

Our Lady of the Angels & St. David, Cwmbran

Advent Schedule 2025

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"*.

The Angelus

V/ The Angel of the Lord declared to Mary:
R/ **And she conceived of the Holy Spirit.**

Hail Mary...

V/ Behold the handmaid of the Lord:
R/ **Be it done unto me according to Thy word.**

Hail Mary...

V/ And the Word was made Flesh:
R/ **And dwelt among us.**

Hail Mary...

V/ Pray for us, O Holy Mother of God,
R/ **that we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.**

Let us pray.

Pour forth, we beseech Thee, O Lord, Thy grace into our hearts; that we, to whom the incarnation of Christ, Thy Son, was made known by the

message of an angel, may by His Passion and Cross be brought to the glory of His Resurrection, through the same Christ Our Lord.

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** (13th and 14th December) for them to be blessed during Mass.

Expectant Mothers

We are asked to pray for Expectant Mothers - especially on **Fourth Sunday in Advent** (21st December).

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:

10:30am – 11:30am – Our Lady's Church

4:15pm – 4:45pm – St. David's Church

Monday Evenings:

5:15pm – 5:45pm – Our Lady's Church

Parish Carol Service

Our annual Parish Carol Service will take place on **Friday, 12th December** at **6:00pm** at Our Lady's Church, followed by refreshments in the St. Anne's Room. Our Carol Service will be supported by the choirs of our primary schools.

Cake Sale at St. David's Church, Pontnewydd

The Children's Liturgy team at St David's will be holding some fundraising events to help refurbish the kitchen in St Non's Room. To begin the children will be making some Christmas Craft to sell during the season of Advent.

Also, the Children's Liturgy team will be holding a cake sale on **Sunday 14th December** after **11:15am Mass**. Your support and donations will be gratefully accepted.

Advent Evening of Grace

*"The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger
and abounding in steadfast love."*

Psalms 145:8

Enter into the beauty of Advent with an Evening of Grace on **Thursday, 18th December** at St. David's Church, beginning at **6:00pm** — a time to encounter the Lord in Mass, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, and the Sacrament of Reconciliation. In the midst of the busyness of the season, come and encounter the peace and mercy of Christ as we prepare our hearts for His coming this Christmas.

Our Lady of the Angels Christmas Concert

Monday 15th December 1.45-3pm

Tuesday 16th December 1.45-3pm

St David's Christmas Concert

Lower School- Tuesday 9th December 1.30pm

Thursday 11th December 1.30pm

Upper School- Tuesday 16th December 1.30pm

Wednesday 17th December 1.30pm

Advent Lectio Divina

Deepen your spiritual awareness this Advent by reflecting on God's word as a parish community. We will explore the upcoming Sunday Gospel together using the contemplative practice of **Lectio Divina**. The session involves reading, reflecting, responding, and resting in God's word to discover how the Scripture speaks to us individually.

Join us to prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ.

- **Sessions:** Mondays of Advent, after the 9:30am Mass
- **Location:** St. Anne's Room of Our Lady's Church



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