

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT:



### PRAYING THROUGH ADVENT AT HOME

#### **All make the Sign of the Cross +**

*A member of the family lights the three purple and the pink candle.*

Father, all-powerful God, Your eternal Word took flesh on our earth when the Virgin Mary placed her life at the service of your plan. Lift our minds in watchful hope to hear the voice which announces his glory and open our minds to receive the Spirit who prepares us for his coming. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Together we say:** *Come Lord Jesus.*

#### **All make the Sign of the Cross +**

### Gospel Luke 1:39-45

#### **Why should I be honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord?**

Mary set out and went as quickly as she could to a town in the hill country of Judah. She went into Zechariah's house and greeted Elizabeth. Now as soon as Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. She gave a loud cry and said, 'Of all women you are the most blessed, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. Why should I be honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord? For the moment your greeting reached my ears, the child in my womb leapt for joy. Yes, blessed is she who believed that the promise made her by the Lord would be fulfilled.'



### Advent: A Time of waiting in prayerful silence.

Last Wednesday in his weekly audience, Pope Francis was speaking of Saint Joseph as a man of silence. Joseph's silence 'is a silence full of listening, an industrious silence, a silence that brings out his great interiority. Jesus was raised in this "school", in the house of Nazareth, with the daily example of Mary and Joseph. And it is not surprising that he himself sought spaces of silence in his days and invited his disciples to have such an experience by example: "Come away by yourselves to a lonely place, and rest a while" (Mk 6:31)'

Asked how she passes her hours of prayer, a young Carmelite nun once replied, 'I wait.' That is what the four weeks of Advent are all about—waiting. We wait in joyful hope and by cultivating silence and interiority our hearts become resting places for the Divine. The God whose coming we are praying for during these Advent days will only be recognised by those who really listen. That He comes to us is assured but He may come unnoticed. Prayer helps us to notice. But it is not the prayer of babbling on and adding words and more words. This, according to Jesus is the way pagans pray, who think they will be heard because of their many words. (Matt 6:7)

A very ancient tradition of Christian prayer is Meditation. To meditate one needs to set aside a specific place, a period of twenty minutes and sit upright in an attentive yet easy posture. Choose a prayer-word, perhaps from another language and faithfully repeat that word silently and attentively through the time of prayer. Most people choose the Biblical Aramaic word MARANATHA, which means 'Come, Lord.' Let that be our prayer during these final days of Advent and may we imitate Joseph and Mary in their silent listening and waiting. Maranatha; Come, Lord Jesus!

**Monday, 20th December. St. Fachanan**  
 8.00am: Frank and Elizabeth Airlie (A)  
 10.00am: Paddy Lee and deceased family members

**Tuesday, 21st December. St Peter Canisius**  
 8.00am: Deceased members of the McNamara family  
 10.00am: Thomas O'Doherty (A)

**Wednesday, 22nd December.**  
 8.00am: Deceased members of the Murray family  
 10.00am: Joe and Denis McGarry & Annie and Helen McDermott (A)

**Thursday, 23rd December. St John of Kanty**  
 8.00am: Deceased members of the Murtagh family  
 10.00am: Bella Quinn (A)

**Friday, 24th December. Christmas Eve**  
 8.00am: Tom Reilly, sons John & Charlie and his grandsons Martin & Nathan, also Christine and Helen Connor  
 10.00am: Redmond Barry, his parents Gertrude & John & his sister Gladys

**Christmas Eve Masses: 6pm, 8pm and 10pm**  
**Christmas Day Masses: 8am, 10am, 11.30am and 1pm**  
*All Masses will also be streamed live on the webcam.*

**Sunday, 26th December: Feast of the Holy Family**  
 6.00pm (Vigil): No Mass      7.30pm (Vigil): No Mass  
 8.00am: Catherine Casey, John Casey, Mary and Luke Fallon (A)  
 10.00am: Bryan Grant Roberts (Birthday Remembrance)  
 11.30am: Maria Walsh (A)  
 1.00pm: Michael Duffy (1st A)  
 6.00pm: Joe Hackett (A)

**OFFERTORY COLLECTION:** We thank each one of you most sincerely for your continued generous contributions to our weekly collections. The amount received in the Offertory Collection last weekend was €3,800.00. **8th December amounted to €1,560.00.**

**CHRISTMAS DUES:** In support of the Bishop and the priests of the parish are now due and may be handed in at any time.

**REST IN PEACE:** Your prayers are requested for the happy repose of the souls Mary O'Dea (née Kelly), Ardnacassa, Carol Cunningham, Farneyhoogan and Bernard Cotterell, Abbeycartron whose funerals took place during the week. May they rest in peace.

**WEDDING:** Congratulations to Frances Murphy and Thomas Murtagh who were married in the Cathedral last Wednesday.

**MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION** are invited to a short meeting in the Cathedral on Monday 20th December at 7.30pm to arrange the roster for Christmas.

**ST. VINCENT DE PAUL ANNUAL APPEAL** "Impossible Choices" has been chosen to reflect what those struggling financially face every day. If you would like to make a donation there are envelopes available in the porch of the Cathedral or you can place a donation in an ordinary envelope marked St Vincent de Paul and leave it in the Presbytery.

**PARISH ENVELOPES** are now available for distribution. The envelope is a vital source of income for the parish and has been a great source of support to the priests and the parish especially during these Covid times. If you can help distribute even a small number of boxes, please call to the sacristy or the parish office. Sincere thanks to all who helped in the past.

**CHRISTMAS MASSES:** In compliance with government guidelines and the health and safety of parishioners we can only accommodate limited capacity for all masses in the Cathedral.

- There will be no tickets this year.
- We encourage you to come 5 or 10 minutes earlier.
- Entry will be through the Main door only and it will be closed when capacity is reached.
- Exit from aisles will be through front left and right doors.

**Christmas Confessions**  
**Tuesday 21st, Wednesday 22nd and Thursday 23rd: 6pm to 7pm**  
**Friday (Christmas Eve): 12pm to 2pm**