



St. Mary, Star of the Sea

Leith, Edinburgh, Scotland

28 NOVEMBER, 2021 | 1st SUNDAY OF ADVENT |

| YEAR OF ST. JOSEPH |

ON THE SEASON OF ADVENT

Advent comes from the Latin **ad+venire**, which means, essentially "To come to," or "to come toward." **Ad+venire** is the root of the Latin "**Adventus**" which means "**arrival**."

Advent is a season in the Church's life intended to renew the experience of waiting, and longing, for the Messiah. Though Christ has already come into the world, the Church invites us to renew our desire for the Lord more deeply into our lives, and to renew our desire for Christ's triumphant second coming into the world.

Advent is the time in which we prepare for Christmas, the memorial of Jesus Christ being born into the world.

Preparations are practical, like decorating a tree or stringing lights, but they're also intended to be spiritual.

During Advent, we're invited to enter more frequently into silence, into prayer and reflection, into Scripture, and into the sacramental life of the Church, all to prepare for celebrating Christmas.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church says the goal of Advent is to make present for ourselves and our families the "ancient expectancy of the Messiah... by sharing in the long preparation for the Saviour's first coming."

So Advent is the season of arrival: The arrival of Christ in our hearts, in the world, and into God's extraordinary plan for our salvation.

(Adopted from the Catholic News Agency)

Be on guard... Be alert at all times...

Luke 21:34,36



(1st Reading: Jeremiah 33:14-16; Psalm 24; 2nd Reading: 1 Thessalonians 3:12-4:2; Gospel: Luke 21:25-28, 34-36)

Apocalyptic writings, such as this portion of Luke's Gospel that opens the Advent Season, are rich in imagery, for mysteries can only be conveyed through images. But the fundamental truth that the apocalyptic unveils is the definitive triumph of good over evil, as God's plan in cosmic and human history attains its final fulfilment. The images are meant to call us to be vigilant and prepared to face the end-time ordeal. Since the good can come about only through suffering, then the maximum good will emerge out of great suffering... the new creation coming to birth through intense labour pains.

Redemption, which is an ongoing work that St. Paul describes as the subjection of everything to Christ, will reach its completion. And finally, St. Paul tells us, "God will be all in all" (cf. *1 Corinthians 15:28*). Can there be anything more heartening and consoling than this?

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

O Come
Divine
Messiah



MASS INTENTIONS

27 November	Saturday	6:00PM	People of the Parish	- Special Intentions
28 November	Sunday	10:30AM	Deceased Members of Gordon & Glancy Families	
29 November	Monday	12:00PM	November Dead List	- Special Intentions
30 November	Tuesday	12:00PM	November Dead List	- Special Intentions
01 December	Wednesday	12:00PM	Maureen Gillon	- Anniversary
02 December	Thursday	12:00PM	Jim McBrierty	- Recently Deceased
03 December	Friday	12:00PM	David Barclay	- Anniversary
			Alex Scotland	- 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."

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.

SAFEGURDING 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

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.

ANNUAL MEMORIAL MASS

Thank you to all those who came and prayed with us.

Thank you as well to all those who volunteered and helped.

MONTH OF THE HOLY SOULS NOVEMBER MASSES:

During the month of November, we will be offering Mass every day for all those whose names have been given to be remembered and to be prayed for.

Envelopes are available in the St. Eugene Chapel. Please return these to the Parish Office, or email names in if you are not able to attend Mass.

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:

- 29 November Monday - **Unmute Advent Talks, 7PM**
(for **Young People** aged 18 above) via Zoom organised by OMI Mission with Youth. (See poster for more details)
- 30 November Tuesday - St. ANDREW (Patron of Scotland)
- **ADVENT EVENING RETREATS Online, 7PM.**
Organised by De Mazenod Retreat House London.
(See poster for more details)
- 03 December Friday - St. Francis Xavier, Patron of the Missions
- **26th Anniversary of the Canonisation of St. Eugene de Mazenod, Patron of Struggling & Dysfunctional Families**
- 04 December Saturday - St. John Damascene
- 4/5 December - St. Vincent de Paul Monthly Collection
- 05 December Sunday - CMS Mass followed by Meeting
- 09 December Thursday - **Leith Churches Together**, Monthly Lunchtime Prayer Meeting, St. Mary, Star of the Sea, 1PM.
(Please bring a packed Lunch with you).
- 10 December Friday - Lunches after Mass
- 11 December Saturday - **Cluster Advent Retreat, 10AM**
St. Mary, Star of the Sea

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** of **December** at **7PM** here in St. Mary, Star of the Sea.

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.

St. Mary, Star of the Sea

Leith, Edinburgh, Scotland

40 Hours' Devotion

The launch of the 40 Hours' Devotion is at St Mary' Cathedral, Edinburgh, on Sunday 28 November from 1pm.

Full details

at www.stmaryscathedral.co.uk

A full parish schedule for the 40 Hours' Devotion is at bit.ly/40hoursschedule

ADVENT TALKS: Faith, Hope & 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 first takes place on Monday 29 November 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 28th November 2021

Helen Power,
Thomas Berkery,
Michael Kane,
Irene Armstrong,
Jean Fegan,
Andrew Fegan,
Maureen Gillon,
Catherine Doolin,
William John Devlin-Dillon,
Patrick McAlinden,
Halina Zawadzka,
Joe Hall,
Maureen Edwards,
Annie Croke,
Thomas Stewart,
George Thomson,
James Stewart,
Michael O'Connor,
Helen Begg,
Baby Savannah Falconer,
James McNamara,
Bridget Dickson,
James Edington



UNMUTE ADVENT TALKS

For Young People
Every Monday in Advent at 7pm
Starting 29 November


Topic Week 1: **Advent (Advent-ture!)**
To register, please email omiyouath@oblates.ie

MON **29 NOV** 7 PM

JOIN US ON ZOOM!

LIVE

MISSION with YOUTH



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

With DeMazenod 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: stmarysstarofthesea-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 - A TIME TO LEARN HOW TO WAIT - Fr. Ronald Rolheiser, OMI

Carlo Carretto, the renowned spiritual writer, spent many years living alone as a hermit in the Sahara desert. He wrote a number of books from that place of solitude, including one entitled, Letters from the Desert. In that book, he has a message for those of us who live busy lives in the world. "What is God trying to say to us in our busy lives?" He suggests this: "Be patient! Learn to wait – for each other, for love, for happiness, for God!"

Learn to wait! That's not something we do easily and many of our problems flow from that. We often don't wait properly for things.

Annie Dillard shares this story about proper waiting: She had been watching a butterfly emerge from its cocoon and was fascinated by the process until she grew impatient with how long it was taking and, to speed things up, took a candle and heated the cocoon, albeit very gently.

The experiment worked, but it was a mistake in the long run. The butterfly emerged more quickly; however, because adding heat violated something within the natural process, the butterfly was born with wings too weak to fly. Haste and prematurity had stunted and deformed a natural process. Some things can't be rushed.

Dillard understood immediately what had gone wrong. A certain chastity had been violated. Impatience had triggered an irreverence that had interfered with and damaged the natural order of things. In essence, the Christmas gift had been opened too early; the bride had been slept with before the wedding; a process that needed an allotted period of time had been short-circuited. There hadn't been enough advent. Advent means waiting. Among other things, it celebrates the idea that the messiah must be born from a virgin. Why? Is sex something unworthy of God? If Jesus had been born in a natural way, would that somehow have given him less dignity? This is a dark underside in some spiritualities, but Jesus' birth from a virgin has nothing to do with that.

Scripture and Christian tradition emphasize that Jesus was born of a virgin to underscore the fact that he had no human father and also to teach an important truth, namely, that in order for something sublime to be born there must, first, be a proper chastity, a proper time of waiting, a season of advent. Why?

The answer lies in properly understanding chastity. Chastity is not, first of all, something to do with sex. Chastity has to do with how we experience reality in general, all experience. To

be chaste is to have proper reverence – towards God, towards each other, towards nature, towards ourselves, towards reality in general, and towards sex.

Lack of chastity is irreverence, in any area of life, sex included. And reverence is a lot about proper waiting. We can see this by looking at its opposite: To lack chastity, to be irreverent, is to be impatient, selfish, callous, immature, undisciplined, or boorish in any way so that our actions deprive someone else of his or her full uniqueness, dignity, and preciousness. And we do this every time we short-circuit waiting.

Thus, it is understandable why the prime analogate for chastity is proper reverence in the area of sex. Sex, because it so deeply affects the soul, speaks most loudly about chastity or lack of it. Sex is only chaste when it is not short-circuited by impatience, selfishness, or lack of respect. Sadly, because sex is so powerful, these things are often short-circuited. We violate chastity in sex whenever there is prematurity, unfair pressure, subtle manipulation, crass force, taking without giving, posturing an intimacy we don't mean, lack of respect for previous commitments, disregard for the wider relationships of family and community, or failure to respect long-range happiness and health. Annie Dillard's metaphor basically captures it: There is a fault in our chastity when we put a candle to the cocoon so as to unnaturally rush the process.

Chastity is about proper waiting and waiting is about patience in carrying the tensions and frustrations we suffer as we live the unfinished symphony that constitutes our lives.

There are some wonderful refrains in apocalyptic literature around the importance of waiting. Before the messiah can be conceived, gestated, and given birth to, there must always be a proper time of waiting, a necessary advent, a certain quota of suffering, which alone can create the proper virginal space within which the messiah can be born: "God is never in a hurry!" "Every tear brings the messiah closer!" "It is with much groaning of the flesh that the life of the spirit is brought forth!" All of these phrases say the same thing: What's sublime depends upon there first having been some sublimation; a feast can only happen after there has first been some fasting; love can only be a gift if the gift is fully respected; and (as Carretto so poignantly puts it) we must learn to wait – for God, for love, for the bride, and for Christmas.