

**Diocesan Advent Service 2019**  
**Church of Saint Joseph the Artisan, Bonnybrook**  
**30 November 2019**

*This year's Diocesan Advent Service, led by Archbishop Diarmuid Martin, was prepared by the DCU Masters in Chaplaincy Students (Full-Time) with music presented by the Dublin Diocesan Music Group.*

This is the full text which is divided into 3 sections to be used as you wish over the weeks of Advent. The Scripture used is taken from the Sundays of Advent. Pray the texts slowly and take time to meditate as each item has been chosen carefully for your nourishment.

## **1. The Light Of Advent**

### **Introduction                      Advent Prayer      (Henri Nouwen) ©**

Lord Jesus, Master of both the light and the darkness,  
send your Holy Spirit upon our preparation for Christmas.  
We, who have so much to do, seek quiet spaces to hear your voice each day.  
We, who are anxious over many things, look forward to your coming among us.  
We, who are blessed in so many ways, long for the complete joy of your Kingdom.  
We, whose hearts are heavy, seek the joy of your presence.  
We are your people, walking in darkness yet seeking the light.  
To you we say "Come, Lord Jesus". **Amen.**

### **Song                                      O Come, O Come Emmanuel (French Traditional)**

**All sing:**                      O Come, O come Emmanuel,  
To free your captive Israel,  
That mourns in lonely exile here,  
Until the Son of Man appear.  
Rejoice, Rejoice, O Israel, to you shall come Emmanuel.

O come, great daystar, radiance bright  
And heal us with your glorious light.  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night  
And death's dark shadows put to flight.  
Rejoice, Rejoice, O Israel, to you shall come Emmanuel.

O key of David's city, come,  
And open wide our heavenly home:  
Make safe the way that leads above.  
Protect us ever by your love.  
Rejoice, Rejoice, O Israel, to you shall come Emmanuel.



## Scripture

## Is 2:1-5

The vision of Isaiah son of Amoz, concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

In the days to come  
the mountain of the Temple of the Lord  
shall tower above the mountains  
and be lifted higher than the hills.  
All the nations will stream to it,  
peoples without number will come to it; and they will say:  
'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,  
To the temple of the God of Jacob  
That he may teach us his ways  
So that we may walk in his paths:  
Since the Law will go out from Zion,  
And the oracle of the Lord from Jerusalem.  
He will wield authority over the nations  
and adjudicate between many peoples;  
these will hammer their swords into ploughshares,  
their spears into sickles.  
Nation will not lift sword against nation,  
there will be no more training for war.  
O House of Jacob, come,  
let us walk in the light of the Lord.

## Song

All sing:

## Wait For The Lord (Taizé)

Wait for the Lord whose day is near  
Wait for the Lord, be strong take heart

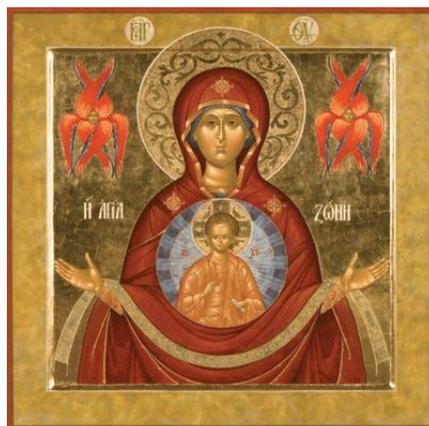
## Reflection

## St. John of the Cross

The Virgin, weighed  
With the Word of God  
Comes down the road:  
If only you will shelter her.

## Song

## Behold A Virgin (Ronan McDonagh)



## 2. Prepare the Way

### Reflection

Sometimes waiting feels good...like when we are looking forward to meeting someone, or waiting to go on holidays.... This kind of waiting is different to waiting frustratedly for the bus to come, or the phone to ring. When it is good to wait, it is because we believe that we will be fulfilled, that something wonderful and great will happen. Advent invites us to wait.....to wait consciously.....to wait openly for God.....to wait and notice God in our lives...in the bits and pieces of everyday. Advent invites us to live each day in expectation ..... God is not in the past, in all our mistakes and failings and things we have left undone. God is not in the future, in all things we are rushing to do. God is in the present, trying to break through, to become incarnate in our world right now, in this moment. But only those who are waiting..... expecting ... watching for something wonderful..... will notice

### Song **Prepare the Way of Lord (Taizé)**

**All sing:** Prepare the way of the Lord, prepare the way of the Lord,  
and all people will see the salvation of our God.

### Scripture 2 **Matt 3: 1-2**

In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." This is he who was spoken of through the prophet Isaiah:

"A voice of one calling in the wilderness,  
'Prepare the way for the Lord,  
make straight paths for him.'

### Song **Ullmhaígi Bóthar an Tiarna (Máire Ní Dhuibhir)**

### Blessing of Advent Fare

Lord, we ask you to bless this seasonal food,  
To bless all those who prepared it,  
and all those who offer us hospitality and warmth in the name of  
Jesus.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen .

### 'Advent' by Patrick Kavanagh Introduction and reflection

The poem 'Advent' by Patrick Kavanagh is a not just a nostalgic look at the season of Advent, it is a deeper look at the meaning of this important season before Christmas. Kavanagh describes the traditional Advent, a season of penance and reflection, where we try to live a simpler life in order to 'charm back the luxury of a child's soul'. The simplicity described in this poem reminds us of the poverty that into which Jesus was born and looks back to a simpler time. This is a poem of hope and the expectation of renewal. It is important for all of us to keep this in mind during the season of Advent as we prepare to welcome Christ.



When the heartache and distress of those dear to me saddens my spirit and suffocates my desire to bring joy to others, help me to make room for you in my heart,

When peace seems far away from my deeper self, and crushing distress pays daily visits to my body, mind or spirit help me to make room for you in my heart. **(R)**

When the day is done and I look over the hours that have passed before I rest my head on the pillow of sleep, help me to make room for you in my heart. **(R)**

When I join with friends and family to celebrate the gift of your birth in human form and gather to remember your boundless love, help me to make room for you in my heart. **(R)**

Emmanuel, God-with-us, you stand at the door of my heart and await my welcome. Help me be aware of your presence each day in the people who enter my life. I desire to open my heart, to make room for you in any part of self that tends to keep you out. Show me those places where you still need a welcome. Spur on my courage to open the door and invite you in. I want to make room for you in my heart. **(R)**

**Song**                      **Soon and Very Soon (Andrae Crouch)**

### **Concluding Prayer**

**All say:**                      Gracious God, send us your grace this Advent Season so that we can prepare for your coming. Touch our hearts with longing so that we can better love and serve you and each other. Fill us with the hope that we can be transformed by your Spirit and so help transform the world. Give us the peace of knowing that you came to share our human life and redeem us for the sake of love.  
We ask these things in the name of Jesus whose kingdom we seek.

**Song**                      **May The Light Of Christ (Tom Fettke)**

