

Safety Rules for Mass:

Although safety rules have been restricted, we are only a small church and do want everyone to be kept safe:

Please follow the one-way system to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion – guided by the stewards.

Hill Chapel Library

We have a box at the back of church with a variety of religious books belonging to parishioners which other people may like to read. If you would like to borrow any of the books or add some books of your own for other members of our parish to use - you are more than welcome. Please do fill in the form when taking and returning the books. Many thanks.

Attendance and Collection

November 6th - Attendance – 60 Collection £129.00

November 13th - Attendance – 129 Collection £191.00

Special collection this week for Diocesan Poor Missions

Christmas Masses

Christmas Eve – 4.30 pm , Carols at 4.00pm *Claughton – 6.30pm*

Christmas Day – 10.30am. *Claughton – 9am*

Parishioners Who are Unwell If you would like the parish to pray for someone, please notify Father Sony on 01772 865229 for inclusion in the Bidding Prayers or newsletter. We also have an area in Church where you can write a prayer intention on a card and hang up if you prefer.

Cycle of Prayer during November

Migrants and Refugees on Migrants' Day 3rd December

Feast Days – Wed - St Andrew
Sat – St. Francis Xavier



St Francis Hill Chapel Parish Newsletter

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First Sunday of Advent

27th November - Readings – Year A

Parish Mission Statement

Our Parish, guided by the example of our patron St Francis of Assisi, seeks to be a welcoming Catholic Community by living, sharing and growing in faith. We strive to deepen our own relationship with Christ and meet the needs of others.

Today's Mass is for the People of the Parish

We also pray for all who are unwell in our parish especially Bill Bamber and Lawrence Ibison.

On Tuesday 29th November there will be at
9am -Exposition of the Sacrament
9.30am -Mass

Tea and Coffee are served at the back of church after Sunday Mass. This is an ideal opportunity to meet and greet new parishioners and to catch up with familiar faces too.

Please note our new website address at the top of the page

Christmas Fair

Our Christmas Fair will be held after the family mass on Sunday, 11th December in school. **We are asking for donations for the tombola stall** – any new items (*chocolates, bottles, toiletries, crafts*) . There is a box at the back of church for tombola items. We will also be having a cake stall so any offers of cakes will be very gratefully received.

We are also looking for helpers to serve tea, coffee, sell cakes and help run the tombola stall. If you can help on the day - please see Mary Doran.

Christmas Events

Infant Nativity – Thurs 8th December - 2pm, 6pm – in church
Family Mass followed by **Christmas Fair** – Sunday, 11th December
Nursery - **Carols around the tree** – Mon 12th December, 2pm – in church
Key Stage Two Advent Service – Tues 13th December, 6pm – in church.

We would like to invite the Parish to any of the above events. We really would love to see you there.

From the Archives- The First Sunday of Advent

The first Sunday of Advent marks the start of a new liturgical year in the Catholic calendar. 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

The Advent Wreath, a very symbolic part of our long-standing Catholic tradition, will be displayed in our church and lit for the first time. Whilst the actual origins of the tradition are uncertain, there is evidence that pre-Christian Germanic peoples used wreathes with lit candles during the cold and dark December days as a sign of hope in the future and the warm extended-sunlight days of Spring. By the Middle Ages, Christians adapted this tradition and used Advent wreathes as part of their spiritual preparation for Christmas. Christ is "the Light that came into the world" to dispel the darkness of sin and to radiate the truth and love of God (cf. John 3:19-21).

In addition to the Advent Wreath, many parishes also display and decorate a 'Tree of Jesse'. The Jesse tree helps us connect the custom of decorating Christmas trees to the events leading to Jesus' birth. The name 'Jesse Tree' stems from the prophet Isaiah: "A shoot shall come out of the stock of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots." (Isaiah 11.1). 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. We adorn a Jesse tree with illustrated ornaments that represent the people, prophesies, and events leading up to the birth of Jesus. A separate symbol or small ornament is added to the tree each day of advent. During week one, for example, an apple representing Adam and Eve, an Ark for Noah, a star for Abraham, a ladder for Jacob and a coat of many colours for Joseph. During the next three weeks the ornaments represent events closer to and culminating in the nativity of Christ. On the 24th, December a manger represents the humble stable where Jesus was born. On Christmas day a 'Chi-Rho', a symbol we are all familiar with representing, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God" (John 1.1).



In Jesus, God has become one of us, made his dwelling among us, pitched his tent in our midst. When we enter into a relationship with Jesus Christ, we enter into the heart of God. When we share the love Jesus has won for us, we share the heart of God with one another. The wonder of Christmas reflects this for us and is the gift we bring for one another.

I will list the symbols for Advent week 2 on next week's newsletter. You may like to make and include the Jesse Tree symbols on your Christmas tree at home; it is very easy to do, and further information is available on the internet.

Mike Bryan