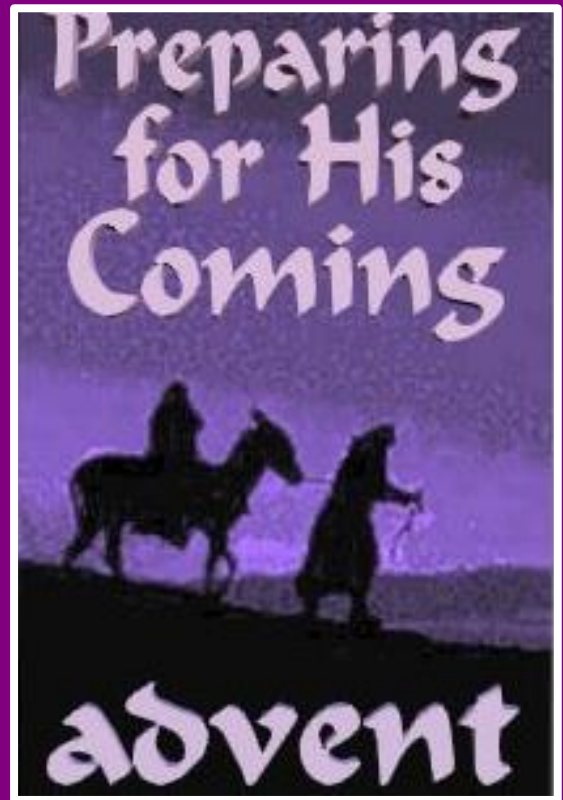
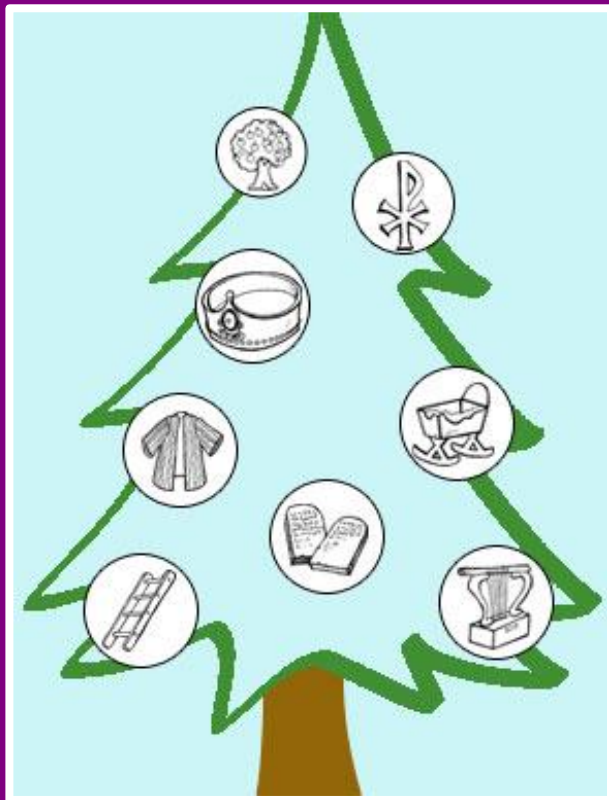


Advent



Advent

Advent comes from the Latin word 'Adventus' which means to come. It is the start of the Liturgical Year. Advent is the season of joyous expectation as we prepare to celebrate Jesus' birthday. It is four weeks long. We are encouraged to go to Mass more often, to pray more, ask God to forgive our sins in the Sacrament of Reconciliation and to reflect on the importance of being baptised.

We can help those in need like the homeless.

Advent Wreath

The Advent Wreath is part of our long-standing Catholic Tradition. The circle of the wreath which has no beginning or end, symbolizes the eternity of God and the everlasting life found in Christ. Evergreen leaves remind us that God's love for us never dies.



Advent Wreath

There are five candles, three purple, one pink and a white candle. A new candle is lit on each of the Sundays in Advent. A tradition is that one week represents a thousand years, as it is 4,000 years from Adam and Eve to the Birth of our Saviour. The pink candle is lit on the third Sunday in Advent, known as Gaudete Sunday. The white candle is placed in the middle of the wreath and is lit on Christmas Day to celebrate Jesus' birth.



Advent Wreath

Weekly Themes

The first Sunday of Advent symbolizes HOPE with the 'Prophet's Candle' reminding us that Jesus is coming.

The second Sunday of Advent symbolises LOVE with the 'Bethlehem Candle' reminding us of Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem.

Advent Wreath

The third Sunday of Advent symbolises JOY with the 'Shepherd's Candle' reminding us of the JOY the world experienced at the coming birth of Christ.

The fourth Sunday symbolises PEACE with the 'Angel's Candle' reminding us of the message of the angels 'Peace on earth good will to all'.

Advent Wreath




Advent Calendar








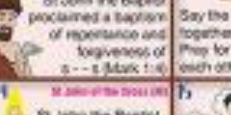
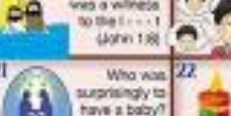





















This began in Germany where people put chalk marks on their doors or burnt candles to mark each day of Advent. Religious families would hang small pictures of Biblical stories up on their walls, one for each day of Advent.


We have a Walk With Me Calendar which gives us a thought or an action to do each day during Advent.

Advent Calendar

Walk with Me **Advent & Christmas Calendar**

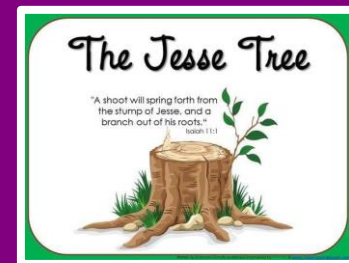


SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<p>1 1st Sunday of Advent (St. Andrew) Say your prayers with a hopeful heart.</p> 	<p>2 2nd Sunday of Advent (St. Andrew) Pray with a grateful heart.</p> 	<p>3 3rd Sunday of Advent (St. Andrew) Pray for joy.</p> 	<p>4 4th Sunday of Advent (St. Andrew) Pray for peace on earth.</p> 	<p>5 1st Sunday of Advent (St. Andrew) Enjoy each other's company.</p> 	<p>6 The Baptism of the Lord (Feast of the Lord) Call upon and use the grace of your baptism.</p> 
<p>7 St. Andrew (St. Andrew) Look for ways to be kind. "Stay Alert!" (Mark 13:33)</p> 	<p>8 St. John the Baptist (St. John the Baptist) St. John the Baptist proclaimed a baptism of repentance and forgiveness of sins. (Mark 1:4)</p> 	<p>9 St. John the Baptist (St. John the Baptist) St. John the Baptist was a witness to the Christ. (John 1:8)</p> 	<p>10 St. Thomas Becket (St. Thomas Becket) Who was not to die until he had seen the Christ? S... .. n (Luke 2:25)</p> 	<p>11 St. Thomas Becket (St. Thomas Becket) Who was not to die until he had seen the Christ? S... .. n (Luke 2:25)</p> 	<p>12 St. Thomas Becket (St. Thomas Becket) Who was not to die until he had seen the Christ? S... .. n (Luke 2:25)</p> 
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Jesse Tree

The Jesse Tree is a beautiful Advent tradition dating back to the eleventh century, that many Christians use to prepare for the coming of Christ at Christmas. It represents the family tree of Jesus Christ. Each story shows God's salvation plan and tell how He guided humanity to prepare for the coming of the Messiah. The name "Jesse Tree" comes from Isaiah 11:1 "Then a shoot will spring from the stem of Jesse, and a branch from his roots will bear fruit." Jesse is the father of King David. The Saviour was to come from David's family line.



Jesse Tree

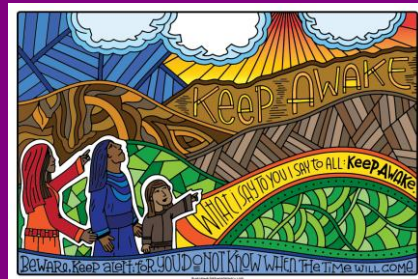


Origins of Advent

Advent began sometime after the 4th century as a time of fasting and preparation for Epiphany. At this time new Christians were baptised and received into the faith, and so the early church introduced a 40-day period of fasting and repentance. St Gregory the Great in the sixth century reduced Advent to four weeks long and it focused on the Second Coming of Christ.

The Two Comings

The Liturgical Season of Advent celebrates the coming of God. It has two major parts. In the first two weeks of Advent we focus on Christ's glorious return at the end of time, then as Christmas approaches, in the last two weeks of Advent we prepare to celebrate his birth at Christmas.



O Antiphons

In the octave before Christmas Eve the O Antiphons are prayed one each night in the prayer of the Church.

Each Antiphon begins with O and has a unique title for Jesus which comes from the Prophets Isaiah and Micah.



O Antiphons

December 17: O Sapientia (O Wisdom)

December 18: O Adonai (O Lord and Ruler)

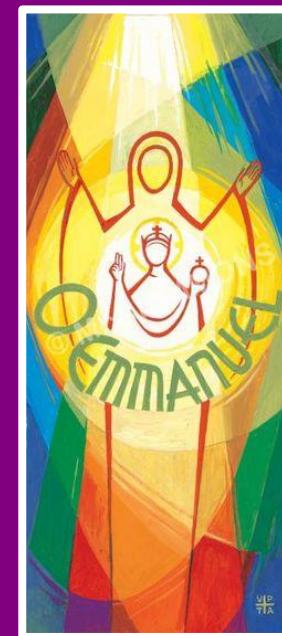
December 19: O Radix Jesse (O Root of Jesse)

December 20: O Clavis David (O Key of David)

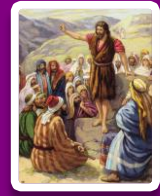
December 21: O Oriens (O Dayspring)

December 22: O Rex Gentium (O King of Nations)

December 23: O Emmanuel (O God with Us)



John the Baptist



John was the son of Zechariah and Elizabeth, and a cousin of Jesus. He was known for living in the wild, wearing clothes made from camel's hair. He was chosen by God to do a very special job. John was that voice crying in the wilderness preparing the way for the coming Messiah, he told people about Jesus, baptised them and showed them how they should live their lives.

People walked for miles to get sight of him because they knew he was a holy man. They wanted to hear his words, be near him, see him with their own eyes, and feel the goodness flowing from him, be in his presence, touch him, confess their sins to him and promise to change their lives.

The significance of the colour Purple in Advent

Purple is the colour of penance, preparation and sacrifice. Purple is also the colour of royalty and the sovereignty of Christ, the "King of Kings." We anticipate the coming of the King during Advent. The priest will wear a purple vestment when he celebrates Mass and purple is the colour of the cloth on our prayer focus.



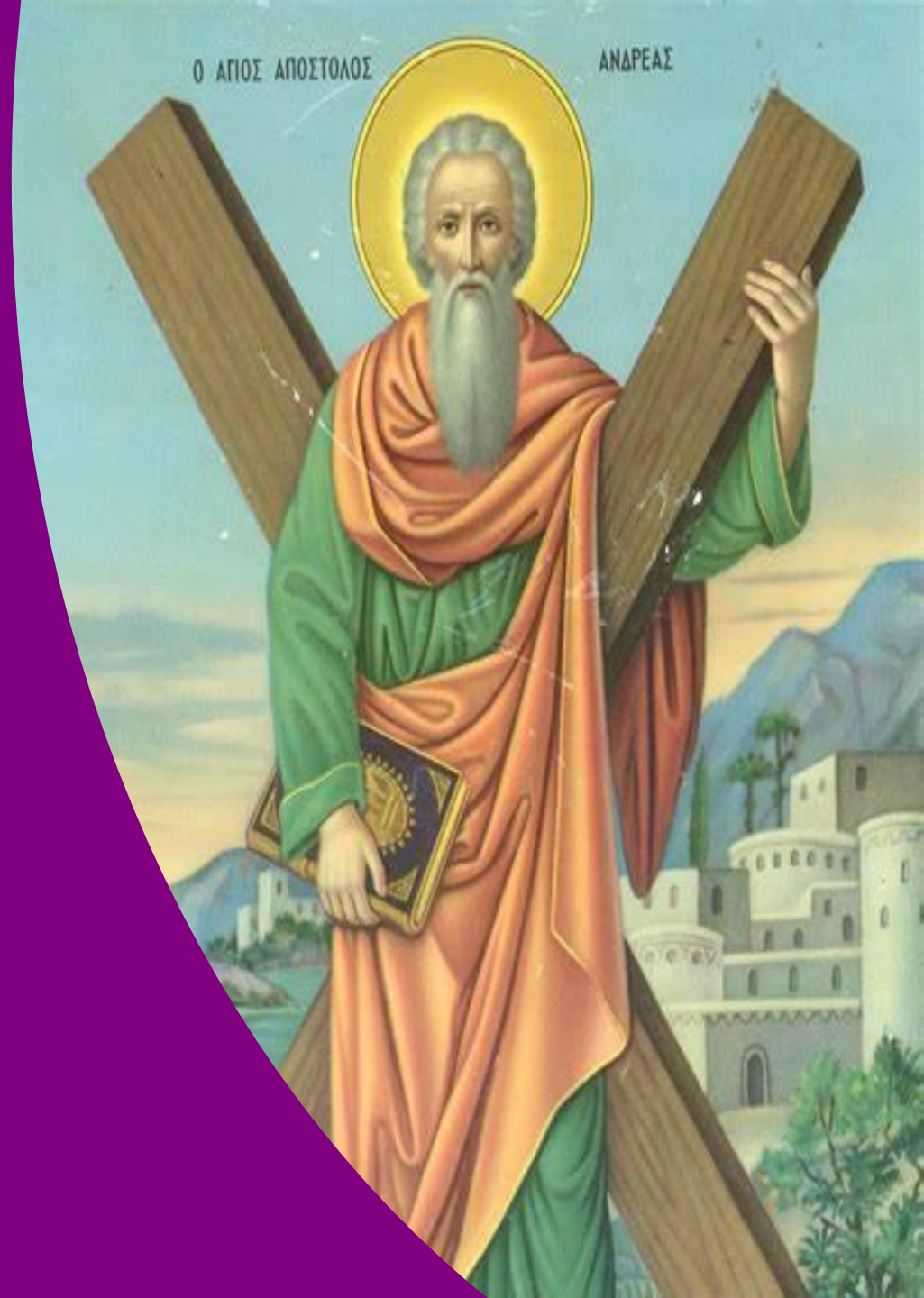
Saint Andrew 30th November

Saint Andrew, was an apostle of Jesus according to the New Testament.

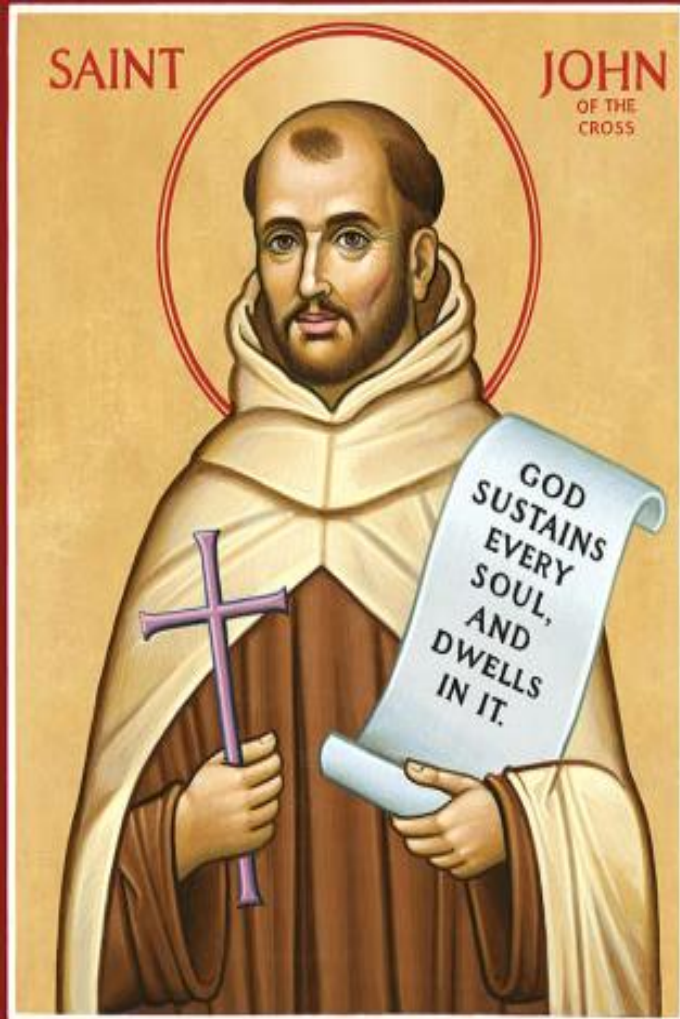
He is the brother of Saint Peter and is referred to in the Orthodox tradition as the First-Called.

A tradition developed that Andrew had been crucified on an X-shaped cross, now commonly known as a "Saint Andrew's Cross" at his own request, as he deemed himself unworthy to be crucified on the same type of cross as Jesus had been.

He is the Patron Saint of Scotland and our school.



Saint John of the Cross 14th December



Saint John of the Cross was born in Avila, Spain in 1542.

John became a priest in 1567, he encountered Theresa of Avila and followed her ways.

He had a vision of Christ and made a drawing that remains to this day called, "Christ from Above."

He is the patron of Contemplatives, mystics and Spanish poets.

Saint Lucy

Saint Lucy was born in 283 into a rich family. Her father died while she was young. Her mother was ill for four years. Lucy persuaded her mother to go to the tomb of St Agatha where they prayed all night and fell asleep exhausted. Saint Agatha appeared in a vision to Lucy and at that point her mother was cured.

A rich young man wanted to marry Lucy but because she had offered herself to God she refused. He was so angry at her refusal that he told the governor she was a Christian and she was led to the city for trial.

She told the governor "I will never sin, so that the Holy Spirit will give me a greater reward. You see now that I am the temple of the Holy Spirit, and that He protects me."

The governor ordered a fire to be lit around her, but Lucy was not harmed. At last, a sword was thrust into her heart. She did not die until a priest came to her with Holy Communion. St Lucy is the patron saint for people who have trouble with their eyes.



Walk With Me Prayer



God our loving Father, we come to you today,
be with us, hear us, guide us in all we do and say.

You give us times and seasons, your Spirit makes us grow,
in times of joy and sadness, we see your blessings flow.

I place my life before you in all my work and play,
I'll try to walk with Jesus, and in his friendship stay.

Amen.