



St. Mary, Star of the Sea

Leith, Edinburgh, Scotland

05 DECEMBER, 2021 | 2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT |

| The YEAR OF ST. JOSEPH will conclude on December 8, 2021. |

ON THE SEASON OF ADVENT

[Advent wreaths](#) are traditionally made from ever-green branches and have four candles. The four candles represent the four weeks of Advent—three candles are purple, and one is a rose colour.

The purple represents prayer, penance, and preparation for the coming of Christ. Historically, Advent was known as a "little Lent," which is why the penitential colour of purple is used. During Lent, we prepare for the resurrection of Christ on Easter. Similarly, during Advent, we prepare for the coming of Christ, both on Christmas and at the second coming. The rose candle is illuminated on the third Sunday of Advent, known as Gaudete Sunday. At Mass on the third Sunday, the priest will also wear rose coloured vestments. Gaudete Sunday is a day for rejoicing and joy as the faithful draw near to the birth of Jesus, and it marks the midpoint of Advent.

The [Jesse Tree](#) was named after the Biblical figure Jesse, and the tree is a reference to the passage from Isaiah 11:1, "A shoot shall come out of the stock of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots." Jesse, from the Bible, is known to be one of the ancestors of Jesus. So, using a picture of a tree each day leading up to Christmas, an ornament is placed on the tree in reference to a story in the Bible. So, using these stories you trace the story of Jesus and his ancestors from the first day of creation to the birth of Jesus.

The tradition of the Advent Jesse is significant in a lot of ways. For one the Jesse Tree is rooted in the Bible. As Catholics we place a great emphasis on the Bible in our faith. Plus, the stories used in the Jesse Tree as some of the basic stories leading up to the birth of Jesus. Secondly, the Jesse Tree has the potential to bring families together to learn the meaning of Christmas. As we use advent as a time to prepare ourselves for the coming of Jesus, families can use the Jesse Tree as a prayer opportunity. Each part of the family can take turns putting up the ornaments and learn together by revisiting the stories within the Bible.

(Sourced from the Internet public domain)

Luke 3:1-6



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(1st Reading: Baruch 5:1-9; Psalm 125; 2nd Reading: Philippians 1:3-6; 8-11; Gospel: Luke 3:1-6)

Today's Gospel opens with the evangelist Luke naming the holders of power and influence in the political and religious spheres of first-century Israel. But he says nothing more about them, because they are not his interest. For him, they are only time-markers, forming a background to the narration of the unfolding of God's plan in a specified time in history. Ironically, divine action begins not in the centre of power but in the remoteness of the Judean desert, among the insignificant ones of society. A lone voice of an austere prophet takes up the proclamation of the most important message in human history.

While the powerful personages enumerated at the beginning of this Gospel are preoccupied with their own agenda of greatness, God works his own strategy of littleness and insignificance to bring to fulfilment his grand design for the world.

(Excerpt from Sister Bernardita Dianzon, FSP, GOSPEL POWER)

MASS INTENTIONS

04 December	Saturday	6:00PM	People of the Parish	- Special Intentions
05 December	Sunday	10:30AM	David Stanners	- Birthday Anniversary
06 December	Monday	12:00PM	Peter Brannan	- Anniversary
07 December	Tuesday	12:00PM	Billy Glass	- Anniversary
			Mary Clason	- Anniversary
08 December	Wednesday	12:00PM	IMMACULATE CONCEPTION	- Thanksgiving
09 December	Thursday	12:00PM	May Watson	- Recently Deceased
10 December	Friday	12:00PM	Lynn Bee	- Anniversary

PARISH UPDATE

Please Sanitise your hands on ENTRY & EXIT from CHURCH; face coverings must be worn whilst in the Church.

Visitors will be asked to leave their name and contact number.

IF YOU FEEL ANXIOUS ABOUT COMING BACK TO MASS & HAVING SOMEONE SITTING CLOSE TO YOU, WE HAVE CARDS FOR YOU TO PICK UP AT THE SANITISING TABLE & PLACE ON THE SEAT BESIDE YOU WHICH READ:

"PLEASE RESPECT MY SPACE."

In light of the new Omicron variant, please let us all work together to keep everyone safe.

Please remember if you have symptoms or test positive for Covid & you have been to Mass, you must self-isolate and let the Parish Office know.

CONTRIBUTIONS/ GIFT AID: We would like to thank everyone who has continued to support the Parish either through their collections at Mass or by standing order, this is very much appreciated. If you are a Taxpayer, it is not too late to sign up for Gift Aid envelopes, the parish benefits an extra 25p for every £1 you contribute, contact the Parish Office or see one of the Stewards for more information.

SAFEGUARDING TRAINING: Part 2 Induction Training

Thursday 9th December 6pm. Contact Julie Brechin:
Julie.brechin@staned.org.uk

If you were unable to attend any of the earlier Induction Training Zoom Sessions, please contact the Trainers detailed above to book one of the sessions.

CONFESSIONS IN ADVENT

"Prepare ye a Way for the Lord." Mark 1: 3
Fr. Martin or Fr. Irvin will be available to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation at the following times:
Saturday, 5:20-5:50pm and **Sunday, 9:50-10:20am**
If neither of these times suits you, please speak to either Fr. Martin or Fr. Irvin to arrange a mutually agreeable time.

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMS: Our Parish Sacramental Programme (**1st Holy Communion** and **1st Reconciliation** for those children in other schools), will start on **Sunday 16th January, 2022 at 11:30AM**. For those who have already registered, we will contact you with more details. If you have not registered, please contact the Parish Office. Looking forward to seeing you.

BAPTISM THIS WEEKEND:

Lola Grace Connell and
Alexander Bamidele Marotta.

FUNERALS: Please remember in your prayers **Edward Kelly** and **May Watson** whose funerals will take place on Thursday this week.

CMS MASS this Sunday followed by Monthly Meeting.

SVdP Monthly Collection this WEEKEND

TAIZE EVENING

This Advent, join us in singing our hearts to the Lord with chants, prayers and scripture readings.

You are welcome to join us in our Taize Evening Prayer on **9th** and **16th December** at **7PM** here in St. Mary, Star of the Sea.

CLUSTER ADVENT RETREAT:

"Come with Me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest." (Mark 6:31)

You are invited to the Cluster Advent Retreat at St. Mary, Star of the Sea on Saturday **11th of December** from **10:00am-1pm**.

Take some time away from the busyness of life to reflect and pray during Advent.

Tea and coffee will be served. Our morning will finish with lunch, (due to the restrictions, please bring your own food).

SCIAF REAL GIFTS THIS CHRISTMAS: Please consider sending a real gift to someone you love this Christmas. The chosen gift will go a long way in helping those less fortunate to help themselves and all in your loved one's names. Over the years, younger children from this Parish have enthusiastically raised funds to send real gifts to those in need.

The joy of giving a pig, a goat, chickens, or other gift was beautiful to see in their faces.

This year SCIAF has sent not only the catalogue, but the gift cards themselves. The sale of these cards will take place in the Church: For **Weekdays** from **11:30AM**, **Saturday 5:30PM**, **Sunday 10AM**.

As a Parish, we are also hoping to raise money for a larger gift, ideally water for a village.

You may instead, wish to make a donation towards this gift or do both.

Danni is available before and after all Masses in the St. Eugene Chapel if you would like to purchase/ donate to this special cause.

DIARY DATES THIS WEEK:

4/5 December - **St. Vincent de Paul Monthly Collection**
 05 December Sunday - **CMS Mass** followed by Meeting
 06 December Monday - St. Nicholas
 07 December Tuesday - St. Ambrose
 08 December Wednesday - **IMMACULATE CONCEPTION (SOLEMNITY)**
 09 December Thursday - St. Juan Diego Cuauhtlatoazin
 - **Leith Churches Together**, Monthly Lunchtime Prayer Meeting,
 St. Mary, Star of the Sea, 1PM. (Please bring a packed Lunch with you).
 10 December Friday - Our Lady of Loreto
 - **Friday Lunches** after Mass at the Parish Hall
 11 December Saturday - St. Damasus
 - **Cluster Advent Retreat**, 10AM in St. Mary, Star of the Sea
 24 December Friday **Morning Mass at 10AM**
Christmas Eve Masses: 5PM and 7PM; Filipino Mass 9PM
 25 December Saturday - **Christmas Day Mass** at 10:30AM
 26 December Sunday - Mass at 10:30AM
 01 January **Saturday** - Mary, Mother of God, Mass at 12PM
 02 January Sunday - Feast of the Epiphany, Mass at 10:30AM

Restoration of Sunday Obligation

The Bishops of Scotland have decided that the Obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and Holy days of Obligation will be reinstated from **Sunday 2 January 2022**. Their pastoral letter can be read at bcos.org.uk

REPOSITORY

Our Repository will be opened at the following times: **Saturday 5:15-5:50PM;**
Sunday 9:50-10:20AM;
Weekdays 11:20-11:50AM.

Christmas cards, calendars, diaries and lots more available.

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40 Hours' Devotion Schedule

5 December, 2021 St. Serf's, Kirkcaldy and St Mary's, Haddington.
 12 December, 2021 St Patrick's, Kilsyth and St Mark's, Oxfangs.
 A full parish schedule for the 40 Hours' Devotion is at bit.ly/40hoursschedule

ADVENT TALKS: Faith, Hope and Love

Find out more about the season of Advent and the virtues of Faith, Hope and Love in a series of online talks held each Monday in Advent. Hosted by the Archdiocese, the second talk is on Monday 6 December 7:30pm-8:00pm, led by Canon Hugh White. No registration required, simply use this link each week to join: bit.ly/AdventTalk (or webinar ID: 891 8951 4801).

ADVENT: Rosary for Life

Join parishioners and clergy from across the Archdiocese each Tuesday throughout Advent to pray for unborn children, their mothers and all Pro-Life intentions. Begins this Tuesday (30 November) at 7:45pm and includes a reflection from Fr Kevin Douglas. Event on Zoom, register at bit.ly/30NovRosary

RECRUITMENT:

The Archdiocese of St Andrews & Edinburgh is looking to recruit a full-time Religious Education Adviser (Primary Schools). Details at bit.ly/vacancy_2021

Anniversaries from our Deceased Book Week beginning 5th December 2021

Andrew Paterson,
 Margaret Smith,
 Neilson Donoghue,
 William Brogan,
 May Halloran
 Michael McGarvey,
 Eddie Cassidy,
 Elizabeth Fallon,
 Theresa Meechan,
 Edward Scott,
 Alexander Gerald Gordon,
 Celestina Costa,
 Mary Barrins,
 Mary Thorburn,
 Jean Bell
 James Storrie Snr,
 Alice Martin,
 David Lyons,
 Philip Glancy,
 Patrick Hamill,
 Mary Clason,
 Charlotte McBrierty,
 Lindsay F Bee,
 Michael Geraghty



UNMUTE ADVENT TALKS

MON 06 DEC 7 PM

JOIN US ON ZOOM!

LIVE

For Young People
 Every Monday in Advent at 7pm

Topic Week 2: **Mary**
 To register, please email communications@oblates.ie

MISSION with YOUTH



Every Tuesday in Advent, 7-8pm
 Starting Tuesday 30 November

With DeMazened Retreat & Spirituality Centre, London

Advent Evening Retreat 2021
 ADVENT & THE SYNOD OF THE WHOLE CHURCH
 Communion - Participation - Mission

Week 1:	A time to Listen	As the faithful People of God, during this Season of Advent, you are invited to actively participate through scripture, prayer, reflection and sharing.
Week 2:	A time to Dream	
Week 3:	A time to Journey	The Synod of the whole Church is in a listening attitude. What do you want to say?
Week 4:	A time to Witness	

Join us on Zoom! Beginning at 7pm Tuesday 30 November
 To register, please email: communications@oblates.ie

OBLATES

St. Mary, Star of the Sea Parish
106 Constitution Street, Leith, Edinburgh
EH6 6AW Scotland

Phone: 0131 554 2482

Email: info@stmarysstarofthesea.org

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/stmarysstarofthesea/>

Parish Website: stmarystarofthesea-leith.com

St. Vincent de Paul Society: 07895436287

St Mary, Star of the Sea is a parish of the
Archdiocese of St Andrews and Edinburgh,
Registered Charity No. SC00854.
Served by the Missionary Oblates of Mary
Immaculate (OMI), a Missionary Congregation
founded by St. Eugene de Mazenod.

Kathy Barclay, Parish Administrator
Fr Irvin Morastil, OMI
Fr. Martin Moran, OMI

MASS TIMES AND OTHER SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMS:

MASSES: Monday-Friday 12PM (Also Livestreamed on Facebook)

Saturday 6PM Vigil Mass

Sunday 10:30AM (Also Livestreamed on Facebook)

FILIPINO MASS 1PM (Last SUNDAY of the Month)

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT:

Friday 11:30-11:55AM (Also Livestreamed on Facebook)

OTHER SACRAMENTS: (By Appointment)

Holy Rosary: Monday-Saturday 11AM and

Sunday 9:30AM (Livestreamed on Facebook)

SAFEGUARDING CONTACTS:

<https://archedinburgh.org/administration/safeguarding>

Archdiocesan Safeguarding Advisor:

Mrs Emma Boothroyd

Email: safeguarding.officer@staned.org.uk

Phone: 0131 623 8949

Webpage: bit.ly/ArchSafeguarding

Parish Safeguarding Coordinator is **Kathy Barclay**.

If you have any queries/concerns please do not
hesitate to contact us: **07795 386636**

ADVENT HOPE - Fr. Ronald Rolheiser, OMI

Henri Nouwen was once asked: "Are you an optimist?" His reply: "No, not naturally, but that isn't important. I live in hope, not optimism."

Teilhard de Chardin once said the same thing in different words when he was accused of being overly-idealistic and unrealistic in the face of all the negative things one sees in the world. A critic had challenged him: "Suppose we blow up the world with a nuclear bomb, what then happens to your vision of a world coming together in peace?" Teilhard's response lays bare the anatomy of hope: "If we blow up the world by nuclear bombs, that will set things back some millions of years, but eventually what Christ promised will come about, not because I wish it, but because God has promised it and, in the resurrection, God has shown that God is powerful enough to deliver on that promise."

Hope is precisely that, a vision of life that guides itself by God's promise, irrespective of whether the situation looks optimistic or pessimistic at any given time.

Hope is not simple optimism, an irrepressible idealism that will not let itself be defeated by what's negative; nor is it wishful thinking, a fantasy- daydream that someday our ship will come in; nor is it the ability to look the evening news square in the eye and still conclude, realistically, that there are good reasons to believe everything will turn out well.

Hope is not based on whether the evening news is good or bad on a given day. The daily news, as we know, is better on some days and worse on others. If we hope or despair on the basis of whether things seem to be improving or dis-integrating in terms of world events, our spirits will go up and down like the stock market. Hope isn't based on CNN, or any other network. Instead, hope looks at the facts, looks at God's promise, and then, without denying the facts or turning away from the evening news, lives out a vision of life based upon God's promise, trusting that a benevolent, all-powerful God is still in charge of this world and that is more important than whether or not the news looks good or bad on a given night.

Jim Wallis, the founder of Sojourners and one of the prophets of hope in today's world, has a wonderful way of illustrating this: Politicians, he says, are all of a kind. A politician holds up his finger in the wind, checks which way the wind is blowing, and then votes that way. It generally doesn't help, Wallis says, to change the politicians because those

who replace them do exactly the same thing. They too make their decisions according to the wind. And so – "We need to change the wind!" That's hope's task. The wind will change the politicians.

How does this work? Wallis uses the example of the dismantling of apartheid in South Africa. Apartheid was not brought down by guns or violence or even by changing the politicians, but by changing the wind. And it was changed by hope. How?

In the face of racial injustice, people of faith began to pray together and, as a sign of their hope that one day the evil of apartheid would be overcome, they lit candles and placed them in their windows so that their neighbours, the government, and the whole world would see their belief. And their government did see. They passed a law making it illegal, a politically subversive act, to light a candle and put it in your window. It was seen as a crime, as serious as owning and flaunting a gun. The irony of this wasn't missed by the children. At the height of the struggle against apartheid, the children of Soweto had a joke: "Our government," they said, "is afraid of lit candles!"

It had reason to be. Eventually those burning candles, and the prayer and hope behind them, changed the wind in South Africa. Morally shamed by its own people, the government conceded that apartheid was wrong and dismantled it without a war, defeated by hope, brought down by lit candles backed by prayer. Hope had changed the wind.

During the season of Advent, Christians are asked to light candles as a sign of hope. Unfortunately this practice, ritualized in the lighting of the candles in the advent wreath, has in recent years been seen too much simply as piety (not that piety doesn't have its own virtues, especially the virtue of nurturing hope inside our children). But lighting a candle in hope is not just a pious, religious act; it's a political act, a subversive one, and a prophetic one, as dangerous as brandishing a firearm.

To light an advent candle is to say, in the face of all that suggests the contrary, that God is still alive, still Lord of this world, and, because of that, "all will be well, and all will be well, and every manner of being will be well," irrespective of the evening news.