

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS

The Church season begins with the season of Advent.

Advent, which means “coming”, is a season of waiting, a time of anticipation for the birth of Jesus and the Second Coming of Christ. The Church invites us to reflect on the coming of Jesus prompting the question, “Does Jesus really make a difference in our lives?”. Advent is a kind of wake-up call for us to be ready to welcome the Lord in our midst. “Be awake” is a good motto for Advent for it is not only a time to welcome the birth of the Saviour on Christmas Day but also a warning to look ahead to our judgment day.

Scripture has many passages about this sense of anticipation with hope and longing for God to send a deliverer. God promised a Redeemer, (Genesis 3:14-15). The prophets, especially Isaiah, looked forward to the coming of the Saviour, (Isaiah 7:14) and other prophets such as Zephaniah, Habakkuk, Joel and Micah proclaimed that the Lord would be coming to set God’s people free. As Christmas draws near, the liturgy focuses on Mary’s annunciation (Luke 1:31-35) and Joseph being reassured by the angel to take Mary as his wife (Matthew 1:20-21). Elizabeth, Zechariah and John the Baptist feature in the Advent liturgy because of John’s later role as the herald of Jesus, the Chosen One.

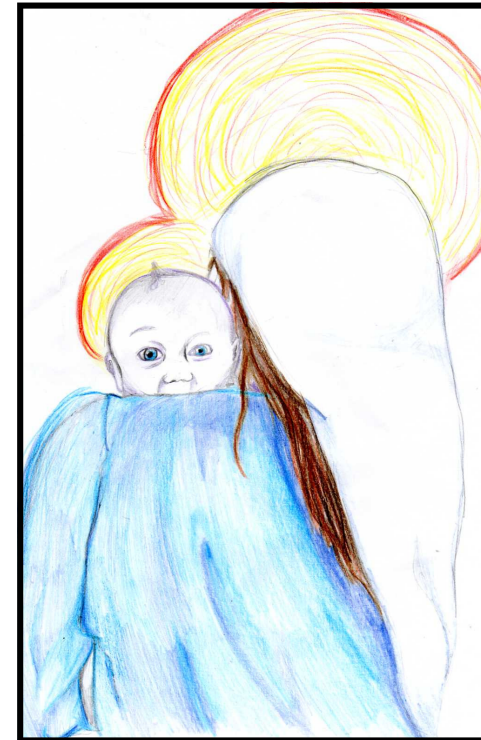
The liturgy urges us to be ready, to be alert, to wait with joyous expectation and to remember that one day we will meet Christ in a final review of our lives. So how will you spend the Advent season and the run up to Christmas? Will present buying, gift wrapping and shopping dominate your family life, will you squeeze the Christ-child in between the office party and endless Christmas shopping for expensive presents? Or will you give you and your family something to treasure and come and join in the events, celebrations and services of our Parish and school?

If you can find some time to set aside for prayer and quiet reflection of the birth of the baby at Bethlehem it will cost you nothing but it will be worth a fortune and the best present you could ever receive!

With every blessing for a happy and holy Christmas

Fr John

St Kentigern’s Christmas Services



2009

Sunday 13th December
10.30am
Sunday Mass

12.30pm
Polish Mass

Monday 14th December
10am
Liturgy of the Word with Holy Communion

Tuesday 15th December
6.30pm
Key Stage 1 Carol Service in Church

8pm
RCIA in the Upper Room

Wednesday 16th December
3.45pm
Service of Reconciliation in Church for families on the First Holy Communion
Sacramental programme

Thursday 17th December
10am
Mass
'O' antiphons

Friday 18th December
10.15am
End of term Mass in Church for St Kentigern's Catholic Primary School.
All parents and families welcome.

1.10pm
St Mary's Catholic College closes for Christmas holiday

2pm
St Kentigern's Catholic Primary School closes for the Christmas holiday

8pm
Parish Centre Christmas Quiz
(Bar open until midnight)

Saturday 19th December
11.30am-12 noon & 5.30pm - 6pm
Confessions

6pm
Vigil Mass

Sunday 20th December
10.30am
Sunday Mass

12.30pm
Polish Mass

Monday 21st December
10am
Liturgy of the Word with Holy Communion

Tuesday 22nd December
10am
Mass

7.30pm
Parish Service of Reconciliation

Wednesday 23rd December
10am
Mass

Thursday 24th December
Christmas Eve
3pm
Christingle Service in Church for children



9pm
Polish Mass

CHRISTMAS SERVICES begin with MIDNIGHT MASS

Service starts at 11.30pm with carols, readings and blessing of the crib
The bar in the Parish Centre is open until 11.30pm

Friday 25th December
10.30am
Mass of Christmas Day

12.30pm
Polish Mass

Saturday 26th December
Confessions only between 5.30pm & 6pm

6pm
Vigil Mass

Sunday 27th December
Feast of the Holy Family
10.30am
Sunday Mass

12.30pm
Polish Mass

Monday 28th December
10am
Liturgy of the Word with Holy Communion

Tuesday 29th December
10am
Liturgy of the Word with Holy Communion

Wednesday 30th December
10am
Liturgy of the Word with Holy Communion

Thursday 31st December
10am
Mass

31st December 7.00pm

NEW YEAR'S EVE CELEBRATION IN THE PARISH CENTRE

Night includes raffle & bingo.
The bar will be open until 1am

Friday 1st January 2010
12 noon
Mass for the Feast of Mary, the Mother of God
Parish Centre open from 1pm-3pm

Saturday 2nd January
11am-12 noon
Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
11.30am-12 noon & 5.30pm-6pm
Confessions
6pm
Vigil Mass

Sunday 3rd January
10.30am
Sunday Mass

12.30pm
Polish Mass

Monday 4th January
8.35am
St Mary's Catholic College opens

8.55am
St Kentigern's Catholic Primary School opens

10am
Liturgy of the Word with Holy Communion

Tuesday 5th January
10.15am
Mass

8pm
RCIA in the Upper Room

