
Aspects of Advent: Waiting

“You are waiting for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed,” St Paul tells us in today’s second reading. For the most part, we don’t like waiting. We live in an impatient world, and we get caught up in the rush to have all our desires fulfilled as quickly as possible. But waiting has value. Imagine a world in which we received everything we wanted as soon as we desired it. It sounds wonderful, until we stop and think about it. In such a world, we would never know what it is to look forward to some future joy. We’d never appreciate the gifts we receive. Waiting enables us to value all the good things that come to us. The waiting of Advent is not just a passive waiting, like waiting for a bus. It’s an active waiting, a looking forward, a time to kindle an ever deeper desire to meet the Lord. How will we use this time the Lord has given us?



Today’s Readings

The First Sunday of Advent marks a new liturgical year. In this year of the three-year cycle of Sunday readings, we hear mostly from St Mark’s Gospel, the shortest of the accounts of the life of our Lord, and, many scholars believe, the earliest to be written. Mark’s account is filled with small details which point to the testimony of an eyewitness to everything our Lord said and did.

Today’s Gospel (Mk 13:33-37) comes from the ‘Eschatological Discourse’, a part of the Gospel in which Jesus teaches us about the end times and His second coming. The first reading (Isaiah 63:16-17, 64:1, 3-8) expresses the heartfelt desire that God will come to save us: “Oh, that You would tear open the heavens and come down!” The second reading comes from the opening of St Paul’s first letter to the Corinthians; here Paul begins his teaching by reminding the people of Corinth that they are to remain steadfast as they await the Lord’s revelation at the end of time.

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MASSES THIS WEEK

Office: Psalter Week 1; Sundays: Year B; Weekdays: Year 1, week 1 of Advent

Morning Mass is livestreamed each day and will be available for viewing later in the day on our YouTube channel. All information and links at www.saintclares.co.uk

Public Masses resume on Wednesday this week (more info on next page).

Date	Time	Occasion	Intention/Details
Sunday 29 th	9:30am	FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT	Thanksgiving (SC)
Monday	9:30am	St Andrew	People of the Parish
Tuesday	9:30am		Joan Skingsley RIP
Wednesday	9:30am		John Swarbrick RIP
Thursday	9:30am	St Francis Xavier	David Hurst RIP
Friday	9:30am		Special Intention (MS)
Saturday	9:30am		Damien O'Dowd RIP
	6pm (vigil)		Bob Tierney RIP
Sunday 6 th	9:30am	SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT	Ruane Family
	11:30am		Fr Michael Lakeland RIP
	6pm		People of the Parish

LATELY DEAD: Please pray for **Martin Malone, Frank Higgins, Roy Rawlinson** and all who have died recently.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: Saturday 11am-12noon and on request.

ROSARY: Prayed after 9:30am Mass, Monday-Friday.

ANNIVERSARIES: Johanna Christian, Edgar Coupe, Freda Booth, Mary Kelly, Angelo Marcella, Camille Sherriff, Lola Marie Gath, Anne Mulley, Ada Ellis, Joan Skingsley, Ann Thompson, Mary Slater, Frank Machin, Sheila Gahan, James Ryan.

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR NOVEMBER: We pray that the progress of robotics and artificial intelligence may always serve mankind.

Supporting your parish financially

To avoid use of cash, it is better, if possible, to support the parish using standing order/BACS. Contact us directly for the details. If you don't use online banking, we can send you a mandate which you can fill in and post to your bank. If you have been saving offertory envelopes, these may be pushed through the presbytery letterbox or handed in at the end of Mass. Thank you for supporting our parish.

REOPENING FOR PUBLIC MASS: The church will reopen for Mass from Wednesday this week. Booking is not required for weekday Mass. For Saturday evening and Sunday Masses, all those who had spaces booked before the lockdown may resume coming immediately, without contacting us. Anyone who didn't have a space but would like to come should contact us (see back page). We have space at all Masses. Those who were previously helping with stewarding, reading etc. are asked to resume their duties immediately. Thank you for your help.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: Confessions will be available each Saturday, 11am-12noon in the side chapel. Face coverings must be worn. Extra measures will be in place to keep everyone safe.

FIRST FRIDAY HOLY HOUR: This Friday 7pm in church and online. You can attend in person without booking. The Holy Hour will also be streamed live on YouTube.

SATURDAY PRIVATE PRAYER: Please note the revised opening times for Saturday: the church will open 11am-12noon, from next weekend, with confessions available.

CHRISTMAS MASSES: Details of Christmas Masses will be published next weekend, along with information about how to book. Booking will be absolutely essential at all the Christmas Masses.

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS: Donations are welcome, as usual, in memory of loved ones. Please put any donation in a marked envelope, with the name of those you are remembering. A list of prayer intentions will be displayed at Christmas.

SUPPORTING ACN: Please take a look at the information about supporting Aid to the Church in Need, at the end of this newsletter.

YOUTH SERVICE COLLECTION: If you can help with this annual collection, please visit castleriggmanor.co.uk/nys; you can also send donations to Castlerigg Manor, Manor Brow, Keswick, Cumbria CA12 4AR or bring envelopes to the presbytery.

METANOIA PROJECT are hosting various online events with opportunities for prayer, worship and growing in faith. Visit www.metanoiaproject.co.uk for more.

RWANDA GOATS: Rwanda is suffering greatly at present. One way to help is to buy a goat! They cost £30 and are considered extremely useful in Rwanda. They eat anything and provide milk, milk products and meat and their skins have many other uses. If you can help, contact Michael Donlan of the Rwanda Group Trust on 07864 990941 or e mail rwandagrouptrust.org@gmail.com

CAFOD WORLD GIFTS: World Gifts make a real difference to families living in poverty across the world. The Keep Clean Kit gift for £6 and the Vegetable Garden gift for £10 are just two gifts that will help vulnerable families affected by the pandemic to protect and feed themselves. Let's spread joy and hope around the world this Christmas. Visit cafod.org.uk/worldgifts

Events this week (occasional/one-off events in bold type)

Day	Time	What?	Where?
Every day	Anytime	Food Bank Collection	House Porch
Sunday 29 th	10:15am	After-Mass tea/coffee	Zoom
	3pm-4pm	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	Church
Mon-Fri	5-6pm	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	Church
Friday	7pm	First Friday Holy Hour , including Benediction	Church and YouTube
Saturday	11am- 12noon	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament Confessions available	Church
Sunday 6 th	3pm-4pm	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	Church

All events marked 'YouTube' are streamed live on our channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/user/StClaresChurch>

A prayer of spiritual communion

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

Attending Mass at St Clare's

Booking is no longer necessary for the morning Mass Monday-Saturday, but **it is essential that you request a place if you wish to come to Sunday Mass (or the Saturday evening vigil)**, as these Masses are extremely busy.

If you wish to attend a Sunday Mass, if at all possible please decide on a **regular Mass** you wish to attend, then contact us. We will get contact you to let you know when you can come. Please only come to Sunday Mass if you have received confirmation that we have sufficient space. In this way we are able to minimise the risks and keep everyone as safe as possible.

To arrange to come to Sunday Mass: Please contact us (preferably by email – if you don't use email, please phone us) and let us know the following information:

- Your name (and, if you are not using email, a phone number)
- Which of the four Sunday Masses (Saturday 6pm; Sunday 9:30am, 11:30am, 6pm) you wish to attend.
- How many people from your household/support bubble will attend (you will sit together at Mass, so it's vital we know how many are in your group).

There is still no obligation to attend Mass on a Sunday at this time.



Supporting Aid to the Church in Need (ACN) during COVID

Over the last 3 years, St Clare's Parish and St Clare's School have been actively fundraising to support the work of ACN and its efforts to support persecuted Christians. To date, our Parish and our School community has been incredibly generous and together we have raised close to £30,000 for ACN projects in Syria and Iraq. Of course, this year has been, and continues to be, very different. The COVID pandemic has brought difficult and unforeseen challenges for many families in our community. Similarly, the pandemic has brought additional hardships and challenges for many persecuted Christians supported by ACN.



Despite the pandemic, the work of ACN continues. Although we can't gather as a community to actively fundraise, we can continue to support ACN. Below are some ideas which may be of interest.

Advocacy - Stay informed about ACN campaigns as there may be practical ways to support ACN. For example, signing a petition to lobby the UK for political help is often a really important practical way to help this charity. The ACN website provides information on a number of advocacy cases, you can read about them here [Advocacy Support](#)

If you can, please sign the petition to get UK asylum for Maira Shahbaz, a 14 year old Catholic teenager, based in Pakistan, who has been abducted and forced to marry her abductor and abandon her Catholic faith. You can sign the petition here: [Maira Shahbaz Petition](#).



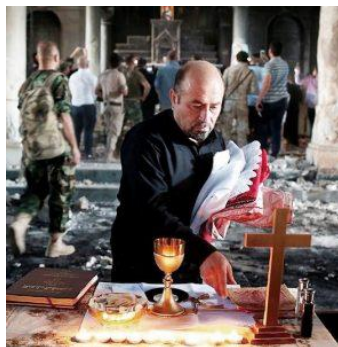
Prayer – Private prayer for the work of ACN and persecuted Christians is another practical way we can support ACN.

You can also request a mass for a loved one. Mass offerings to ACN are a really important source of subsistence for priests working in some of the poorest countries in the world. See here for more information. [Mass Offerings](#).

Financial Support – Donations to ACN are always welcome and these can be made via Fr Andrew. However, shopping on the ACN website is also a great way to provide financial support to ACN. The ACN shop is full of beautiful gifts, cards, music, jewelry and audiobooks as well as toys! So, if you want to buy some christmas cards or gifts online, take a look here. [ACN Shop](#).

Any support you can give is truly appreciated by ACN.

Thank you for taking the time to read this article.



ACN article prepared by Andrea Sinnott, parish ACN rep.