

## Advent at St George's

### Monday—Friday

Morning Prayer: 9.15am

Mass: 9.30am



### Sunday Morning Advent Course

Join us in The Venue every Sunday in Advent in between the Masses from **10.00am to 11.15am** to explore and deepen your faith by sharing it with others.

### Wednesday Morning Advent Course

On three Wednesdays of Advent after coffee in The Venue.

Fr Tony Cassidy CSsR will expand our understanding of the Coming of Christ by explaining what some of the principal characters involved reveal to us.

**December 3rd:** Mary

**December 10th:** Joseph

**December 17th:** Other members of the cast

### Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturdays: 11.00am—12.15pm

### Advent Service of Reconciliation

Monday 22nd December 7.00pm

## ADVENT

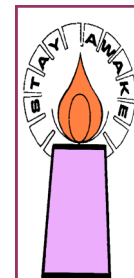
Advent is a sacred season of expectation and preparation, marking the four weeks before Christmas. The word Advent comes from the Latin *adventus*, meaning “coming” — a reminder that we wait not only for the celebration of Christ’s birth, but also for His promised return.

It is a season filled with hope, peace, joy, and love — the themes represented by the four candles surrounding the Advent wreath. Each week, we light one more candle, watching the light grow brighter as Christmas draws near. The final candle, placed in the centre, is the Christ Candle, lit on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day to celebrate that the Light of the World has come.



The circle of the wreath represents God’s unending love and eternal life, while the evergreens remind us of His faithfulness through every season. The candles symbolize both the darkness of a waiting world and the light of God’s promise fulfilled. Advent invites us to slow down and prepare our hearts for the miracle of Emmanuel — “God with us.”

It’s a time to quiet our minds, rekindle our faith, and remember that the same God who kept His promises long ago still keeps them today. As the candles are lit, we reflect on:



Hope in God’s promises

Peace through Christ our Saviour

Joy in His presence

Love that never ends

### Week 1 - HOPE

"The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep shadow a light has shone. For there is a child born for us, a son is given, and the dominion is laid on His shoulders. And this is the name they give him: Wonder Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."

*Isaiah 9:2,5*

#### Reflection:

We light the first candle, the Candle of Hope, to remind us that even in times of waiting and uncertainty, God's promises remain true. The prophets foretold the coming of a Saviour — a light that would break through the deepest darkness. As this candle burns, may we fix our eyes on that light, trusting that Christ still brings hope to weary hearts today

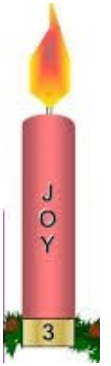


### Week 3—JOY

"But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid. Listen, I bring you news of great joy, a joy to be shared by the whole people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you: he is Christ the Lord.'" — *Luke 2:10–11*

#### Reflection:

We light the third candle, the Candle of Joy. The shepherds were the first to hear the good news — simple people who became messengers of joy to the world. This candle reminds us that true joy is not found in what we have, but in who has come: Jesus, Emmanuel, God with us. May his joy fill our hearts and overflow into the lives of others.



### Week 4 - LOVE

"God's love for them was revealed when God sent into the world his only Son, so that we could have life through him; this is the love I mean: not our love for God, but God's love for us when he sent his Son to be the sacrifice that takes our sins away". *1 John 4:9-10*

#### Reflection:

We light the fourth candle, the Candle of Love. The love of God is not a fleeting feeling — it is sacrificial, steadfast, and eternal. As we light this candle beside the others, we remember that love came down from Heaven in the form of a child. May that same love fill our homes, guide our words, and shine through our lives this Christmas season.

*Come Lord Jesus, come*

### Week 2 - PEACE

"And suddenly with the angel, there was a great throng of the heavenly host, praising God and singing, 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those who enjoy his favour.'"

*Luke 2:13–14*

#### Reflection:

We light the second candle, the Candle of Peace, remembering the angels' message that still echoes through time. God's peace is not the absence of conflict, but his presence in the midst of it. As this candle joins the first, may we rest in the peace that passes understanding — a peace that steadies our hearts and calms our spirits, even in uncertain days.

