

## Advent and Christmas Services 2011

### Advent - The Coming of Jesus Christ

#### **Happy New Year!**

Although our calendars tell us it is November the Churches year begins with Advent with the First Sunday of Advent on November 27, 2011.

**Advent — means to come and is a time of waiting and preparation for the "coming of the Lord".**

- It is a time for celebrating the past, the birth of Christ, and the future, the second coming of Christ.
- The Advent season is filled with preparation and expectation. Everyone is getting ready for Christmas, however, we are so busy with the material preparations that we lose sight of the real reason for our activity.
- In the midst of the hustle and bustle of the season, let us try to keep Advent a season of waiting and longing, of conversion and hope, thinking of the incredible love and humility of our God in sending his son in human form.



**In our shopping and baking** - let us remember to purchase and prepare something for the poor.



**When we clean our homes** - let us distribute some of our possessions to those who lack many necessities.



**While we are decking the halls of our homes** - let us not forget to prepare a peaceful place in our hearts wherein Christ may come to dwell.

We use an **Advent wreath** in Church to mark the New Year lighting a candle on each Sunday as we approach Christmas Day.

**It is a circular evergreen wreath with five candles, four around the wreath and one in the centre.**

- The **circle of the wreath** reminds us of God Himself, His eternity and endless mercy, which has no beginning or end.
- The **green of the wreath** speaks of the hope that we have in God, the hope of newness, of renewal, of eternal life.
- **Candles** symbolize the light of God coming into the world through the birth of His son.
- The **four outer candles** represent the period of waiting during the four Sundays of Advent

## Summary - Advent and Christmas Services 2011

Sunday	27 <sup>th</sup> November 2011	Advent Holy Communion	10.45am
Sunday	4 <sup>th</sup> December 2011	Advent Holy Communion	10.45am
Sunday	11th December 2011	Family and Toy Service	10:45am
Sunday	18th December 2011	Nativity Service	10:45am
Sunday	18th December 2011	Carols by Candlelight Service	6.30pm
Saturday	24th December 2011	Christingle Service	4:30 pm
Saturday	24th December 2011	Holy Communion	11.30pm
Sunday	25th December 2011	Christmas Day Service	10.15am

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### **27<sup>th</sup> November: Advent Holy Communion: 10:45am**

A celebration of Holy Communion to mark the beginning of Advent  
**Lighting of the first Advent Candle**

### **4<sup>th</sup> December: Advent Holy Communion: 10:45am**

A celebration of Holy Communion for the second Sunday of Advent  
**Lighting of the second Advent Candle**

### **11th December: Family and Toy Service: 10:45am**

A service for all the family where we collect gifts of toys for children who are in care, food and blankets for the homeless, simple gifts for the elderly in hospital at Christmas

**Lighting of the third Advent Candle**



### **18th December: Nativity Service: 10:45am**

A family service with a play explaining the Christmas story – a part for every child

**Lighting of the fourth Advent Candle**



### **18th December: Carols by Candlelight Service: 6.30pm**

A traditional celebration of the story of Christmas in a candle lit Church



### **24th December: Christingle Service: 4:30 pm**

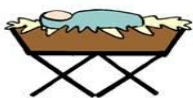
A service for everyone to share in the joy of Christmas with the distribution of Christingle to take home as part of your family's celebrations



### **24th December: Holy Communion: 11.30pm**

The first Communion of Christmas

**Lighting of the centre Christmas Candle**



### **25th December: Christmas Day Service, 10.15am**

A service for all the family to celebrate Christmas Day