

FAITH @Home

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Diocese of Waterford & Lismore

*Celebrating and supporting faith, hope and love
in the heart of the family!*

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FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Sunday Mass Readings

First Reading:

Isaiah 63:16-17, 64:1,3-8

Responsorial Psalm:

Psalm 79 (80):2-3, 15-16, 18-19

Second Reading:

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Gospel:

Mark 13:33-37

*"Take heed, watch and pray
for you do not know when
the hour will come"*



Hear

Grab your Bible and look up the Gospel reading. Don't have one? No worries, you can find the text [here](#).

Pray

Prepare your Advent wreath. Consider making one together as a family if you do not have one.

For some inspiration on how to make a beautiful home-made wreath [watch this video](#) by Kendra Tierney, a Catholic mother in the US, who uses simple materials and household items to create her family's Advent wreath.

Pray the Advent wreath [blessing](#) each week when you light the new candle.

Talk

Think of a time you were caught unprepared. Maybe you were unprepared for visitors, unprepared for a test or unprepared for a work or school project. Share this experience with one another. This Sunday's Gospel tells us we need to be prepared for Jesus Christ's return.

- How can you prepare your heart to welcome Jesus?
- What prayers or other activities can you incorporate into your family life this Advent in order to spiritually prepare for Christmas this year?

Family Challenge!

Watch [this video](#) which explains the meaning of the four Advent candles. The Third Sunday of Advent is also known as _____ Sunday. Can you explain why?

LEARN A NEW SONG!
"THE ADVENT SONG"
(CLICK HERE)



Kids' Corner

Colour the Hope, Peace and Love candles in purple, colour the Joy candle in pink (rose), and the Jesus candle is white!



THE TWO COMINGS OF CHRIST

This Sunday begins the new Church year. In the season of Advent we are invited to wait for the coming of Jesus Christ. In Advent we await two comings – the Second Coming of Christ and the birth of Christ. The Church awaits the end before the beginning. We await the Second Coming before the First Coming.

What are these two Comings that we await in Advent? The First Coming is the great joy when God, in the person of a baby, is born in Bethlehem. It is the story we know so well. But what do we await in this mysterious Second Coming of Christ? We are asked to await the time when Jesus Christ will come to us again in the splendour and glory of God. It is the moment of the Apocalypse.

The word Apocalypse has frightening connotations yet, in the Bible, the Apocalypse is a time of hope rather than despair. It is a time of joy, not of sadness. When Jesus comes the second time he will usher in his Kingdom which is one of love, peace and harmony. But there are conditions attached. We need to be ready as we are told in today's Gospel. We need to be awake and alert, as we do not know the time or the hour that Jesus will come to us and so we must lead good Christian lives. We must wait.

The Gospel calls us to be attentive to the presence of God. The returning which the Gospel speaks of is not just the return of Christ but also our returning to God. We need to examine our lives in preparation for the celebration of Christ's First Coming as a baby and in anticipation for his Second Coming in glory.

By Fr John Harris

EVENTS



"The Light of Hope":

Carols from Glencomeragh House

Sun 20th December @ 7pm on the Waterford & Lismore YouTube Channel
A Christmas Carol Service and Nativity Story for all the family, presented by **Holy Family Mission** and the **Diocese of Waterford and Lismore**

Family Prayer

Heavenly Father, as we begin this Advent give light to our eyes and peace to our hearts. May the Lord find us watching and waiting in joy when He comes. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

Carlo's Corner



Blessed Carlo Acutis
- Pray for us!

**ARE YOU READY
FOR ADVENT?**

Our goal must be the infinite and not the finite. The Infinity is our homeland. We are always expected in Heaven.

Are you ready for Advent? Not just for Christmas, but for Advent? Check out this week's video to see what Advent is all about, and get some tips on how to do Advent well! Let's raise our mind to heavenly things, and what Christmas really offers us!



and Advent is
expectant waiting
hopeful anticipation
and joyful preparation

Watch "Advent in 2 Minutes"



CHECK IT OUT: WORD ON FIRE

Bishop Robert Barron is an author, speaker, theologian, and founder of Word on Fire, a global media ministry. Word on Fire reaches millions of people by utilising the tools of new media to draw people into or back to the Catholic Faith. Check out the Word on Fire videos, podcasts, blogs and more!

