



Vox Populi

30 November 2023

Advent, a time of preparation and anticipation leading to the birth of Jesus Christ and also for the Second Coming of Christ, begins on Sunday, 3 December.

This is a time of reflection and repentance, prayer and acts of charity. This four weeks prior to Christmas Day is a special time for reflecting on God's goodness, promises and love.

Jesus' birth is a time of hope when we remember, as the world faces times of violence, injustice and brokenness, only God's redemptive love can truly bring peace and healing. God works through us as Christians when we do our part, through prayer and action, to love our neighbours near and far. We can trust in God's promises of restoration for the world.

A good way to help us in our Advent preparation is the use of an Advent wreath. The wreath is a circle, no beginning and no end. So we call to mind how our lives, here and now, participate in the eternity of God's plan of salvation, and how we hope to share eternal life in the Kingdom of Heaven.

We also light the Advent wreath's candles each week, symbolising hope (purple), faith (purple), joy (rose) and peace (purple).

A fifth candle represents light and purity and is called "Christ's candle". It is placed in the middle of the wreath and is lit on Christmas Day. The candle is white to represent pure light and victory.

During this time pray that we are filled with deep and abiding peace and help us share that peace with everyone we encounter, especially those who need it most.