

THE SEASON OF ADVENT :

This four-week period of preparation for Christmas will begin with us at the Vigil Mass on Saturday 28th November

In past years we were so fortunate as to be able to offer a 'Family Advent Day' on the first Sunday , where we enjoyed all sorts of craft-activities , resulting in lots of fun and items to display at home or in the church - along with mountains of home-made refreshments. None of this is possible , of course , these days , BUT we do what we can do..

We have held several meetings to discuss ideas for this four-week period , and have already acquired something called '*The Real Advent Calendar*' , which includes a 'Christmas Story-Activity Book' , along with 25 FAIRTRADE festive chocolate shapes. We are not asking for money , but I am wondering how to distribute the Calendars to our Families with young Children. After Sunday Mass is the obvious option.

On the website we will be publishing worksheets for the Children on the four Sundays.



ADVENT PENITENTIAL PRAYER SERVICES WITHOUT CONGREGATION:

Using the 'live-streaming' system , I am proposing to offer these Services on the Sunday afternoons of Advent , starting at 4.00 pm. and lasting for an hour or so. Obviously , people 'streaming' the Services can 'drop in' and 'drop out' of the period of prayer and reflection as their schedule allows.

I envisage using music from the Taize Community , interspersed with Advent Scripture Readings and Reflections.

In an ideal world , it would be good to publish an outline of the Services on the website , so that the 'active participation of the people' , stressed by the Second Vatican Council , can take place even in these constraining times.



SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION :

Those people who wish celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation on an individual basis are asked to call the Presbytery so that we can arrange a mutually convenient time to meet.

The over-riding concern is to avoid any possibility of a number of people arriving here at the same time and forming a 'crowd'. This would entail asking Stewards to be present , and these Good People have enough to do as it is. With the Vigil Mass now being open to a limited Congregation , even more demands are being made of them. So , there must be no suggestion of People gathering in the church and contravening Covid regulations that are in force for our protection.

Any other suggestions regarding 'Confessions' will be gratefully accepted.