



Advent Wreath Year A

The Advent Wreath

The Advent Wreath, like the nativity scene, has no liturgical background but has developed in the Church as a tradition and an expression of the season.

If you are planning to use an Advent Wreath, we suggest:

The Wreath is constructed and placed in the Liturgical space not impeding the Altar, Ambo, Presidential chair or the carrying out of ministries.

The Wreath is blessed only once at the beginning of Advent.

The Wreath can have four or five candles:

Three purple and one pink [third Sunday] and if using a fifth white candle to represent Christ this should take a central position.

The candles can be placed on the Wreath or separately.

No prayer or separate liturgy is necessary for each candle. But if planned this should be carried out before the opening prayer or after the Liturgy of the Word. It should not be seen to be part of the Liturgy of the Eucharist.

Construction of the Wreath

The Wreath can be constructed of fresh greenery, flowers [fresh or dried] or fabrics. Always be aware of the danger of fire when using dry materials.

Make sure the candles are large enough to burn for the required time and to be visible to all the congregation.

The colours in the Wreath can reflect the ethnicity, tradition and environment of the community. For example, a country community might like to use the colours of the countryside, differing greens, blues and orange/yellows.

There is no set time for taking down the Wreath. If you have chosen to use a Christ candle, the four other candles can be removed, and the white candle is lit for the birth of Christ.



Blessing of the Advent Wreath

During the four weeks of Advent the Church's liturgy draws attention to the differing aspects of the reality of how God's plan in Christ has been revealed, is now revealed in the sacrament we celebrate at each Mass and will be revealed when he comes again at a time unknown to us.

It is only necessary for the presider to bless the Advent Wreath once at the beginning of Advent and he may also replace the penitential act by sprinkling the assembly with holy water, using the following words or similar wording.

Celebrant: May this sprinkling of the water of baptism be a reminder of our sharing in the birth of Christ, who came to bring us fullness of life. May we be prepared for the Lord's coming among us and be ready for his second coming.

The Presider or Assistant Lights the First Candle

Week One

Celebrant: God so loved the world that he sent his only son so we might have life everlasting. Let us "walk in the light which the Lord gives us."

All: Come, Lord Jesus.

Celebrant: We are urged not to lose heart but to put on the armour of Jesus Christ.

All: Come, Lord Jesus.

Celebrant: Be prepared for "the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect."

All: Come, Lord Jesus.

[Priest now reads the Collect]



Week Two

Celebrant: Lord Jesus, you called us to be “a sign to the people” as we journey towards a deeper relationship with God.

All: Come, Lord Jesus.

Celebrant: St Paul speaks to us of those who “did not give up.” May we follow their example.

All: Come, Lord Jesus.

Celebrant: John the Baptist encourages us to “Prepare the way of the Lord” and “Make straight his path.”

All: Come, Lord Jesus.

[Priest now reads the Collect]

Week Three

Celebrant: Lord Jesus we are full of joy at the thought of your coming.

All: Come, Lord Jesus.

Celebrant: “Be patient do not lose heart” for the Lord our God is coming. It is he who will bring us to safety.

All: Come, Lord Jesus.

Celebrant: “Happy is the person who does not lose faith” they will be great in the sight of God.

All: Come, Lord Jesus.

[Priest now reads the Collect]

Week Four

Celebrant: Isaiah tells us that a child will be born called Emmanuel, a name that means “God is with us”.

All: Come, Lord Jesus.

Celebrant: Go tell the Good News that Jesus Christ has come, so that all people may have life everlasting.

All: Come, Lord Jesus.

Celebrant: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and he will be the King of Glory.

All: Come, Lord Jesus.

[Priest now reads the Collect]