



# CLIFTON DIOCESE

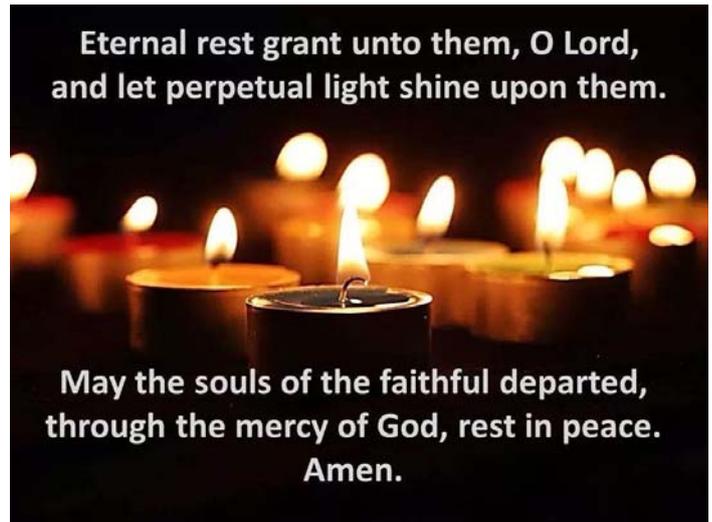
## Primary Newsletter November 2017

*Loving Father,  
to you the dead do not die  
and, in death, our life is changed - not  
ended.*

*We believe that all that binds us together  
in love and friendship  
does not end with death.*

*Hear our prayers for \_\_\_\_\_  
who has died.*

*As you have made each of us  
in your image and likeness  
and have called us by name,  
hold him/her safely in your love  
in your kingdom  
of light, happiness and peace. Amen.*



In Catholic life November is called the month of the Holy Souls. It begins with All Saints day (Nov 1<sup>st</sup>) and All Souls day (Nov 2<sup>nd</sup>). November reminds us of the following things:

- Catholics do not believe that death is an end. We believe that we will be with God. Our hope is always in God
- Those who die are still part of our families. They still need our prayers
- We all make mistakes, we all at times hurt others, we need to be aware of that fact. We need to be aware of our need of God
- Saints are not perfect people but they are people who understand their need of God and want to live as fully as possible for God.
- When we pray for those who have died that we do not know then we are also reminding ourselves of those who suffer in this world and the need to do something about it.
- We reflect and think about our own future and about all those who have gone before us and are now with the Lord."

- Pope Francis said, the early Christians used an anchor as a symbol of hope, “and to have our hearts anchored up there where our loved ones are, where the saints are, where Jesus is, where God is -- that is hope.” That is the hope that doesn't disappoint.” The feasts of All Saints and All Souls are “days of hope”. The virtue of "hope is like a bit of leaven that enlarges your soul. There are difficult moments in life, but with hope you go forward and keep your eyes on what awaits us. Today is a day of hope; our brothers and sisters are in the presence of God, and we, too, will be there in the Lord's arms if we follow the path of Jesus."  
(All Saints Nov 2013)



### **A Future Full of Hope**

The Anchor as a sign of hope appears on the new documentation for our pastoral guidelines launched by Bishop Declan on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> October. It is important that all schools make sure they have a copy of this and disseminate this to staff. The schools' implementation guide will be out shortly and leaders will be expected to review their school in the light of these documents. Over the next three years there will be specific themes for the diocese. **Advent 2017 to Advent 2018 will take the theme of Mission.** This will be followed in subsequent years by Prayer and Communion. Advent lends itself to beginning this theme of Mission. **The day for Chaplains on 22<sup>nd</sup> of November** will consider this. It would be useful for all schools to have a representative there. (full details are in the Chaplaincy Newsletter.

### **New Assessment Framework in RE**

For those of you trialling the new system the Advent modules for God Matters are on our website. Advent occurs in two versions one using the old assessment levels and the revised version using the age-related outcomes. If you are using 'Come and See' you may still want to look at this material as Advent is a unit both syllabi share. There is a basic 'facts about Advent' sheet at the end of this newsletter which may help teachers. Please try not to go on to Christmas material till Christmas. Advent is a very rich season and should be explored in its own right. Christmas begins on the 25<sup>th</sup> December it does not end on this day no matter what the supermarkets think!

### **New Framework for Section 48**

From Easter 2018 there will be a new national framework in operation for section 48. There will be an opportunity to look at the new framework on 15<sup>th</sup> November at St Augustine's parish centre Downend. This is a morning only session. Because of all the traffic disruption in this area this will begin at 10.30 am (tea/coffee from 10am) and finish no later than 12.30. If you wish to send a representative please do let Graham know. (E-mail Graham on [graham.tiley@cliftondiocese.com](mailto:graham.tiley@cliftondiocese.com))

## Teaching other Faiths

A day for all those involved in the teaching of other faiths. This will take place on **21<sup>st</sup> February**. **We have some excellent speakers who will be very practical in their presentations please put this date in your diary now. Full details next newsletter.**

## The Modular Course

The expectation of the diocese is that **all coordinators will either hold the CCRS or have attended this course.** (Others are invited) Please consult the course booklet for full details. (It can be fun and I hope it is interesting)

## Resources

### For Remembrance Day

- Pax Christi has a useful pack of ideas for teachers about creating a culture of peace. There is a special section for primary schools. Please go to <http://paxchristi.org.uk/peace-education/primary-schools/> and look at some of the ideas there.

### For Advent

- **Advent Extra.** This is produced by Redemptorist Press. It contains 28 daily reflections with children's activities and a pull-out Advent Calendar. A useful resource for teachers. It costs £2.25 Please go to [www.rpbooks.co.uk](http://www.rpbooks.co.uk) to order. Also from redemptorist press **Advent and Christmas Wisdom from Pope Francis (£8.50)** might be a useful source of reflection for staff whilst **Stations of the Nativity (£9.99)** might be a thoughtful way to approach the season. **Bambinelli Sunday: A Christmas Blessing by Amy Welborn (£9.95)** Bambinelli Sunday is the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Advent and children take the figure of Jesus from their crib to Rome to be blessed by the Pope. It is about considering what is it we are truly waiting for at Christmas and this little story is of one boy's journey through Advent.
- Try <http://www.vision4life.org.uk/index.php/bible-year/seasonal-selection/advent-resources/> This is intended for adults to be part of a Bible study course but it could be adapted. Specifically, the section called Mary's Yes provides lots of material that KS2 could use in thinking about Mary and the people around her.
- Cafod their interactive Advent calendar is on line now as well as many prayers and liturgies.
- If you go to <http://www.liturgyoffice.org.uk/SOS/index.shtml> you will find past editions of 'Spirit of the Season' newsletter from the liturgy office. If you click on any year and go to Advent you will find lots of useful notes and ideas

- If you go to the Mission Together Website <http://missiontogether.org.uk/advent/> you will find lots of useful stuff including some activities for young children like making Angels or peace paper chains.

- **For Liturgy**

There are a series of books called ‘**Celebrating the Lectionary- Supplementary Lectionary Based Resource**. The books are aimed at different age groups and look at the Sunday liturgy. They include Gospel reflections and activities. These could be a very useful bank of information and ideas. You may want to note however that they are expensive. Each book retails at about £25. To cover the whole Lectionary Cycle you would need to buy 3 different years. Oddly they take the school year not the liturgical year as their basis. They are American and occasionally the language reflects this and primary would probably need the Kindergarten version as well. (The books reflect the American school system - ages are slightly different). They are available from <http://www.mccrimmons.com> (If only buying one make sure you get 2017-2018 this takes you to the end of the summer term. You would then need to buy 2018-2019)

## **Holy Days**

With effect from the 1st Sunday of Advent 2017, two holy days of obligation are being reinstated. This decision was made by the Bishops of England and Wales, and has been confirmed by the Holy See. The days are:

- **The Epiphany of the Lord** — 6 January
- **The Ascension of the Lord** — Thursday after 6th Sunday of Easter

Therefore, from the 1st Sunday of Advent 2017 the Holy days of Obligations for England are:

- Every Sunday
- Nativity of the Lord (25 December)
- Epiphany of the Lord (6 January\*)
- Ascension of the Lord (Thursday after 6th Sunday of Easter)
- St Peter & St Paul (29 June\*)
- Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary (15 August\*)
- All Saints (1 November\*)

\* According to a decision of the Bishops' Conference (1984) Holy days which fall on **Saturday or Monday are transferred to the Sunday.**

**Thank you for all you do.**

**Ann Fowler**

- **An Advent Liturgy for Staff**

*Thy Will be done*



*We Sing: Here in this place*

Lord Jesus, Son of God, Saviour of the world

**All: Be the centre of all that we are, and the life that we lead**

Lord Jesus, Light in this dark World, illuminate our hearts and minds

**All: Be the centre of all that we are, and the life that we lead**

***Scripture***

*The story of the annunciation*

*Then read silently this reflection on the reading*

*In the morning, it takes awhile  
To find the world again, lost after  
dream  
Has taken the heart to the underworld  
To play with shades of life not chosen*

*She awakes a stranger in her own life  
Her breath loud in a room full of listening  
Taken without touch her flesh feels the grief  
Of belonging to what cannot be seen  
**John O'Donohue***

***Reading; adapted from Waiting for God by Denis McBride***

***Reflection: 'It's going to be all right'***

***Bidding Prayer: The response is 'Come Lord Jesus Come'***

***We pray together:***

**Open our eyes Lord so they may see the deepest needs of those around us.**

**Touch our hearts that they may bring warmth to those who despair.**

**Teach us the generosity that welcomes strangers.**

**Give us the care that strengthens the sick, the compassion to share with others.**

**If we learn to share in our prosperity, hope in our anxiety, trust in our despair,  
forgive in our bitterness, then Lord we bring your kingdom into being.**

**Christmas becomes a present reality and you Lord are born in us.**

## **Reading**

The story of Advent begins with lives disrupted. Mary's life is disrupted beyond recognition. For the story of Jesus to be told it needs more than God's word it needs the human yes, *thy will be done*. Whatever Mary planned for life with Joseph it wasn't this. She gives up her own plans, her own wishes; she gives up control of her life in favour of God's promise. Her body and Spirit are given to the purpose of God. Mary and Joseph, they allow their lives to be disrupted because they wait in hope on the promise of God. We don't hope in God because we believe everything will turn out alright. Hope in God isn't a naïve optimism. We hope in God even when we can't see the road ahead. We hope in God because God is God, because we believe God is with us and trust in God's care even when we see no grounds for thinking our lives will be easy.

We are called to wait in hope, to allow, like Mary our lives our plans to be disrupted, our lives to be changed, to trust in God's word.

We have pupils in our care, how can we expect the word of God to become alive in them if we cannot first say, come Lord thy will be done in me and through me.

## **Bidding Prayers**

The word Advent means 'coming'. All of us wait for an Advent of some kind:

God of love come into the parts of our lives where we block your love. Come into our jealousy, our impatience, our hurt, our anger, our lack of hope

### **Come Lord Jesus Come**

God of life come into the parts of our lives where we have lost hope. Come into our failures, our tiredness, our lack of self-worth, come where our energy has faltered and our courage died.

### **Come Lord Jesus Come**

God of light come into the darkest parts of our lives. Our fears, our anxieties, our lack of vision

### **Come Lord Jesus Come**

God of the unexpected come into the settled parts of our lives. Transform all that we are, help us to be still to listen to your voice to answer yes lord thy will be done.

### **Come Lord Jesus Come**

### Basic Facts about Advent

- Advent marks the start of the liturgical year
- The word advent means coming, it refers to the second coming of Christ at the end of time as well as the coming of Christ into our world
- Advent begins 4 Sundays before Christmas- the earliest it can be is November 27<sup>th</sup> and the latest December 3<sup>rd</sup> so there are always 4 Sundays but not necessarily 4 weeks.
- The liturgical colour of Advent is purple –this indicates a penitential season-a time to change
- The 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent is called Gaudete Sunday which means rejoice hence the change to the colour rose colour on this Sunday (Gaudete is the first word of the Entrance Antiphon at Mass: “Rejoice in the Lord always.”)
- Some of the themes running through Advent are Waiting, Preparation, Penitential, Expectation
- The Readings this year (cycle A) focus on Isaiah, last things, John the Baptist, Joseph
- Advent isn’t simply marking a 2000-year-old event it celebrates a truth about God, that through Christ all might be reconciled to God. This is a process in which everyone now participates. We prepare to celebrate the coming of Christ 2000 years ago, we prepare to open our hearts to Christ now and we prepare for the second coming of Christ in the future.
- We are building the kingdom, and we anticipate its completion, scripture readings in Advent therefore anticipate the second coming and reflect the themes of choice, judgement and eternal life. These are not necessarily easy themes for children
- The Jewish people experienced exile in Egypt (c.1250 BC) and especially in Babylon (586 – 538 BC) and they came to know God not as creator but as saviour. Throughout their time in exile they longed for a messiah to rescue them but they were in exile a long time and their attitude began to change. Many began to fit in, to take on the life and values of the culture they found themselves in even if they initially disagreed with those values. They lost their sense of identity. In fact when they were offered the opportunity to go home many were too uncertain to take the risk. **We are in exile-** (consumerism, materialism, individualism, these values take us over without us noticing) from our families, from the church, from ourselves etc Christmas comes and we remain vaguely dissatisfied not quite knowing why.

The last week of Advent leads us to the O Antiphons. These are based round the O Antiphons which are normally used by the church in the last week of Advent. The complete O Antiphons are:

O wisdom	in Latin Sapientia
O Ruler or Lord	in Latin Adonai
O Root of Jesse	in Latin Radix
O key of David	in Latin Clavis
O Rising Dawn	in Latin Oriens
O king (of all)	in Latin Rex
O God with us	in Latin Emmanuel

ERO CRAS: Tomorrow I shall be here

The O antiphons are used to build up a sense of expectation and waiting. In the church they are used in the last week of Advent but in school you could use them before. Attached is an example of how these traditional prayers could be adapted.

**Wisdom:** Cards with life situations appropriate to the age group, blank cards, the wisdom prayer and bands with WWJD on. *(Note in the traditional symbol for wisdom used one possible explanation of the symbolism would be: the circle represents God and his everlasting care, the triangle me, God and his guidance through the spirit and the eye represents my ability to discern the will of God) Bands with WWJD (What would Jesus Do) are obtainable from e bay and amazon amongst others)*

## O Wisdom

*“O Wisdom, proceeding from the mouth of the Most High,  
Pervading and permeating all creation,  
mightily ordering all things:  
Come and show us how to live.”*



Chose a card and read the description found there.

Does this apply to your life in anyway? (For young children you may want to have one child read out the card then ask them to think about whether that situation applies to their own lives.)

In this situation **What Would Jesus Do?**

Reflect on this for a few moments, are you doing the right thing? Are you allowing God to speak to you in your life?

Take a blank card. On it describe or draw an image of a situation you need guidance with in your life?

Ask for God’s help by saying the following prayer:

*Come O Wisdom come, come into my life.  
Help me make the right decisions and take the right action  
Help me to choose the path that leads to you.*

As you leave take a band to remind you of the presence of Jesus in every situation in your life.

<p>You see images of people suffering through hunger/poverty/war/disaster. You feel sorry for them. How far do go in helping? Do you Pray? Do you give a little? Do you give so that it affects your life? What would Jesus do?</p>	<p>There is someone in your life that you don't get on with. How do you respond? By ignoring them? By arguing? By trying to get to know them? What would Jesus do?</p>
<p>People are gossiping. Do you join in? Do you pass the gossip on? Do you stay out of it? What would Jesus do?</p>	<p>You are worried about the future in someway, illness, money, job, relationships. How do you deal with your fears? Do you pray? Do you do nothing? Do you let the fear affect you? Do you talk to others? What would Jesus do?</p>
<p>Someone you know is doing something you don't approve of or don't think is right. Do you tell them what you think? Do you support them anyway? Do you stop seeing them? What would Jesus do?</p>	<p>Someone has hurt you, badly. Do you forgive them? Forgive them if they say sorry? Hold a grudge against them? Get your own back? What would Jesus do?</p>
<p>Your friends have more than you do. Do you feel jealous? Do try to live as they do? Does it make you discontented with your own life? Are you able to be happy with what you have? What would Jesus do?</p>	<p>Your parents/ family live a distance from you, they want to see you but it means giving up weekends/holidays. Do you go visit anyway? Put them off with vague promises? Phone and tell them how busy you are? What would Jesus do?</p>