



ST MICHAEL & ST GEORGE

The Cathedral Church of the Bishop of the Forces
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Sunday, 1st December 2024

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT – YEAR C

1100hrs Mass Intention: Soizik de Guillebon RIP

Entrance Hymn: 983

Offertory Hymn: 851

Communion Hymn: 965

Recessional Hymn: 86

Kyrie: M13

Gloria: None

Sanctus: M15

Acclamation: M16

Great Amen: Plainchant

Agnus Dei: M20

The obligation for the faithful to attend Holy Mass on a Sunday or Holy Day of Obligation has been reinstated. Pastoral consideration for the vulnerable and those isolating is imperative and appropriate dispensations remain in place for them.

WELCOME EVERYONE

For our celebration today you will require a Mass Sheet, a hymn book and a copy of any Mass Settings that we are using, all of which are available from the Welcome Team.

Children over four years old are invited to go to their liturgy with the Catechetical Team following the introduction to the Mass and return at the offertory. Activity bags, containing appropriate books and other materials, hanging on the chairs at the back of church may be borrowed to keep children engaged during Mass. Please replace them after use and before leaving the building. After Mass refreshments are served at the back of church.

MINISTRIES TODAY

Welcome Team: Mrs M Casey; Mrs E Gillham

Readers: Ms E Ohemeng; Mr C Endean

Children's Liturgy Lead: Mrs R Nash

THIS WEEK

The Cathedral is open every working day from **1000hrs - 1600hrs**

Mon 2nd Dec: *Feria of Advent, Week 1, Year I*

Tue 3rd Dec: *St Francis Xavier, priest*

Wed 4th Dec: *St John Damascene, priest*

1145hrs – Midday Prayer (Psalter Week I)

1200hrs – Holy Mass (Zoom available)

Fr Des Champion RIP

Thu 5th Dec: *Feria of Advent, Week 1, Year I*

Fri 6th Dec: *St Nicholas, bishop*

1400hrs – Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

1545hrs – Holy Communion outside of Mass

Sat 7th Dec: *St Ambrose, bishop, doctor*

1430hrs – Divine Mercy Liturgy

NEXT SUNDAY

Welcome Team: Mrs A Paintin; Mrs P Brooks

Readers: Mrs J White; Mrs P Powell

Children's Liturgy Lead: Mrs P Ryan

PRAYER INTENTIONS

Please keep the members of our Armed Forces, their families and all support staff, in your personal intercessions.

CHARITABLE FUNDRAISING

Many thanks to all who contributed to our Table Top Sale and Bottle Tombola which raised £300 for the Sisters of Nazareth working with children and the elderly in South Africa. Our Christmas Raffle prizes will be on show and tickets on sale from next week with the draw taking place on Sunday, 22nd December.

LIVESTREAMING LITURGIES

Sunday's Mass Zoom details – ID: 868 8828 0791

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86888280791?pwd=5a1GJatpMmwA1lzuYH7qH5EaFXbv7G.1> Passcode: 748863

Wednesday's Mass Zoom details – ID: 871 7854 5813

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87178545813?pwd=FYHjrQlyxLnknwJprLUky9Zl6cFrw8.1> Passcode: 021406

LITURGICAL SYMBOLISM

The lights of the candles on the Advent Wreath break through the darkness, reminding us of the Light of Christ that we anticipate during this holy season, with all of the elements carrying powerful symbolism. The evergreens used for the wreath itself are a reminder of continuous life, and the shaping of them into a circle reinforces the meaning of it being a sign of life eternal in Christ. The four candles used mark the Sundays of Advent before Christmas. The purple candles are reminders that this should be a time of prayer and sacrifice to prepare us for the second coming of Christ. On the third Sunday, the pink candle is lit to announce a day of rejoicing for Christ is coming near. A fifth white candle in the centre of the Wreath represents Christ himself, and is lit as a remembrance of the manifestation of the Light of the World.

TEACHING POINT

The Jesse Tree tradition is rooted in Isaiah 11:1: "A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots." Jesse was the father of David, Israel's greatest king, and Jesus is descended from the line of David. He is the branch God promised would grow from Jesse's family tree. Each symbol, which our children will tell us about at the offertory, represents a story from this family tree and a step toward the birth of Jesus

PURCHASING POWER

Advent and Christmas stock is on show and on sale in the side chapel and, as previously advertised, for one day only there's a 50% sale of non-festive Repository items.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

Today is the deadline for receiving completed Registration Forms for our First Holy Communion Programme 2025. Please hand them to a member of the catechetical team.

AND FINALLY ...

... we believe that we're all here on earth to help others, but what on earth the others are here for appears to remain a mystery.

With every blessing
Fr Nick