunch. The Youth Mass will follow at 5.30 pm.

**PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING:** There is a meeting of the PPC this evening, Sunday 2nd, at 7.00 pm in the parish house.

**DRUMS:** Because of a lack of space, the drums that were at the back of the church are available to a good home. They need two cymbals and sticks to complete the set. Otherwise they are in fine working order. A donation to parish funds would be requested.

**ARTS AND CRAFTS:** There will be arts and crafts in the hall after the Children's Mass today.

**HALL CENTRAL HEATING:** You will be glad to know that the central heating in the hall is now working again. Sorry for any inconvenience caused over the last few weeks — everything possible was done to have it working again as soon as we could.

**MOTHERS' PRAYERS:** Will not meet in December. The next meeting will be Monday January 8th at 2.00 pm.

**ADVENT FAITH SHARING GROUP:** The first of four Advent Faith Sharing Groups will meet in the hall on Wednesday 5th December at 7.00 pm. All are welcome. Please come along to spend some time talking about our Christian faith — in this way we will be more prepared to celebrate the true meaning of Christmas.

**SCOTTISH INTERNATIONAL RELIEF:** A lovely letter was received during the week saying that SIR really appreciate the kindness of all the parishioners who gave so generously to the collection a fortnight ago. The parish contributed £469.40 to feed people through the Mary's Meals programme in Malawi, Liberia, Congo, Ecuador and India.

### MINISTERS FOR SUNDAY CELEBRATIONS OF THE EUCHARIST THIS WEEK AND NEXT WEEK

Please arrange a substitute if you are unable to minister at a Sunday Mass. All ministers are asked to gather in the sacristy five minutes before Mass for a moment of prayer together.

	READER	BIDDING PRAYERS	EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS	PASSKEEPERS	ALTAR SERVERS	MUSIC
Sat 1st Dec 1st of Advent	Margaret Boyce	Alex Meek	John Malone Angela Kirkpatrick	John Sabbatini Robin Donald	Paul Strang, Amy Malone, Simone McCall, Ali Roy	Nicola Lawrence Choir
Sun 2nd Dec 1st of Advent Children's Mass	Phoebe McDowall	Emily Kiltie	Margaret Kiltie Cindy McEwan	Tony Kerrigan Jim Campbell	Liam Menzies, David Welsh, Rhian Collins, Jonathan Lewis	Children's Choir
Sat 8th Dec 2nd of Advent	Matthew Reilly	Eileen Hamilton	Doreen Donald Maureen Hay	Jim Hawkes Alex Kelly	Kieran Porte, Ross Malone, Paige & Kyle Campbell	Nicola Lawrence Choir
Sun 9th Dec 2nd of Advent	Stuart Green	Jim McDermott	Margaret Kiltie Eileen Hamilton	Chic McDermott Cindy McEwan	Jonathan Lewis, Chloe Brownlee, Connor Menzies, Sam Currie	Maria Newlands Choir