

Welcome

to our Christingle Carol Service which has been shortened due to the coronavirus.

The word 'Christingle' means Christ-light, and the tradition originated in the Moravian Church in 1747.

There are a number of symbols associated with the Christingle which will be explained during the service but the predominant theme is:

Christ, the light of the world.

The Christingle consists of:

- an orange representing the world with
- a red ribbon around it representing the blood of Jesus (i.e. his death on the cross for our sins),
- sweets skewered on 4 cocktail sticks which are pushed into the orange representing the fruits of the earth and the four seasons
- a lighted candle is pushed into the centre of the orange representing Jesus Christ, the light of the world. Jesus describes himself in the Bible, in John chapter 8 v. 12, in this way: *'I am the Light of the World, if you follow me you won't have to walk in darkness, because you will have the light that leads to life'* (New Living Translation)
- and, in some services, as we do here, tin foil around the base of the candle to reflect Christ's light and goodness

The Gathering of God's People -
Welcome and Greeting
The Lord be with you.
and also with you.

**Opening Responses for a Christingle
Service**

It is nearly Christmas!

Wow!

Eight more sleeps and it is Christmas
Day.

Wow!

So, let us celebrate Christ coming as
the light of the world, symbolised by
the Christingles.

***Let us enjoy this time together and
let us celebrate!***



Hymn No. 155 (Branle de l'Official)

Ding dong! merrily on high
in heav'n the bells are ringing:
ding dong! Verily the sky
is riv'n with angels singing:

Gloria, hosanna in excelsis!

E'en so here below, below,
let steeple bells be swungen,
and io, io, io,
by priest and people sungen:

Pray you dutifully prime

your matin chime, ye ringers;
may you beautifully rime
your evetime song, ye singers:

The Jesse Tree

The Jesse Tree shows Jesus' family
tree. Today, we are putting a
shepherd's crook and harp for David,
a stone altar for Elijah, an empty tent
for Hezekiah, a fire tongs with a hot
coal for Isaiah, tears for Jeremiah, a
stone watch tower for Habakkuk and
a city wall for Nehemiah, on the tree.



The Lighting of the Advent Wreath

*The Advent wreath, or Advent crown, is a
Christian tradition that symbolizes the
passage of the four weeks of Advent in the
liturgical calendar of the Western church.
The Advent Wreath is traditionally a
Lutheran practice, albeit it has spread to
many other Christian denominations.
It is usually a horizontal evergreen wreath
with four candles and often, a fifth, white
candle in the centre. Beginning with the*

First Sunday of Advent, the lighting of a candle can be accompanied by a Bible reading and prayers. An additional candle is lit during each subsequent week until, by the last Sunday before Christmas, all four candles are lit. Some Advent wreaths include a fifth, white "Christ" candle which can be lit at Christmas.

3 candles are lit on the Advent Wreath.

We light the third candle of Advent to celebrate John the Baptist, and all who point the way to the coming of Christ.

We light the third candle of Advent for ourselves, for we, too, are called to prepare the way for his coming.



Three Candles (Frère Jacques)

[Repeat each line]

*Three candles
burning slow.
Advent weeks of waiting,
one to go!*

*Shepherds listening
in the night.
Will they hear the angels
sing tonight?*

The Blessing of the Crib

O God, out of your love for us, you sent your beloved Son to become a man; human just like us.

He was born in a stable, with no frills and no fuss; ordinary just like us.

We thank you for this crib; we thank you for those who made it and for those who set it up here.

Bless this crib, which reminds us of his birth, and reminds us that through him, you are one of us.

May all who see be filled with wonder; may it brighten hearts and lighten burdens; may it bring joy, and may it inspire; as we celebrate the birth of Christ. **Amen.**



Hymn No. 149 - Away in a Manger

Away in a Manger, no crib for a bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his
sweet head:

the stars in the bright sky looked
down where he lay,

the little Lord Jesus asleep in the
hay.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.

I love thee Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,
and stay by my side until morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay,
close by me forever, and love me, I pray.
bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
and fit us for heaven, to live with thee there.

The Collect of the 3rd Sunday in Advent

O Lord Jesus Christ,
who at your first coming sent your messenger
to prepare your way before you:
grant that the ministers and stewards of your mysteries
may likewise so prepare and make ready your way
by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just,
that at your second coming to judge the world
we may be found an acceptable people in your sight;
for you are alive and reign with the

Father and the Holy Spirit,
one God, world without end. **Amen**

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

[Please sit]

The Reading - Matthew 1: 18-25

(International Children's Bible Version)

The reading is from the gospel of Matthew, chapter 1, verses 18 to 25.

¹⁸ The mother of Jesus Christ was Mary. And this is how the birth of Jesus came about. Mary was engaged to marry Joseph. But before they married, she learned that she was going to have a baby. She was pregnant by the power of the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Mary's husband, Joseph, was a good man. He did not want to disgrace her in public, so he planned to divorce her secretly.

²⁰ While Joseph thought about this, an angel of the Lord came to him in a dream. The angel said, "Joseph, descendant of David, don't be afraid to take Mary as your wife. The baby in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will give birth to a son. You will name the son Jesus.^[a] Give him that name because he will save his people from their sins."

²² All this happened to make clear the full meaning of what the Lord had said through the prophet: ²³ "The virgin will be pregnant. She will have a son, and they will name him

Immanuel."^[b] This name means "God is with us."

²⁴ When Joseph woke up, he did what the Lord's angel had told him to do. Joseph married Mary. ²⁵ But he did not have intimate relations with her until she gave birth to the son. And Joseph named the son Jesus.

This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Hymn No. 123 Thanks and Praise
(Calypso Carol)

See him lying on a bed of straw:
a draughty stable with an open door;
Mary cradling the babe she bore,
the prince of glory is his name.

*O now carry me to Bethlehem
to see the Lord, of love again:
just as poor as was the stable then,
the prince of glory when he came.*

Star of silver, sweep across the
skies,
show where Jesus in the manger lies;
shepherds, swiftly from your stupor
rise
to see the saviour of the world!

Angels, sing again the song you sang,
sing the story of God's gracious plan;
sing that Behl'em's little baby can
be the saviour of us all.

*O now carry me to Bethlehem
to see the Lord, of love again:*

*just as poor as was the stable then,
the prince of glory when he came.*

Mine are riches, from your poverty,
from your innocence, eternity;
mine, forgiveness by your death for
me,
child of sorrow for my joy.

[Please sit or kneel]

The Prayers

As the lit candles on the Christingles
will light up our faces, so, loving
Jesus, may your light shine into our
lives.

Shine brightly in the darkness to
bring us security and peace, to bring
us hope and joy.

Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

As the red ribbon surrounds our
Christingles, we thank you, Lord, that
you surround us with your love. Circle
us with your care each day and night;
thank you that we are always in your
thoughts.

Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

May the Christingles remind us to
shine as lights in the world, bringing
hope and joy to those who are in
darkness.

May the light of Jesus shine in our hearts so that we may bring love and peace into our world.
 Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

The Lord's Prayer

We are taking up collections but we do recognise that many people give online and via Standing Order, and therefore do not put any collection in the basket. If you wish to donate to the church online or electronically, the treasurers would be happy to give you the required details.

Hymn No. 195 (Shine Jesus Shine)

Lord, the light of your love is shining
 in the midst of the darkness shining;
 Jesus, Light of the world, shine upon
 us,
 set us free by the truth you now
 bring us,
 shine on me, shine on me.

*Shine, Jesus, shine,
 fill this land with the Father's glory;
 blaze, spirit, blaze,
 set our hearts on fire.
 Flow, river flow,
 flood the nations with grace and
 mercy;
 send forth your word, Lord, and let
 there be light.*

Lord, I come to your awesome
 presence,
 from the shadows into your radiance;

by the blood I may enter your
 brightness,
 search me, try me, consume all my
 darkness.
 Shine on me, shine on me.

As we gaze on your kingly brightness,
 so our faces display your likeness,
 ever changing from glory to glory,
 mirrored here may our lives tell your
 story.
 Shine on me, shine on me.

The Christingles



The Orange

The orange represents the world.
 The world held lovingly in God's
 hands, from the beginning of time,
 and every day and night until God's
 work is done.

The Red Ribbon

The red ribbon represents Jesus
 Christ giving his life for the world.
 In the life, death and resurrection of
 Jesus, we see God loving the world
 and changing people's lives for good.

The Fruits or Jellytots

Through bread and wine made from
 the fruits of the earth, Jesus
 showed us how he would save us.

Through food and drink, God has always shown people how he loves them.

The Tin Foil

The tin foil around the base of the candle reflects Christ's light and goodness. We too can reflect the light of Christ and make it brighter, by caring for others.

The Candle

The candle represents Christ, who is the light of the world. Jesus is the light that shines in the darkness. The light cannot be put out.

*We have come from the east,
the north, the west and the south.
And together we ask that the light
that we search for
may light our way in love,
this day, this Christmas
and in the days to come. Amen.*

Lighting of the Christingles

***Parents/guardians – please note
that your child's safety is your
responsibility.***



Hymn - When a Child is Born

A ray of hope flickers in the sky.
A tiny star lights up way up high.
All across the land dawns a bright
new morn

This comes to pass when a child is
born.

A silent wish sails the seven seas.
The winds of change whisper in the
trees.

And the walls of doubt crumble
tossed and torn.

This comes to pass when a child is
born.

A rosy dawn settles all around.
You got the feel you're on solid
ground.

For a spell or two, no one seems
forlorn.

This comes to pass when a child is
born.

It's all a dream, an illusion now.
It must come true sometime soon
somehow.

All across the land, dawns a brand
new morn.

This comes to pass when a child is
born.

The Blessing

May God wrap us in integrity,
clothe us in salvation,
and adorn us with beauty and joy.

And may the blessing of God,

Protector, Perfecter and Spirit of Joy,
surround us all our nights and days.
Amen.

In the interests of trying to keep all who come to our churches safe, please take away this service sheet and any other items that you may have brought with you or used in church this morning. Thank you.

Stay well and stay safe.



*May the hope, the joy,
the love and the peace of
Jesus Christ be with you
and all your family this
Christmas-time and
always.*

FORTHCOMING SERVICES

LATER TODAY:

19.00 Carols by Candlelight in St Thomas' Church, followed by mulled wine (non-alcoholic) and mince pies in the Parish Centre.

Wednesday 20th December 2023

10.30 Midweek Holy Communion in St Thomas' Church

Wednesday 20th December 2023

12.00 Booterstown National School Carol Service in St Philip and St James' Church

Thursday 21st December 2023

11.00 Ecumenical School Carol Service for Booterstown National School, Our Lady of Mercy Girls' School and St Mary's Boys' School in St Philip and St James' Church



Christmas Eve – Sunday 24th December 2023 **NB Service Times and Venues**

8.30 Holy Communion in St Philip and St James' Church

10.30 United A Quiet Christmas in St Thomas' Church

22.00 The First Holy Communion of Christmas in St Thomas' Church





**Christmas Day – Monday 25th
December 2023**

**8.30 Holy Communion in St Philip
and St James' Church**

**9.30 Family Communion in St
Thomas' Church**

**11.00 Family Communion in St
Philip and St James' Church** (live-
streamed)

Wednesday 27th December 2023

NB No 10.30 Midweek Holy Communion

Sunday 31st December 2023 – New Year's Eve NB

Service Times and Venues

8.30 Holy Communion in St Thomas' Church

10.30 United Service of the Word in St Philip and
St James' Church (live-streamed)

CHRISTIAN MEDITATION

Tuesday afternoon—3.30pm—4.10pm

In the Canon Osborne Barr Room of St Philip
and St James' Parish Centre

Contact Irene on 087-2755423

irene.reid1052@gmail.com

Thank You

*to those who made Christingles, and
to those who decorated our churches
so beautifully for Christmas!*

*And thank you to those who helped
make the Christmas Craic-er a most
enjoyable morning, and to those who
are preparing the mulled wine (non-
alcoholic) and mince pies for this
evening! It is lovely to gather
together and to enjoy each other's
company!*

Carol Singing

for

Dublin SIMON

Thursday 21st December 2023

4pm—6pm

Blackrock Village Shopping Centre
(the one with SuperValu)

*We are asking people to sign up to sing
and/or collect for 30 minutes or 1 hour... or
however long they can.*

*Please email Gillian to let her when and for
how long you can be there!*

booterstownandmountmerrion@gmail.com



Thank you for your wonderful generosity in helping Santa!

The Capuchin Day Centre and The Alice Leahy Trust were thrilled by the toys, food, scarves, hats, gloves, underwear, etc. that you gave this Christmas.



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REGISTER OF VESTRYPERSONS

The Register of Vestrypersons is the electoral roll of the Parish and is updated at the January Select Vestry meetings of our respective parishes. If you are not on the Register, you are not entitled to vote on parish matters and are not able to hold any office in the parish or serve on the Select Vestry. Please contact the Churchwardens to be placed on the Register of Vestrypersons.

It is very simple to do, the churchwardens have forms available, and all you have to do is fill in the short, simple form and give it to a churchwarden.

BOOTERSTOWN AND CARYSFORT

SELECT VESTRY

THURSDAY 18TH JANUARY 2024

19.30 HOURS

IN THE PARISH ROOM (BACK ROOM) OF ST PHILIP AND ST JAMES' PARISH CENTRE

MOUNT MERRION

SELECT VESTRY MEETING

MONDAY 29TH JANUARY 2024

19.30 HOURS VIA ZOOM



Sunday Clubs

Our Sunday Clubs have had very enjoyable gatherings over the past few months. The dates of the meetings for January – May 2024 will be on the website in the near future and all children who are toilet-trained are welcome!

