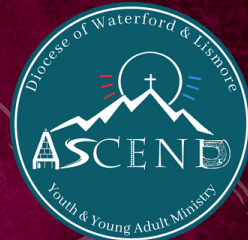




# To the Heights



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT: GAUDETE SUNDAY

Subscribe to receive by email!



Year A

Hear



Click the Bible image for this week's readings if you don't have a Bible handy!

## Sunday Mass Readings

FIRST READING:

Isaiah 135:1-6,10

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

Psalm 145(146): 6-10

SECOND READING:

James 5:7-10

GOSPEL:

Matthew 11:2-11

[www.waterfordlismore.ie/youth-ministry](http://www.waterfordlismore.ie/youth-ministry)



[ascendwaterfordlismore.ym](https://www.instagram.com/ascendwaterfordlismore.ym)



[AscendWaterfordLismoreYM](https://www.facebook.com/AscendWaterfordLismoreYM)



[Ascend Youth Ministry](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...)



"...happy is the man who does not lose faith in Me."

## Reflect



1. Where is John the Baptist in this Gospel?
2. Who comes to see Jesus?
3. Why do you think John sent his disciples to ask that question: "Are you the one who is to come...?"
4. What does Jesus answer them? How does this answer show who He is?
5. How does Jesus convey the greatness of John's role?

## Game Changers

The Catholic Church's Liturgical Calendar is crammed full of inspirational saints and heroes, or as we like to call them, **Game Changers!** Check them out on our web page!

12 December Our Lady of Guadalupe



13 December St Lucy, Martyr

14 December St John of the Cross



Ascend  
Advent  
Playlist!





**CHECK IT OUT: CATHOLIC ALL YEAR BLOG**

What would your life look like if you lived out the traditions of the Catholic Liturgical Year? Catholic All-Year teaches families how to bring liturgical seasons and celebrations into their homes. With free Downloads as well as paid subscriptions, there is a wealth of fun and faith-filled activities for every season of the liturgical year here! Lots of ideas for classroom use too!

**Catholic ALL YEAR**



Make room in your heart for God to write His story. Casting Crowns  
**BRING OUT THE JOY!**

How are you Christmas preparations going for you? Shopping done? Outfits planned? Events in the diary? Decorations up? Or is it all still a muddle? Does it even feel like you're approaching Christmas yet? Sometimes it all gets so busy doesn't it, and other things like exams and visits and more mundane jobs get in the way of excitement and joy. Maybe it's even stressful, or a lonely time of year for you if you have lost someone you dearly loved.

Today is Gaudete Sunday, the Sunday we're called to pause and reflect on joy in the Advent season - because Christmas is the season of joy. Joy Incarnate was born at Christmas time, and that's a good thing to remember in the midst of a dark and dreary month of December! It's a hard thing to remember though when we see so much suffering around us in our own communities and in the world at large. But today we can hit the pause button and take a good look around us to choose to find the joy!

**TUNE OF THE WEEK****Make Room**

Casting Crowns

**WEEKLY CHALLENGE:**

In today's Gospel Jesus asked John the Baptist's disciples to look for signs of His Kingdom - to see the Good News already present through His actions. We can do the same thing in our own world. Make a conscious effort this week to notice goodness and kindness around you, and to bring that joy to others too! Make your heart a joyful place for Jesus this Christmas time.

**Advent: More than a Chocolate Calendar**  
(Fr Mike Schmitz)

**Young Person's Prayer**

My God, You know me by name and You love me, with an eternal love that never fades. Show me how to base my joy on You, because in You my joy will be complete, no matter what circumstances come my way. You delight in me - help me to truly believe that! Amen

**MEANING OF JOY**

Advent Word Study

**Chara: "Joy"****Puzzle****FIND THE WORDS FROM TODAY'S GOSPEL IN THE WORDSEARCH!**

O V S Y S T S S S F Q P A M J Q O P  
H H W C E E D S L L R T G C O W Z C  
A G E K R U L E E I T S I R H C E D  
P J N V W I P P S N S M E E N N E N  
P U D C G E P O I E R Z F K E M J E  
Y P O H R L N T H C E E T S I D J V  
T V O S O K G T U E S N D A X E J A  
C S G O P Q O X R R E I L L O E M E  
N E E A R L B B G W E C D A I R E H  
R F E Z C D B M E X O R X M Q W S F  
B I C E W E A U W R W T B E Q O S O  
Y W N H F N S O P F B Q E F M X E M  
Z I Z U X B N A K N D J R T R Z N O  
F R L I L I L Z R D W Y R B J H G D  
N K C J D Z A I D E S N A E L C E G  
J C R J P Y I R N L B I T E S J R N  
C M U Y P T Y N G D P A L A C E S I  
F D E A F L P R O P H E T K X N Z K



blind  
breeze  
Christ  
cleansed  
deaf  
disciples  
fine clothes  
Good News  
happy  
John  
kingdom of heaven  
lame  
lepers  
messenger  
palaces  
poor  
prison  
proclaimed  
prophet  
reed  
scripture  
wilderness

Pick one line from the gospel to reflect on this week!

**WHAT'S ON****Advent Reflections in the Diocese:**

Minella Hotel Clonmel, 7.30pm, 12 Dec, 'Waiting through Advent, with Mary' - Gemma Mulligan

**Blessing of Roses for the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe**

12 December, Holy Family Mission. Rosary at 7.30pm, Mass at 8pm. You are invited to bring roses to be blessed!

**Faith Formation For Adults: Tuesdays during Advent.**

St Mary's Cahir Parish Hall. 6.30 - 7.30

For more info: cahirshm@homeofthemothor.org

**Advent Lectio Divina.** Thursday nights (Dec 8th, 15th, 22nd) 7.15 - 8.00pm, St Joseph & Benildus Parish Centre. Join for a cuppa and prayer. Join via Zoom also: Link 84105354648

**REnewal Rosary Making Workshop for RE Teachers.**

Practical workshop on how to make twine rosaries with your students, plus other rosary resources, 25 Feb, 11am - 1pm. For more info email [events@waterfordlismore.ie](mailto:events@waterfordlismore.ie) Register before Dec 15th to facilitate ordering of materials.



YEAR A: MATTHEW 11:2-11



# PREPARE JOYFULLY!

The Third Sunday of Advent is Gaudete Sunday - we light a pink candle as a symbol of joy!

CHECK OUT THE CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH SAYS ABOUT THE SOURCE OF JOY CCC 1423-1424

NAME A PERSON OR A PLACE THAT BRINGS A SMILE TO YOUR FACE WHEN YOU THINK ABOUT THEM / IT?

DO YOU THINK A PERSON CAN DECIDE TO BE JOYFUL, EVEN IF LIFE IS TOUGH? EXPLAIN YOUR ANSWER

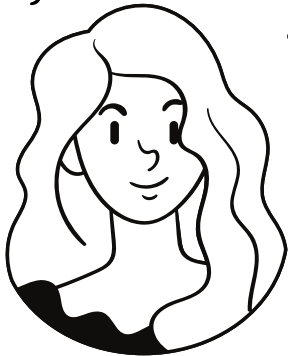
JOY

WATCH THIS VIDEO FROM FR MIKE SCHMITZ, "ADVENT: MORE THAN A CHOCOLATE CALENDAR" (ASCENSION PRESENTS) AND REFLECT ON THE QUESTIONS THAT FOLLOW



- Advent is a penitential season like Lent: ☐ TRUE ☐ FALSE
- Advent is a season of d\_\_\_\_\_ and j\_\_\_\_\_ preparation for the coming of Jesus.
- How does Fr Mike define "devout"? \_\_\_\_\_

## JOY VS HAPPINESS



- Happiness often comes out of our \_\_\_\_\_, when things are \_\_\_\_\_.
- Joy is the ability to have a certain happiness \_\_\_\_\_ of your circumstances.
- Joy is an abiding sense of \_\_\_\_\_.
- Joy comes from knowing that the Father \_\_\_\_\_ me and He knows my \_\_\_\_\_.

- Joy is a **choice**! We can choose to live with an abiding sense of the Father's love. Our circumstances can be awful and we can still be \_\_\_\_\_.

## CHRIST'S MAJOR ARRIVALS

- His Past Coming at the original C\_\_\_\_\_.
- His future coming at the End of T\_\_\_\_\_.



## WHAT DO SAINTS DESCRIBE AS THE INTERMEDIARY ARRIVAL OF CHRIST?



The arrival of Christ into our \_\_\_\_\_. This can happen when we open our hearts to His \_\_\_\_\_, whenever we \_\_\_\_\_ in His name, when we are in the presence of the \_\_\_\_\_.

## WHAT'S THE GOAL OF ADVENT?



The goal of Advent is not to have a merry Christmas. The goal is to worship him well, celebrate the fact He came into this world, AND to prepare for His \_\_\_\_\_



**Question: If Advent is the whole-hearted and joyful preparation for the coming of Jesus into our lives.... if Jesus showed up in your life today, would there be any room for Him? Take a moment to think about today's schedule. Is there room there for Jesus?**

## PREPARE JOYFULLY!

MATTHEW 11:2-11



**Should we party during Advent?** Limited amounts of Christmas parties, music and food can help us enter into the Christmas mood, but we need to be able to say no.

**Why is being able to say "no" important? What does it make room for in Advent?**

If I CAN LEARN TO SAY "NO" MORE TO MATERIAL THINGS, I CAN LEARN TO SAY "YES" MORE TO JESUS.



### Now Read Matthew 11:2-11



How are your Christmas preparations going for you? Shopping done? Outfits planned? Events in the diary? Decorations up? Or is it all still a muddle? Does it even feel like you're approaching Christmas yet? Sometimes it all gets so busy doesn't it, and other things like exams and visits and more mundane jobs get in the way of excitement and joy. Maybe it's even stressful, or a lonely time of year for you if you have lost someone you dearly loved.

Today is Gaudete Sunday, the Sunday we're called to pause and reflect on joy in the Advent season - because Christmas is the season of Joy: Joy Incarnate was born at Christmas time, and that's a good thing to remember in the midst of a dark and dreary month of December! It's a hard thing to remember though when we see so much suffering around us in our own communities and in the world at large. But today we can hit the pause button and take a good look around us to choose to find the joy! In today's Gospel Jesus asked John the Baptist's disciples to look for signs of His Kingdom - to see the Good News already present through His actions. We can do the same thing in our own world. Make a conscious effort this week to notice goodness and kindness around you, and to bring that joy to others too! Make your heart a joyful place for Jesus this Christmas time.

MISSION!

MAKE A DECISION TODAY TO LIVE ADVENT JOYFULLY AND PREPARING TO WELCOME JESUS. USE OUR DAILY ADVENT CALENDAR ON INSTAGRAM TO HELP YOU IF YOU NEED SOME IDEAS.

TAKE A LOOK AT YOUR DAILY SCHEDULE. WHERE CAN YOU FIT FIVE TO TEN MINUTES IN EACH DAY FOR PRAYER? CAN YOU SET YOUR ALARM TO GO OFF EARLIER? CAN YOU CUT OUT A FEW MINUTES OF TV / GAMING / MUSIC? DECIDE FOR WHOLE-HEARTED JOYFUL PREPARATION - IF YOU DON'T DECIDE, IT WON'T HAPPEN!



WHAT COULD I SAY NO TO THIS WEEK TO MAKE MORE ROOM FOR CHRIST?

PRAYER TIME!

### PRAYER FOR JOY:

My God, You know me by name and You love me, with an eternal love that never fades. Show me how to base my joy on You, because in You my joy will be complete, no matter what circumstances come my way. You delight in me - help me to truly believe that! Amen



## CREATE A PLAYLIST TO LISTEN TO AS YOU REFLECT ON JOYFUL PREPARATION



- [Make Room \(Casting Crowns\)](#)
- [The Earth Stood Still \(Future of Forestry\)](#)
- [Unspeakable Joy \(Chris Tomlin\)](#)
- [O Come, O Come Emmanuel \(David Crowder Band\)](#)
- [When Hope Came Down \(Kari Jobe\)](#)
- [Awake O Sleeper \(Ike Ndolo\)](#)
- [Hearts Waiting \(Matt Redman\)](#)
- [God Made Low \(Sovereign Grace\)](#)



CHECK OUT OUR ASCEND DAILY INSTAGRAM POSTS FOR IDEAS ON HOW TO CELEBRATE ADVENT THIS YEAR!

7:46 MINS



Why Joy is More Christian than Happiness (Fr Mike Schmitz)

4:31 MINS



[JOY \(The Bible Project\)](#)