

Our Lady of the Angels & St. David, Cwmbran

Advent Schedule 2021

Spirituality of Advent

Advent marks the beginning of a new liturgical year. As well as being a time of new beginnings, Advent is a time of expectation and preparation, where we await the second coming of the Lord, as well as His immediate coming at Christmas. It is this 'longing' and 'expectation' which distinguishes it from other seasons of the Church's year.

Advent is the season of the Holy Spirit. Throughout our Advent journey we will be witnesses to the Holy Spirit's action, not only in the various characters we will meet during this season, but also be able to consider afresh the Holy Spirit's action in our own lives as we await the return of the Lord.

I pray that this may be a fruitful season as we *"await with blessed hope for the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ"*.

An Invitation

From the First Sunday of Advent, it is the intention of the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales to re-introduce the Sunday obligation to attend Mass. The Bishops' reflected: *"we need to have in our sights the need to restore to its rightful centrality in our lives the Sunday Mass, encouraging each to take his or her place once again in the assembly of our brothers and sisters"*.

Parish Prayer

Come Holy Spirit,
fill our hearts with wisdom, love and courage.
Make us more like Christ in
our works and actions.
Bless the work of your Church.
Renew us all in the desire
to make Christ known and loved in
the world today.

Bless the work of our Parish.
Guide all that we do
so that our church is a place of mercy and service
for all who are seeking you.
Deepen our love for the Presence of Christ
in the Eucharist
and guide us in prayer and action
as we journey towards Discipleship
to become the Church you are calling us to be.
We ask this through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
Amen.

Building the Nativity Scene

Pope Francis reflected that contemplating the Christmas story is like setting out on a spiritual journey, *"drawn by the humility of the God who became man in order to encounter every man and woman"*. During this season of Advent we will gradually build the Nativity scene in our two churches. As we do so, the nativity scene *"is like a living Gospel rising up from the pages of sacred scripture"*. I invite you to keep making a visit to the crib and enter into the scene.

Bambinelli Sunday

Pope John Paul II, during his papacy, instituted the celebration of Bambinelli Sunday on the Third Sunday of Advent – a day on which children from Rome bring to St. Peter's Square the figurine of the Christ Child from their families' Nativity sets. I invite you to bring the figures of the Child Jesus from your Nativity Scenes at home to Mass over the weekend of the Third Sunday of Advent (11th/12th December) for them to be blessed during Mass.

Stations of the Crown

The pupils of Our Lady's Primary School are going to lead the parish in meditating upon key

moments of the Christmas story, as we build up to the celebration of Christmas.

Due to restrictions from Torfaen Council, the Stations of the Crown will be available to watch through the parish YouTube page on the Thursdays of Advent at 6:00pm. Full details and links will be available in the newsletter.

Early Morning Advent Mass & Breakfast

During Advent, there is an extra opportunity to celebrate Mass on **Tuesday mornings, at 7:30am** at Our Lady's Church. Breakfast will be available in the St. Anne's Room afterwards.

Sung Evening Prayer and Benediction

Evening Prayer (Vespers) is part of the Liturgy of the Hours, a set of prayers prayed throughout the day. Here in the parish, we gather together almost every morning to pray Morning Prayer (9:40am). During the season of Advent, there is the opportunity to gather for Sung Evening Prayer and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. This will take place **each Sunday of Advent at Our Lady of the Angels, beginning at 5:00pm**. This is both open to the public and live-streamed.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is a wonderful treasure. Pope Francis has reflected that: *"The Lord never tires of forgiveness. It is we who are tired of asking for forgiveness. Let us ask for the grace not to tire of forgiveness, because he never tires of forgiving"*. During Advent, the Sacrament of Reconciliation is available at the following times:

Saturdays:

10:35am – 11:45am – Our Lady's Church

4:15pm – 4:45pm – St. David's Church

Mondays & Fridays:

9:00am – 9:30am – Our Lady's Church

Tuesdays & Thursdays:

9:00am – 9:30am – St. David's Church

A visiting priest will also be available in the parish at Our Lady's Church on **Thursday, 16th December** between **6:00pm and 7:00pm**.

There is a full schedule of dates and times for the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the whole of the deanery available on the parish website. Thank you to the priests of the deanery for making themselves available.



Christmas Mass Times

Christmas Eve (24th December)

4:00pm – Family Mass (Our Lady's)

6:00pm – Family Mass (St. David's)

9:00pm – Mass of the Night (Our Lady's)

Christmas Day (25th December)

9:00am – Mass of the Dawn (Our Lady's)

10:30am – Holy Mass (St. David's)

NO Evening Masses



Solemnity of the Holy Family (Sunday, 26th December)

9:30am – Holy Mass (Our Lady's)

11:15am – Holy Mass (St. David's)

NO Evening Masses