

# ALL SAINTS NEWS

15<sup>th</sup> December 2024  
3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent  
Gaudete Sunday

## Advent – in Two Chapters

The first chapter looks to the future. The second looks to the past. They both help us to live in faith in the present.

**Chapter One** is from the beginning of Advent until December 16. The liturgy, scripture readings and focus of this part of Advent demand that we open our eyes — wake up — and expect the coming of the Messiah. This does not refer to the birth of Jesus 2000 years ago. The beginning of Advent asks us to look to the future for the Second Coming of Christ. This part of Advent has little to do with remembering the Christ child born in Bethlehem. That will come later. This first part is more serious in tone. We listen in anticipation, expectation, hope and promise that Christ will come in the future to fulfil and complete the reign of God.

Advent is not a time when we pretend to be the people awaiting the Messiah's arrival. During Advent we recall the stories of our ancestors in faith who lived with such expectations and eventually saw them fulfilled when Jesus was born. We are not waiting for the birth of a saviour. He is already born into our world at that first Christmas. During Advent the stories of our ancestors become our own story. We remember these great stories because they give us hope today as we now prepare for the Second Coming of Christ.

Listen to the last lines of the book of Revelation: "The Spirit and bride say 'Come.' Let the hearer say 'Come.' . . . Amen! Come, Lord Jesus! The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all." (Rev. 22:17, 20-21). The Bible ends with this great invitation to the Lord to come again and make our world right. The first part of Advent turns our eyes towards this future coming of Christ. We must make ready to receive the Lord when he comes again.



Chapter Two of Advent is from December 17-24. These last eight days before Christmas recall the first coming of God in flesh through the birth of Christ. This preparation teaches us an important lesson about Christmas. God was born into our world and took on our flesh. This incarnation continues to unfold in our current time and place. Christmas does not simply remember a past event as if it were over and done with. Christmas encourages us to live in hope and faith that God will continue to enter our world and bring about God's reign.

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Both liturgy and scripture combine, during Advent to 'help us to understand fully the value and meaning of the mystery of Christmas. It is not just about commemorating the historical event, which occurred some 2,000 years ago in a little village of Judea. Instead, it is necessary to understand that the whole of our life must be an 'advent,' a vigilant awaiting of the final coming of Christ. To predispose our mind to welcome the Lord who, as we say in the Creed, one day will come to judge the living and the dead, we must learn to recognize him as present in the events of daily life.'

Consequently, Advent can be seen as an intense training that directs us decisively toward '**him who already came, who will come, and who comes continuously.**'

+James

## Gaudete Sunday

This Sunday is the vibrant celebration of Gaudete Sunday, a special day in the Advent Season that fills our hearts with joy and anticipation. As we journey towards Christmas, this Sunday stands out as a beacon of joy and hope.

### What is Gaudete Sunday?

'A Reminder' of what we already know: Gaudete Sunday is the third Sunday of Advent in the liturgical calendar of most denominations within Western Christianity. The day takes its common name from the Latin word Gaudete ("Rejoice"), the first word of the introit:

*Gaudete in Domino semper: iterum dico, gaudete. Modestia vestra nota sit omnibus hominibus: Dominus enim prope est. Nihil solliciti sitis: sed in omni oratione et obsecratione cum gratiarum actione petitiones vestrae innotescant apud Deum. Benedixisti Domine terram tuam: avertisti captivitatem Jacob.*

*"Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Let your forbearance be known to all, for the Lord is near at hand; have no anxiety about anything, but in all things, by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be known to God. Lord, you have blessed your land; you have turned away the captivity of Jacob."*

Philippians 4:4-6

### History of Gaudete Sunday

The history of Gaudete Sunday is deeply rooted in Christian tradition. The observance dates back to the medieval period when the church recognized the need to balance the penitential nature of Advent with moments of joy and hope. The third Sunday of Advent serves as a brief respite from the more sombre aspects of the season, allowing believers to rejoice in the imminent arrival of the Christ child.

The liturgical colour for Gaudete Sunday is rose or pink, symbolizing joy and a departure from the traditional purple associated with penance and preparation. This distinctive colour choice is a visual cue to the faithful that a shift toward celebration and gladness is underway.



Gaudete Sunday is also marked by the lighting of the third candle on the Advent wreath, often known as the "Gaudete Candle" or the "Candle of Joy." This candle represents the joy that Christians experience as they draw closer to the celebration of the birth of Jesus.

In essence, Gaudete Sunday encapsulates the dual nature of Advent – a time for reflection and repentance, balanced with anticipation and rejoicing in the promise of redemption. It serves as a reminder that, even in the midst of our preparations, there is joy to be found in the expectation of the Savior's arrival.

### Three Features of Gaudete Sunday

**Joyful Anticipation:** Gaudete Sunday serves as a moment of joyful anticipation in the Advent season. As the name suggests ("Gaudete," meaning "rejoice" in Latin), this Sunday encourages believers to take a break from the penitential aspects of Advent and rejoice in the imminent arrival of Jesus Christ.

**Joyful Decorations:** Churches may be decorated with an emphasis on joy. This typically includes floral arrangements (within the Sanctuary), banners, or other decorations that reflect the festive spirit of Gaudete Sunday.

**Acts of Kindness:** In the spirit of joy and giving some Christian communities use Gaudete Sunday as an opportunity to engage in acts of kindness and charity. This typically involves outreach to those in need or special community service projects.

## 'Into All the Parish'

Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2025 Christ Church, Downend Road, Bristol, 10 am – 3 pm.



Pioneering Parishes provides tools and ideas of how to unlock the creative energy in your parish/es and find new ways to engage with God's spirit and those unconnected to your church. All welcome, ordained and lay, leaders and members, church teams and individuals!

Pioneering Parishes are offering to work for a year with a number of churches in the Diocese to facilitate and support learning through courses and resources, focusing on:

- learning to pay attention to the culture around us
- helping congregations discern who they are called to be for God and their local community
- offering tools, skills, postures and practices to support steady culture change
- growing a healthy ecology of church; further extending the care of souls into all the parish

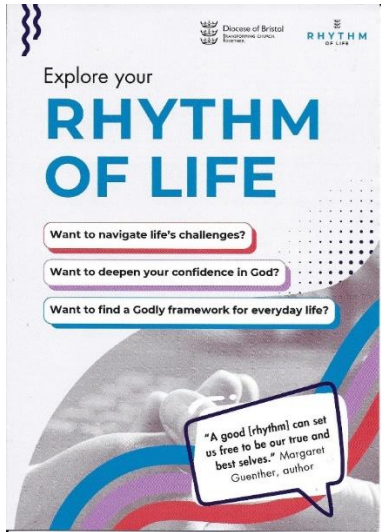
Book your free place here: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/pioneering-parishes-taster-day-tickets-1047926184427?aff=oddtcreator>

Or talk with Fr Charles or Wendy

# The Rhythm of Life

## Programme of Exploration for 2025

During the course of 2025 there will be opportunity to Explore the Rythm of Life with monthly taster sessions online. Additionally, there will be opportunities for Retreats and Pilgrimages over the year. Please collect your information booklet from within the Atrium, or directly from Fr Charles or Wendy.



## Walks for All - and their dogs. Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> December



The walk on 14<sup>th</sup> December will be a circuit through Leigh Woods.

Meet either at 10:45 outside All Saints or at 11:15 at the entrance to Leigh Woods/Nightingale Valley on North Road, Leigh Woods if driving.

The walk will be on the flat for the majority of the route but is likely to be muddy in places.

If the weather is stormy and trees likely to pose a hazard or if the suspension bridge is closed a different route will be devised.

## Christmas @ All Saints

May the light of Christ shine brightly during this Christmas Season as we reflect on the true message of God's Gift that brings hope to the world. And let us pray that we can reflect the light that shall overcome the darkness in the love and compassion we bring to creation and to others.

### Christmas '24 Events

@ All Saints, Clifton

**1<sup>ST</sup>-25<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER**

SUNDAY 1<sup>ST</sup> DEC 6.00PM  
Advent Carol Service

SUNDAY 22<sup>ND</sup> DEC 6.00PM  
Christmas Carol Service

TUESDAY 24<sup>TH</sup> DEC 4.30 *for* 5.00PM  
Christmas Story

TUESDAY 24<sup>TH</sup> DEC 10.00PM  
Midnight Mass

WEDNESDAY 25<sup>TH</sup> DEC 10.00AM  
Christmas Eucharist with Carols

All Saints

[www.allsaintsclifton.org](http://www.allsaintsclifton.org)

Clifton, Church of England



See [here](#) to link through to the live digital calendar. Click on each day to reveal interesting facts, seasonal images and beautiful Christmas music - all guiding you through the season of Advent.

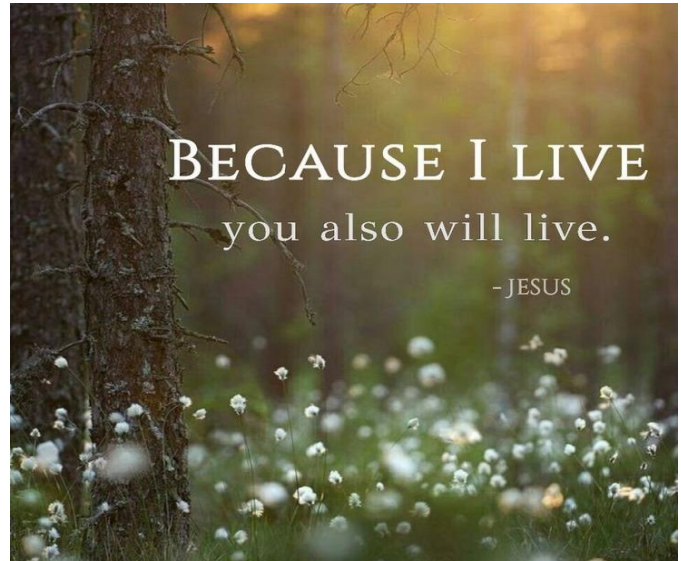


## Prayers Requests

'In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live.'

(John 14: 19).

Please let Fr Charles know of anyone who would like to be remembered within the weekly prayer list or anyone who you would like to be remembered in prayer.



## Those of the parish and our hearts whom we remember in our prayers:

### Sunday

Tabitha Clark, Ruth and Richard Harding, Katie Norman, Neal Gordon, Joyce Shepherd, Cynthia Ashford Elisabeth Morgan Sathia Aruliah Sister Rosina Jean Detheridge Jack O'Sullivan and family Susie King Arthur Cleaver Sebastian Kloss Vyard Angel Wray Nic Epinay Oussama and Claire Sader Sarah John Badman

### Monday

Sue Hilliar Hugh Farry

### Tuesday.

Ryan Lindsey George Lympelopoulos Pam Parker

### Wednesday

Katrina and Katherine King, Philip Miles, Diana Verity, Samantha Tucker, Maureen Mumford

### Thursday

Steve Cooper Barbera Freeman Remi Clarke

### Friday

Charlotte Hopkins, Caroline Semon, Nicole Kaneza Nadine Benn John Badman

### Saturday

## The Departed

Myra York Raymond Clarke David Reed Christopher Trelawny Ross Elizabeth McKie Cher Maximen Nicholas Parker Stephen Jordon Maureen Badman

## Years' Minds - this week we remember:

Eric Lloyd Davis Dulcie Mason John Dowden Joan Flynn Michael Houghton (Bp) Christine Malet Chellathurai Arulanantham James Ostler Alec Benton Geoff Knott Samuel Racy

# ALL SAINTS PRAYERS

Mon 16	Pray for our Emergency Services – the ‘Blue Lights’. Christmas normally is a time for joy. Decorations are set up, parties ensue, presents are given and laughter commences. Not many people remember those in law enforcement, fire fighting, ambulance workers and so many others who work tirelessly during the holiday season to keep people safe. Blue Christmas is a holiday dedicated to those who work in that field, giving them an opportunity to be thanked for their services and celebrate Christmas their own way.
Tue 17	O Sapientia (O Wisdom). O Wisdom, who came from the mouth of the Most High, reaching from end to end and ordering all things mightily and sweetly: come, and teach us the way of prudence
Wed 18	<b>Mass 10.00am</b> O Adonai (O Lord) Heavenly Father, you prepared the Blessed Virgin Mary to be the mother of your Son: grant that, as she looked for his coming as our saviour, so we may be ready to greet him when he comes again as our judge
Thurs 19	O Radix Jesse (O Root of Jesse) O Root of Jesse, that stands for an ensign of the people, before whom the kings keep silence and unto whom the Gentiles shall make supplication: come, to deliver us, and tarry not.
Fri 20	<b>Mass 10.00am</b> O Clavis David (O Key of David) O Key of David, and sceptre of the house of Israel, who opens and no man shuts, who shuts and no man opens: come, and lead forth the captive who sits in the shadows from his prison.
Sat 21	O Oriens (O Dayspring) O dawn of the east, brightness of light eternal, and sun of justice: come, and enlighten those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death.
<b>Sunday 22</b>	<b>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent</b>  O Rex Gentium (O King of the nations) O King of the gentiles and their desired One, the cornerstone that makes both one: come, and deliver man, whom you formed out of the dust of the earth.  <b>Early Worship 9.00am      Parish Mass 10.30am      Christmas Carol Service 6.00pm</b>

If you would like to give regularly to the Church, please set up a standing order to the church account, details below  
**Parochial Church Council of All Saints**  
**Account No. 65256747**  
**sort code 08 92 99**

Gift Aid forms are available from the office  
[office@allsaintsclifton.org](mailto:office@allsaintsclifton.org)

**We are committed to safeguarding children, young people, victims of domestic abuse and vulnerable adults.**

If you have any Safeguarding concerns please contact :  
 The Parish Safeguarding Officers - Caroline Davenport & Janice Callow at [office@allsaintsclifton.org](mailto:office@allsaintsclifton.org) marked for the attention of the Safeguarding Officer.