

The Catholic church of St Mary, Leek Mass for the First Sunday of Advent



An introduction to the Season of Advent *The Season of Advent marks the beginning of a new Church Year. In this short period, the Church prepares to celebrate Christ's birth and to look forward to that time when Christ will return to bring completion to all things. The season of Advent also acknowledges Christ's abiding presence in the Church. So, let's live like Christ is present! The Church describes Advent as, "... period of devout and expectant delight."*

During Advent, the Gloria is omitted except on Solemnities and Feast days. Violet vestments are worn except on the Third Sunday of Advent when Rose coloured vestments are used. Flowers can be used to decorate the altar, but in moderation. The weekdays from 17 December up and including 24 December are ordered to a more direct preparation for the celebration of the Lord's birth at Christmas.

Penitential act

Priest Lord Jesus, you came to gather the nations into the peace of God's kingdom:
Lord, have mercy.

People **Lord, have mercy.**

Priest You come in word and sacrament to strengthen us and make us holy: Christ,
have mercy.

People **Christ, have mercy.**

Priest You will come again in glory with salvation for your people: Lord, have mercy.

People **Lord, have mercy.**

Priest May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins and bring us to
everlasting life.

People **Amen.**

First reading **Isaiah 2:1-5**

The Lord gathers all nations together into the eternal peace of God's kingdom

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.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 121(122):1-2,4-5,6-9

I rejoiced when I heard them say: 'Let us go to God's house.'

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And now our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem.

I rejoiced when I heard them say: 'Let us go to God's house.'

It is there that the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord.

For Israel's law it is, there to praise the Lord's name.

There were set the thrones of judgement of the house of David.

I rejoiced when I heard them say: 'Let us go to God's house.'

For the peace of Jerusalem pray: 'Peace be to your homes!

May peace reign in your walls, in your palaces, peace!

I rejoiced when I heard them say: 'Let us go to God's house.'

For love of my brethren and friends I say: 'Peace upon you!'

For love of the house of the Lord I will ask for your good.

I rejoiced when I heard them say: 'Let us go to God's house.'

Second reading Romans 13:11-14 Our salvation is near

You know 'the time' has come: you must wake up now: our salvation is even nearer than it was when we were converted. The night is almost over, it will be daylight soon – let us give up all the things we prefer to do under cover of the dark; let us arm ourselves and appear in the light. Let us live decently as people do in the daytime: no drunken orgies, no promiscuity or licentiousness, and no wrangling or jealousy. Let your armour be the Lord Jesus Christ.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! Let us see, O Lord, your mercy and give us your saving help. Alleluia!

Gospel Matthew 24:37-44 The Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect

Jesus said to his disciples: 'As it was in Noah's day, so will it be when the Son of Man comes. For in those days before the Flood people were eating, drinking, taking wives, taking husbands, right up to the day Noah went into the ark, and they suspected nothing till the Flood came and swept all away. It will be like this when the Son of Man comes. Then of two men in the fields one is taken, one left; of two women at the millstone grinding, one is taken, one left.

'So stay awake, because you do not know the day when your master is coming. You may be quite sure of this, that if the householder had known at what time of the night the burglar would come, he would have stayed awake and would not have allowed anyone to break through the wall of his house. Therefore, you too must stand ready because the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.'

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.