



Coloma Catholic Life.



Advent

Advent marks the beginning of the Church's liturgical year. Advent comes from the Latin word meaning "coming." Jesus is coming, and Advent is intended to be a season of preparation for His arrival. While we typically regard Advent as a joyous season, it is also intended to be a period of preparation, much like Lent. Prayer, penance and fasting are appropriate during this season. Advent is not as strict as Lent, and there are no rules for fasting, but it is meant to be a period of self-preparation. The purple colour associated with Advent is also the colour of penance. The faithful should fast during the first two weeks in particular and receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation. The colour of the Third Sunday of Advent is rose. This colour symbolizes joy and represents the happiness we will experience when Jesus comes again. The Third Sunday is a day of anticipatory celebration. It is formerly called "Gaudete" Sunday; gaudete means "rejoice" in Latin. Finally, Sundays during Advent, just as during Lent, should not be given to fasting, but instead to celebration because we celebrate the resurrection of Our Lord every Sunday. These links are a simple way of explaining the meaning of Advent.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eC0FGQLBp7w>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ksHKrIaO1pl>

Tuesday Lunchtime - Reconciliation

Fr Keith will be available in the Chapel during lunchtime on Tuesday 1st December to hear confessions for girls in **Year 12 & 13 only** or for a private chat. Year 12 12:20 – 12:45pm, Year 13 12:45 – 1:05pm. As we begin Advent it is a particularly good practice to take part in this sacrament.

Pope Francis

Prayer Intention for December:

For a Life of Prayer.

'We pray that our personal relationship with Jesus Christ be nourished by the Word of God and a life of prayer.'

Video:

Tweet: "Advent is a continuous call to hope: it reminds us that God is present in history to lead it to its ultimate goal and to its fullness, which is the Lord Jesus Christ."

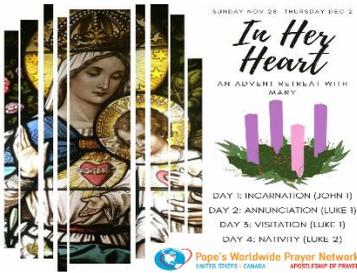
Liturgical Year

Week: 1st Sunday of advent

Colour: Purple



Advent Retreat



There is a virtual Advent Retreat led by new National Director of the Pope's world-wide prayer network, Fr Joe Laramie, SJ. entitled "in Her Heart", a journey with Mary based on the writings of St Ignatius of Loyola SJ. It runs from 29th November to 2nd December 2020 and can be found here:

<http://popesprayerusa.net/tag/2020-advent-retreat/>

Advent Prayers and Christmas Gifts

Cafod have a wonderful selection of prayers to use during the season of Advent. They can be found here: <https://cafod.org.uk/Pray/Advent-prayers>



Also they have a beautiful Advent prayer card set which can be ordered for

free here: <https://shop.cafod.org.uk/collections/frontpage/products/advent-prayer-card>

If you would like to consider giving an alternative Christmas present, giving a World Gift is a wonderful way of doing so. Ideas are to be found here: <https://worldgifts.cafod.org.uk/>

Statement from the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales

Bishops welcome a return to public worship

Wednesday, November 25th, 2020 @ 12:34 pm



The government has confirmed that collective worship can resume in churches and other places of worship when the national lockdown expires on 2 December. This decision applies across all three tiers of COVID-19 restrictions in England.

On behalf of the Bishops, the General Secretary of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, Canon Christopher Thomas, commented:

"The Catholic Community in England is delighted at the Government's decision to allow the resumption of collective worship following the national lockdown in all three tiers.

"This decision reflects the importance of the right of all people to express their faith in worship, but more importantly, it is an acknowledgement of the active collaboration the church has had with public officials in developing COVID-secure protocols in our churches.

"As we move forward, it is incumbent on all who come to worship God in our churches to play their part in keeping themselves and others safe by following all of the guidance that has been prepared.

“Through our encounter with Christ in the Eucharist and other sacraments celebrated in the Church, the works of charity which have been expressed through Catholic charities and communities over the last nine months finds its source and goal.”

Statement from Archbishop John Wilson

Archbishop John has confirmed that it is not yet possible to permit the celebration of Mass in school or by relocating to a church for Mass. Similarly, it is not possible to permit a ‘Liturgy of the Word with distribution of Communion’.

General guidance for gathering in large groups or mixing of ‘bubbles’ in school prohibits gathering for Mass or other liturgy that includes the distribution of Communion.

The protocols that have been set up for celebration Masses in parishes were designed specifically for the context of the parish community.



In the different context of schools, we need to respect the existing adaptations schools have introduced to make those sites safe for pupils and staff. In most cases that includes restricting ‘visitors’ coming on to school sites and requiring that any ‘visitors’ do not join existing school based ‘bubbles’. In addition, it is important to recognise the health and safety needs of our priests.

Sadly, this means we are still unable to come together as a community to celebrate the Eucharist. This decision will be reviewed again after the Christmas break.

Children’s Hospital Pyjamas

The collection of Pyjamas in school ended on Wednesday 25th November. 70+ pairs of pyjamas were collected this year and will be much welcomed by children in hospital over Christmas.



Shrublands Trust Food Bank



Year 12 & 13 have been generously donating to the Shrublands Food Bank. On Thursday the collection was delivered to the food bank and received with deep gratitude. As Mrs Stott informed us, they are particularly short of Christmas treats and gifts, laundry detergent, washing up liquids and household cleaning products. Any donations of this kind will be gratefully received in the Sixth Form Centre Reception. Please remember to follow the appropriate guidelines.

Canon Guillaume van Crombrugge



1st December is the anniversary of the death of Canon Constant Guillaume van Crombrugge in 1865, founder of the Daughters of Mary and Joseph, our school trustees. He lived during a time of great upheaval in Western Europe in what is now Belgium. He was born and baptized in Grammont (Geraardsbergen) in the region of East Flanders in Belgium on 14th October 1789. His father, Ghislain-Francois was a successful brewer. His mother Cecile -Joseph, a leading force in the lace-making business, belonged to an established and influential family in Grammont. During his life, van Crombrugge undertook a wide variety of activities including responsibility

for the choristers of the Cathedral of Amiens in France, secretary and special envoy to the Bishop of Gent, an elected delegate to the National Constitutional Congress of Belgium, Headmaster of the College of Aalst and founder of four religious orders. He died on the 1st December 1865 from the effects of sunstroke to which he was exposed many years previously.

Religious Festivals This Week

Birthday of Guru Nanak – Sikhism



Although the first Sikh Guru, Guru Nanak, was born in April 1469, his birth anniversary (one of Sikhs' most widely celebrated *gurpurbs*) is still generally celebrated on the full moon day of the lunar month of Kartik. It is a celebration observed by all Sikhs on this date, whether they observe the Bakrami lunar calendar or the more recent Nanakshahi one.

As is the case with all other *gurpurbs*, an *akhand path* (a complete, unbroken reading of the Guru Granth Sahib) commences two days earlier so that it ends on the morning of the festival. Sikhs gather at the gurdwara for hymn-singing (*kirtan*) and to hear *kathas* (homilies) and share the *langar* (free meal). The gurdwara may be illuminated and street processions take place too, culminating in some cases, as at Baisakhi, in the washing and redressing of the *nishan*, the flag and the flagpole erected outside each gurdwara.

The name "Nanak" was used by all subsequent Gurus while penning down their own spiritual revelations, recorded now in the holy scripture called the Guru Granth Sahib. So the second Sikh Guru, Guru Angad Dev Ji is also called the "Second Nanak" or "Nanak II". It is believed by the Sikhs that all subsequent Gurus carried the same message as that of Guru Nanak and so they have used the name 'Nanak' in their holy text instead of their own name and hence are all understood to carry the divine 'Light of Nanak'.

Although each of the ten human Gurus shares a common nature and equal honour, Guru Nanak is fêted as the one who initiated the Sikh tradition and determined its direction for the future. His creativity and humanity became landmarks for those who follow his example.

Saints of the Week

St Andrew, Apostle - 30th November

St. Andrew, also known as Andrew the Apostle, was a Christian Apostle and the older brother to St. Peter. According to the New Testament, Andrew was born in the village of Bethsaida on the Sea of Galilee during the early first century. Much like his younger brother, Simon Peter, Andrew was also a fisherman. Andrew's very name means strong and he was known for having good social skills.

In the Gospel of Matthew, it is said Jesus was walking along the shore of the Sea of Galilee and saw Andrew and Simon Peter fishing. It is then he asked the two to become disciples and "fishers of men."

The Gospel of John tells a separate story, stating Andrew was a disciple of John the Baptist. When Jesus walked by one day, John the Baptist stated, "Behold, the Lamb of God!" It is then that Andrew and another made the decision to follow Jesus. Little else is said about Andrew in the Gospels, but it is believed Andrew was one of the closer disciples to Jesus. It was he who told Jesus about the boy with the loaves and



fishes, according to John 6:8. When Philip wanted to speak to Jesus about Greeks seeking him, he spoke to Andrew first. Andrew was also present at the last supper.

Per Christian tradition, Andrew went on to preach the Good News around the shores of the Black Sea and throughout what is now Greece and Turkey. Andrew was martyred by crucifixion in Patras. He was bound, rather than nailed, to a cross, as is described in the Acts of Andrew. He was crucified on a cross form known as "crux decussata," which is an X-shaped cross or a "saltire." Today this is commonly referred to as "St. Andrew's Cross." It is believed Andrew requested to be crucified this way, because he deemed himself "unworthy to be crucified on the same type of cross as Jesus."

Andrew's remains were originally preserved at Patras. However, some believe St. Regulus, who was a monk at Patras, received a vision telling him to hide some of Andrew's bones. Shortly after Regulus' dream, many of Andrew's relics were transferred to Constantinople by order of Roman emperor Constantius II around 357. Regulus later received orders in a second dream telling him to take the bones "to the ends of the earth." He was to build a shrine for them wherever he shipwrecked. He landed on the coast of Fife, Scotland.

His saltire cross is featured on the flag of Scotland and is represented in much of his iconography. He is commonly portrayed as an old man with long white hair and a beard, often holding the Gospel book or a scroll. St. Andrew is the patron saint of fishermen and singers. He is also the patron saint to several countries and cities including Scotland, Romania, Russia, Ukraine and Patras.

St Francis Xavier, Priest – 3rd December



St Francis Xavier (1506-1552) was born in the Basque country of Spain in 1506. He met Ignatius Loyola when he was a student in Paris, and he was ordained priest in 1537. In 1541 the Pope sent him as part of a mission to India, and he spent the rest of his life in the East, preaching the Gospel in Goa and Malacca. He made many converts and fought against the exploitation of the native population by the Europeans. He spent two years on a successful mission to Japan, laying the foundations of many Christian communities; and in 1552, after entering China secretly to preach the Gospel there, he died of fever and exhaustion on the Chinese island of Shangchwan.

St John Damascene, Priest and Doctor - 4th December

St John Damascene (676-749AD) was born of a Christian family in Damascus in the second half of the seventh century, where his father was a high official under the Umayyad caliph; a post which he inherited. When the Iconoclast movement (seeking to prohibit the veneration of icons) gained acceptance in the Byzantine court, John, being under Muslim rather than Byzantine rule, was able to write effective treatises attacking Iconoclasm and attacking the emperor for supporting it. At about this time he retired to the monastery of Saint Sabas near Jerusalem, where he became a monk and was ordained. He died in the middle of the eighth century. He wrote many theological treatises in a dangerously clear and accessible style which made the issues understandable even by non-experts. His name was reviled and execrated by the imperial Iconoclast party even after his death. Sometimes known as "the last of the Church Fathers," he was declared a Doctor of the Church by Pope Leo XIII in 1883.

