

# WELCOME TO OUR ADVENT PROGRAMME 2021

## WEEK 1

As I'm sure you're aware, we've now entered Advent and I invite you and your family to participate in our Advent initiative, as outlined in BBNeighbourhoods on 2 November, Advent 1:23.



At Christmas we're all more open to accepting an invitation to celebrate with our faith community. And of course, many of us have family and friends who have disconnected from their faith, or perhaps have no faith at all. This year, however, the desire for connection has been enhanced due to lockdowns and the hardship faced by many.

The aim of Advent 1:23 is that many more people may come to celebrate Christmas with us, build a connection with the parish, and even explore their faith. The Key Themes of Advent 1:23 are: invitation; mission; prayer; welcome; and pathway.

Being involved couldn't be simpler, there are only four steps:

1. During Mass pick up an Advent 1:23 prayer card
2. Fill in both areas, highlighting the people you want to pray for
3. Tear-off the end section, leaving it at Mass and we will pray for those people for you
4. And lastly, take home the rest of the card and at 1:23pm every day pray for those people as follows:

*Matthew 1:23 (The title of this initiative is based on Matthew 1:23)  
"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel' which means, 'God is with us.'"*

*Loving God, I pray for my family and friends to come to know your Son Jesus this Christmas, and that indeed "You are with us". Let your kingdom come and Your will be done. Holy Spirit, come fill me today, that I might share the love and Good News of Jesus to those around me,  
Amen*

During this first week of Advent, our focus is prayer and setting this initiative in motion. So, if you'd like to participate, please pick up a card and join the

conversation on WhatsApp

(<https://chat.whatsapp.com/JgJNDFGGQFcBAy9fUfXvda>).

Over the next three weeks, we'll also gather as one community to journey together towards the birth of our Saviour in our Advent Program. In these prayerful sessions, on 1, 8, and 15 December, we will reflect on Sacred writing, our Bishop's mission and vision, and Advent themes. Find out more on our Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/HornsbyCathedralParish/events>) or contact the Parish office.

God Bless