

The Great O's"

On the evening of December 17 the final phase of preparation for Christmas begins with the first of the great "O Antiphons" of Advent. These prayers are seven jewels of liturgical song, one for each day until Christmas Eve. They seem to sum up all our Advent longing for the Saviour.

December 17: O Wisdom, that proceedest from the mouth of the Most High, Reaching from end to end mightily, and sweetly disposing all things: come and teach us the way of prudence.

December 18: O Lord and Ruler of the house of Israel, Who didst appear unto Moses in the burning bush, and gavest him the law on Sinai: come and redeem us by Thy outstretched arm.

December 19: O Root of Jesse, Who standest as the Ensign of the people, before Whom kings shall not open their lips; to Whom the Gentiles shall pray: come and deliver us, tarry now no more.

December 20: O Key of David, and Sceptre of the house of Israel; Who openest, and no man shutteth, Who shuttest, and no man openeth: come and lead the captive from the prison house, and him that sitteth in darkness and the shadow of death.

December 21: O Dawn of the East, Splendor of the eternal Light, and Sun of justice: Come and enlighten them that sit in darkness, and the shadow of death.

December 22: O King of the gentiles, yea, and the desire thereof, the Cornerstone that maketh both one: come and save man, whom Thou hast made out of the slime of the earth.

December 23: O Emmanuel, our King and Lawgiver, the expectation of all nations and their Salvation: come and save us, O Lord our God.

The Catholic Church has designated the four weeks preceding Christmas as Advent, a time to prepare the way of the Lord for His coming as our King and Saviour. In addition, the Church teaches that: [w]hen the Church celebrates the liturgy of Advent each year, she makes present this ancient expectancy of the Messiah, for by sharing in the long preparation for the Saviour's first coming, the faithful renew their ardent desire for his second coming. By celebrating [John the Baptists] birth and martyrdom, the Church unites herself to his desire: He must increase, but I must decrease (Catechism, no. 524; original emphasis).

By participating in various time-honoured traditions, such as those listed in this leaflet, Catholic families can engage more fruitfully in the seasons of Advent and Christmas.

Advent & Christmas



In
Ss John & Columba's Rosyth
And
St Peter in chains, Inverkeithing

Advent Rorate Masses

There is a notable difference during an Advent Rorate Mass:

The church is in darkness except for the light of candles and lanterns, symbolizing the darkness of the world before the Light of Christ appeared at Christmas, and a reminder of the True Light of Christ that will banish the darkness of sin and death.

Spiritually, Advent is the dawn. It is still not the bright light of Christmas. Advent is a time of preparation for something exceedingly joyful that is yet to come. It is a time of penance, when our souls are still struggling through the darkness, seeking the Light. There is a longing and expectancy in Advent. Our candles and lanterns at a *Rorate* Mass are symbols of our longing for the coming of the Saviour whose light is already dawning.

Tuesday 1st December 7.00pm Mass

Guest Preacher: Fr Michael Carrie
(*St. Bride's, Monifieth*)

Tuesday 8th December 7.00pm Mass

Guest Preacher: Fr Martin Pletts
(*St James', Kinross*)

Tuesday 15th December 2015 7.00pm Mass

Guest Preacher: Fr Nicholas Grace IVE
(*Our Lady & St Bride's, Cowdenbeath*)

Tuesday 22nd December 2015 7.00pm Mass

Preacher: Fr Kevin Dow
(*Parish Priest*)

Advent Devotions

To give ourselves some quiet time and a place to escape from the commercial madness displayed at this time of year, Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will take place on the following dates after the 10.00am Mass with Benediction at:

Monday 30th November in St Peter's @ 11.00am

Saturday 12th December in Ss John & Columba @ 12 noon

Monday 14th December in St Peter's @ 11.00am

Saturday 19th December in Ss John & Columba @ 12 noon

Monday 21st December in St Peter's @ 11.00am

On **Sunday 13th December** in St Peter in chains, we will have extended Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament from after **9.30am** Mass until Vespers and Benediction at **4pm** to celebrate *Gaudete Sunday*



Parish Reconciliation Service and 1st Confessions will be celebrated on **Thursday 17th December at 7pm** in Ss John & Columba's Church, Rosyth

Christmas Masses

Thursday, 24th December 2015

Christmas Eve

10.00am Mass in St Peter in chains' Inverkeithing

6.00pm Mass in St Peter in chains' Inverkeithing

11.30pm Carols & Readings in Ss John & Columba's Rosyth

12 midnight Mass in Ss John & Columba's Rosyth

Friday, 25th December 2015

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD
(*Christmas Day*)

9.30am Mass in St Peter in chains' Inverkeithing

11.00am Mass in Ss John & Columba's Rosyth

Saturday, 26th December 2015 —

Feast of St Stephen

No morning Mass

5.00pm Mass in St Peter in chains' Inverkeithing

Sunday, 27th December 2015

Feast of the Holy Family

9.30am Mass in St Peter in chains' Inverkeithing

11.00 a.m. Mass in Ss John & Columba's Rosyth

