

ADVENT



Our Advent Prayer

*In this Advent of expectation draw us together in unity,
that our praise and worship might echo in these walls
and also through our lives.*

*In this Advent of expectation draw us together in mission,
that the hope within might be the song we sing,
and the melody of our lives.*

*In this Advent of expectation draw us together in service,
that the path we follow might lead us from a stable
to a glimpse of eternity.*

Church of the Most Precious Blood Sidmouth

2016

What is Advent?

Advent is the season of the year when we prepare for Christ's coming at Christmas. The word Advent derives from the Latin for 'coming'. During Advent we look back with joy to the first coming of Christ as a baby in Bethlehem and we also look to the future with hope to when Christ will come again. This sense of preparation and expectation is emphasised by our undecorated Christmas tree.

Why is everything purple during Advent?

Purple is the colour of penitence, which is central to our Advent preparation – we prepare our hearts to welcome Christ at Christmas by repenting of our sins and reconciling ourselves to God. Our Reconciliation services are a perfect opportunity to do this, and this year you have twice as many opportunities to attend!

Why do we have a wreath?

The wreath symbolises many things:

It is round to remind us that God's love for us is eternal, like a circle it has no beginning or end. Our lives, here and now, participate in the eternity of God's plan of salvation and so we too hope to share in that eternal life in heaven.

It is green to remind us that God's love is evergreen; it never changes.

The candles remind us of the Light coming into the world to scatter the darkness and show us the way of righteousness.

The four candles are for the four weeks of Advent; one is lit each week. Three candles are purple, representing our sorrow for our sins, our penance and preparation, and the pink candle (lit on the third Sunday of Advent) represents our joy at the coming of Christ.

As we move through Advent, the progression of the lighted candles shows our increasing readiness to meet the Lord.

Advent prayer for children

Lord Jesus, I want to
prepare myself to receive you
in joy and peace. Light up
the path that leads me to
Christmas. Amen.

Advent Celebrations in the Church



1st Sunday of Advent *26th/27th November*
Sat 5:30pm Vigil Mass & Sun 10:30am Mass

Late night shopping crib display (in the hall)
6pm onwards Friday 2nd December



2nd Sunday of Advent *3rd/4th December*
Sat 5.30pm Vigil Mass & Sun 10.30am Mass



3rd Sunday of Advent *10th/11th December*

Reconciliation service
10am Saturday 10th December

Sat 5.30pm Vigil Mass & Sun 10.30am Mass

Christmas Carol Service
5pm Sun 11th December
followed by Christmas buffet in the hall

Mass for the Sick and Housebound
11am Friday 16th December followed by refreshments



4th Sunday of Advent *17th/18th December*
Sat 5.30pm Vigil Mass & Sun 10.30am Mass

Taize service
5pm Sunday 18th December

Christmas Masses in the Church

Saturday 24th December	Christmas Eve	7pm
	Vigil Mass	Midnight
Sunday 25th December	The Nativity of the Lord	10:30am
Monday 26th December	St Stephen's Day	10am
Saturday 31st December	Vigil Mass	5:30pm
Sunday 1st January	Mary Mother of God	10:30am
Saturday 7th January	Vigil Mass	5:30pm
Sunday 8th January	Epiphany	10:30am



Wishing you a blessed and peaceful Christmastide

Paul