



# ADVENT

Advent, like Lent, is a time for personal and corporate reflection on how we live our faith. In the case of Advent we are in a season of waiting. Advent waiting is not however simply about the birth of Jesus. During the Advent season, waiting is also thinking ahead to Christ's future coming. So the season is sombre, in purple and with fasting and repentance – a reminder that as Jesus came to us once, so just as surely will come again. Advent begins this year on **Sunday 1st December.**

Advent is also a season of expectation and preparation, as the Church prepares to celebrate the coming (adventus) of Christ in his incarnation, and also looks ahead to his final advent as judge at the end of time. The readings and liturgies not only direct us towards Christ's birth, they also challenge the us to consider the expectation that Christ will come again, and we will be held accountable.

After all the uncertainty of the past few years, Advent also invites us to consider the eternal promise of the coming incarnation. **That in God, whatever the circumstance, we find comfort and hope!**

In this time of watching and waiting, we are invited to make time to reflect and pray for the future of God's work in this place.

### *Fasting*

The point of fasting is about offering to God the devotion that motivated it and we are encouraged to offer to charity the money saved. The time not spent in preparing and eating can be used for prayer or spiritual reading. A fast can simply be not eating meat or a fuller fast of leaving out a meal or two. It can be a way for some to assist in building spiritual expectation in the Advent Season.

### *Confession and Reconciliation*

Confession, as a spiritual discipline. Individual Confession is meant to compliment and build on the general confession that we share in each week - its very personal assurance of God's continuing love can be a powerful way of addressing spiritual questions. You might consider making your Confession this Advent .

**Advent begins this year on Sunday 1st December 2024**

### *Charitable Giving*

#### **Opportunities During Advent 2024**

**At St Anne's we have a giving tree on the first floor landing of the church. It is a symbolic place to be charitable during Advent and Christmas.**

#### **3 ways to give under the tree this Christmas:**

##### **1. Gift Box for St Mungo's**

Fill a shoe box with items that would be useful for a homeless man. Warm socks, hats, gloves, toiletries, tea bags, cup of soups. Wrap the box, or in a gift bag and place under the tree. **(It would be really helpful to have your donation at church by 15<sup>th</sup> Dec so they can be delivered to St Mungo's before Christmas.)**

## **2. 2. Gift to St Anne's Mission Appeal**

**St Anne's is a busy Church and it takes a lot of resources to support our mission.** That means what we offer in the community and the support we provide to the community. *This includes My Move Drop In, Tea and Chat, Bereavement support, Schools Work, Support of Community groups and members, pastoral care, home visiting, practical support, conversations with those who are in need or lonely. It is the day to day care we offer to the people of Queen's Park and beyond.* We invite you to simply place your gift to St Anne's in the envelope provided, and place on our Christmas tree. Or use the QR to make a donation.

- 3. Supermarket vouchers** means we can give the ability to those in need to buy what they need. Vouchers of £5 or £10 are the most useful. **OR Oyster Cards** with £5 or £10 credit are a huge help!

## **Advent Procession at St Paul's Cathedral**

The Advent Procession is a beautiful service of light, poems and music held every year at St Paul's Cathedral. St Anne's has regularly attended this event. This year it will take place on Saturday 30th November at 5.30pm. We will need to be seated in the Cathedral by 5.15pm. Collect tickets from Mo C.

**Carols by Candlelight with Queen's Park Singers – Sunday 15th December at 4pm** followed by mulled wine and mince pies!

## **Wreath Making**

This annual creative workshop will take place on **Saturday 7th December -10am until 1pm**. Come at 10am to make your own Christmas wreath or table centre piece. All materials will be provided but participants will be asked to buy their wreath.

## **Christmas Parties**

*My Move Christmas Party* – Friday 13th December from 9.30am – 11.30am in the Rotunda.

*Tea and Chat Christmas Party* – Friday 13th December from 2- 4pm in the Rotunda.

**Please take time to look at the Advent resource book to support your spiritual journey during Advent. You may also find it helpful to make an appointment with one of the clergy for Spiritual Direction; or with your regular Spiritual Director.**

### *Special Services and Dates to Remember in Advent 2024*

#### **Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> December**

10am – 1pm Wreath Making Workshop.

#### **Friday 13th December**

9.30am – My Move Christmas Party

2pm – Tea and Chat Christmas Party

#### **Sunday 15th December 4pm**

**Carols Service** supported by

Choir from Queens' Park Singers.

#### **Tuesday 24th December – Christmas Eve**

5pm – Crib Service

11pm – Midnight Mass

*No Service on Christmas Day*

#### **Sunday 29th December 2023**

**Second Sunday of Christmas**

10 am Sunday Eucharist

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***Registered Charity 1207687***