

First Sunday of Advent

Entrance Antiphon: To you, my God, I lift my soul, I trust in you; let me never come to shame. Do not let my enemies laugh at me. No one who waits for you is ever put to shame.

1st Reading: Isaiah: 63: 16-17 64:1 3-8

Psalm 22 God of hosts; bring us back. Let your face shine on us and we shall be saved.

1. O shepherd of Israel, hear us, shine forth from your cherubim throne. O Lord, rise up your might, O Lord, come to our help. (R)

2. God of hosts, turn again, we implore, look down from heaven and see. Visit this vine and protect it, the vine your right hand has planted. (R)

3. May your hand be on the man you have chosen, the man you have given your strength. And we shall never forsake you again; give us life that we may call upon your name. (R)

2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! Let us see, O Lord, your mercy and give us your saving help. Alleluia!

Gospel: Mark. 13:33-37

Communion Antiphon:

The Lord will shower his gifts, and our land will yield its fruit.

Fr Charles is in Scotland from Sunday to Wed evening, visiting his sister who is ill.

QUOTE "It is the whole of nature, extending from the beginning to the end, that constitutes the one image of God Who is."

St Gregory of Nyssa 330ce—395ce



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JOKE A large, well established, Canadian lumber camp advertised that they were looking for a good Lumberjack. The very next dy, a skinny little man showed up at the camp with his axe, and knocked on the head lumberjacks' door. The head lumberjack took one look at the little man and told him to leave. "Just give me a chance to show you what I can do," said the skinny man.

"Okay, see that giant redwood over there?" said the lumberjack. "Take your axe and go cut it down." The skinny man headed for the tree, and in five minutes he was back knocking on the lumberjack's door.

"I cut the tree down," said the man. The lumberjack couldn't believe his eyes and said, "Where did you get the skill to chop down trees like that?"

"In the Sahara Forest," replied the puny man.

"You mean the Sahara Desert," said the lumberjack.

The little man laughed and answered back, "Oh sure, that's what they call it now!"



Our Lady of the Assumption Catholic Church

119 WELLINGTON ROAD, RHYL
DENBIGHSHIRE LL18 1LE

First Sunday of Advent

3rd December 2017

(reading cycle B, the year of Mark's gospel)

SUNDAY 10.00 am - Mass for the People

MONDAY to THURSDAY - no morning Mass -

THURSDAY 7.00 pm **Advent Reconciliation Service**
FRIDAY **Feast of the Immaculate Conception**

9.30 am - Jimmy Prendergast RIP
10.30am Ysgol Mair

SATURDAY 10.30 - 11.30 Holy Hour with morning prayer of the church
and Sacrament of Reconciliation

SUNDAY 10.00 am - Mass for the People

Sacrament of Reconciliation Saturdays 10.30am-11.15am and 4.15-4.45pm
Open Office Day Thursdays 9.00am—4.00pm

For all enquiries or sacraments see as below
01745354311

For **Baptism** tel

Please let Fr Charles know of anyone who is ill or housebound
Who would like to receive Holy Communion at home or the **Anointing of the Sick** for healing

Priest: Fr Charles Ramsay

Tel 01745 353395 email chas37free@gmail.com
Parish website: catholicchurchrhyll.co.uk

(Webmasters: Christian Domingo, Shane Owen and Ernest Jones
(webmaster@catholicchurchrhyll.co.uk)

Diocese of Wrexham Registered charity No 700426

Parish Finances: The church collection for Sunday, 26th November, amounted to £488.98p of which £226.98p was 'loose' and £262.00p was Gift Aid.

Hospital Chaplains on call:
Glan Clwyd: Mrs. Sheila Johnson, 01745 354311 /07717182557 Llandudno Hospital: Fr Moses Amune 01492 877353 Ysbtu Gwynedd; Bay Hospital: Fr Frank 0149

Advent Reconciliation Service
Thursday, 7th December, 7.00 pm
(There will also be a penitential service at St Theresa's, Abergele on Wednesday 20th December 7 pm?)

MUSIC Musician ? Singer ? There's a practice for Christmas eve nativity mass on Sunday 10th Dec after mass (about 11.15). Any musicians and singers would be most welcome as well as children wanting to be involved. And you don't have to be Taylor Swift or Ed Sheeran.

The third annual **Christmas Day Party** for homeless people is now being organised by an excellent group of people representing different groups, including parishioners, some of whom will contribute by decorating the church social area for the party or helping on the day.

Thanks to those who have put their names down to donate food. This needs to be brought on the day or on the day before if perishable. Due to lots of generous donations we have no more need at the moment.

Gifts for the FOOD BANK at Christmas, however, will be very well appreciated.

Bethany Group Christmas lunch at the Bod Erw, 1.00 pm Sunday, December 10th.

We've only been using two of the Mass acclamations in the new translation, to give people time to memorise these. Throughout this Advent we will use the third, neglected one.....

Save us, Saviour of the world, for by your Cross and Resurrection, you have set us free.

Christmas Masses:
Christmas Day (4th Sunday of Advent) Sunday Mass 10am
Christmas Eve 5pm and 9.00pm
Christmas Day 10.00am

Christmas party for homeless people 11.15am Christmas Day

U.C.M. Christmas Bingo
Wednesday, 6th December, at 7.30 pm. All welcome, monies raised will go to a local charity.

"He must not find you asleep."
Mark 13: 36

Thank you to Ffrances, who organised the **Positive Catholics** meeting in the parish house last Friday, on World Aids Day, as a way of welcoming, of healing, for people affected by Aids, especially those often very excluded people who have a Gay, Lesbian orientation or people who have changed gender. There were, according to estimates by WHO and UN-AIDS, **36.7 million people** living with HIV globally at the end of 2015. That same year, some 2.1 million people became newly infected, and **1.1 million** died of HIV-related causes .



Weekly Guide to Daily Prayer

Despite all the distractions at this time of year, we really can focus on Advent during these weeks. We seem to get very busy, and at times have to go to a number of social events or wrestle with budgets and shopping, but the heart of this season is all about expectant hope. So, we begin our Advent journey by giving ourselves some time - just a few minutes each day - to reflect on how much God promises us.

Each morning this week, while we are first coming to consciousness, we can name a desire, name an emptiness or feeling of anxiety or worry, that we can feel. It is into the raw places in our lives such as these, that our Lord came to be with us. So, this week, we can begin to invite our Lord to be Incarnate in our lives, in the places we need him the most.

Our goal this week is to let ourselves feel like those to whom the promises of our God are made. We want to get in touch with ourselves, especially those parts of ourselves that are in need of a Saviour. We do this by keeping our focus on the places that feel like a desert, the places that feel like we've been through a war, the places that feel like a lifeless stump. When we have a hard time seeing, we ask for the grace to be able to believe the promise that we shall see. When we seem deaf, we place our trust in the One who assures us that we will hear. And when we feel beaten down and awfully lowly, we turn to the One who promises that we will "find joy in the Lord". And who among us doesn't have days on which we are aware of various kinds of wounds? On the day of promise, "the Lord binds up the wounds of his people.

As we let these deep realities of our daily lives come into focus and interact with the readings, something wonderful happens. We become more and more aware of our need for God. Very naturally and

quite spontaneously, a prayer comes forth from deep within us, "Come, Lord", "Come and save me". "Come and be with me in all of these messy, empty, dry and disordered places in my life. "Come, Lord. I feel my longing for you grow. I feel my hope grow. And, as I place my hope in your promises, Advent begins to come alive in me".

All of this preparation can happen in the simplest way, before the first Christmas decoration goes up. And, for each moment of each day that we encounter a place that we desire, that we long for our Lord's coming, we can express our thanksgiving. .

Taken from the "weekly Guide to Daily Prayer" the Creighton University's Online Ministries website

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT QUOTES

Even if I knew that tomorrow the world would go to pieces, I would still plant my apple tree.
(Martin Luther)

Here is the message of Advent: faced with him who is the Last, the world will begin to shake. Only when we do not cling to false securities will our eyes be able to see this Last One and get to the bottom of things. Only then will we be able to guard our life from the frights and terrors into which God the Lord has let the world sink to teach us, so that we may awaken from sleep, as Paul says, and see that it is time to repent, time to change things.

(Alfred Delp SJ, imprisoned in a Nazi Concentration Camp)