

## Primary Diocesan Advisor News Blog December 2021

Dear Principal,

The shops are already packed up with Christmas fare and it's not easy to pass by the glitz and the bling. Sometimes, the material aspect of Christmas bombards so many people, that they forget the real meaning of this great event.

Advent is an exciting time. God's people look forward to a special occasion. What could be more exciting than the birth of a baby? We await and we welcome Jesus; ready to be born in our hearts. With Advent begins the new Church Year in preparation for Christmas. We pray 'Come, Lord Jesus'. This year Archbishop Dermot Farrell introduces the Advent theme as, 'Be Still'. This prompts each one to a time of quiet, prayer and reflection to hear the word of the Lord.

The monthly memos and the *Grow in Love/InGrá Dé* Religious Education programme provide many resources for the Advent and Christmas season. The Children's *Grow in Love/ InGrá Dé* textbook and/ or e-book provides support for families. Each school in its RE policy designates a *Grow in Love/InGrá Dé* night where families can chat, pray and read a poem or a Scripture passage.

Apart from *Grow in Love/InGrá Dé*, you will find some extra resources:

### **SYNODAL PATHWAY**



Log on to [www.dublindiocese.ie](http://www.dublindiocese.ie)

There, you will find the Synod Prayer and updates on the Synodal Pathway. Find out where your parish is in the Synod process. Are you ready to be involved? All are invited.

## **A PASTORAL LETTER FOR THE SEASON OF CREATION 2021**

### **The Cry of the Earth - The Cry of the Poor**



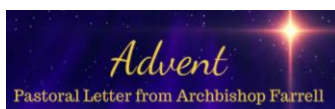
On the Dublin Diocesan website [www.dublindiocese.ie](http://www.dublindiocese.ie) you will find a copy of the pastoral letter online. Archbishop Farrell suggests ‘catechists and religious education teachers might evaluate the role of an ecological spirituality in religious education programmes’ (p.52). For the month of December, you might suggest pupils and their families read the Creation Story (Genesis 1:1-32) from the Bible or the *Grow in Love/InGrá Dé* book. Pupils might listen for up to date news on the environment and take note of it to share in class and at home.

### **SOCIETY FOR MISSIONARY CHILDREN**



Log onto <https://missio.ie/schools/> Schools already received the resources to help raise mission awareness overseas. The Advent calendar is always a popular resource. Please pray the Mission Prayer each day. It is in the back of the Children’s *Grow in Love/InGrá Dé* textbook/ e-book.

### **ADVENT LETTER - ARCHBISHOP DERMOT FARRELL**



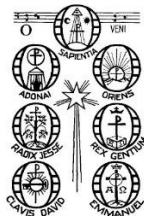
On the Dublin Diocesan website [www.dublindiocese.ie](http://www.dublindiocese.ie) you will find the Advent letter from Archbishop Dermot Farrell, Archbishop of Dublin. Note the spirit of hope in which the letter is written. It is full of hope. He speaks about the Task Force and he invites the Church in the Archdiocese ‘to use this season of Advent as a time of prayer and reflection to prepare ourselves spiritually for the challenge of renewal.’ Let us ‘Be Still’ and read the letter slowly and reflectively.

## YEAR OF ST JOSEPH (8<sup>th</sup> December 2020-8<sup>th</sup> December 2021)



Pope Francis proclaimed this year 2020-2021, to mark the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the declaration of St Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church. The year ends 8<sup>th</sup> December 2021. Please continue to pray to St Joseph.

### ADVENT LITURGY – ‘O Antiphons’



The O Antiphons are not included in the *Grow in Love/InGrá Dé* programme. These are used from the 17<sup>th</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> December as the versicle for the Gospel Acclamation. The antiphons will feature on a PowerPoint. When we pray these prayers, we invite Jesus to be with us.

- ‘Wisdom of the Most High, teach us the way of truth.’
- ‘Ruler of the House of Israel, who gave the law to Moses on Mount Sinai, come and save us with outstretched arm.’
- ‘Key of David, come to liberate those who are captive in darkness.’
- ‘Emmanuel, our king and law-giver, come and save us Lord our God.’
- ‘Root of Jesse, set up as assign to the peoples, delay no more.’
- ‘King of the peoples and cornerstone of the Church, come and save those whom you made from the dust of the earth.’
- ‘Morning Star, Sun of justice, come and enlighten those who live in darkness.’

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