

# Welcome

to our Christingle Carol Service.

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

*[Please stand if you are able]*

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!**

Three 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 the symbols for two weeks on the tree: 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, a scallop shell for John the Baptist, a white lily for Mary, a mother and child for Elizabeth, a pencil and tablet for Zechariah, a carpenter's square and hammer for Joseph, and a star for the Wisemen.



**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.*

*4 candles are lit on the Advent Wreath.*

We light the fourth candle of Advent for Mary and for all God-bearers, saying 'yes' to God's challenge, accepting the pain and joy of an unknown future.

***God, as we wait for your promise,  
give light, give hope.***



### **Four Candles (Frère Jacques)**

*[Repeat each line]*

*Four candles  
burning slow.  
Advent days of waiting,  
three to go!*

We are waiting,  
watching too.  
Soon it will be Christmas,  
for me and you.

### **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 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Advent**

God our redeemer,  
who prepared the blessed Virgin Mary  
to be the mother of your Son:  
grant that, as she looked for his coming as our saviour,  
so we may be ready to greet him  
when he comes again as our judge;  
who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. **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.*

<sup>18</sup> 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. <sup>19</sup> Mary's husband, Joseph, was a good man. He did not want to disgrace her in public, so he planned to divorce her secretly.

<sup>20</sup> 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. <sup>21</sup> She will give birth to a son. You will name the son Jesus.<sup>[a]</sup> Give him that name because he will save his people from their sins."

<sup>22</sup> All this happened to make clear the full meaning of what the Lord had said through the prophet: <sup>23</sup> "The virgin will be pregnant. She will have a son, and they will name him Immanuel."<sup>[b]</sup> This name means "God is with us."

<sup>24</sup> When Joseph woke up, he did what the Lord's angel had told him to do. Joseph married Mary. <sup>25</sup> 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 light 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 his face shine on us and bless us.

May the God of Hosts, Maker, and Holy Spirit,  
bless us, protect us and 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.*



**Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> December 2024 -  
Christmas Eve**  
**22.00 The First Holy Communion  
of Christmas in St Thomas'  
Church**



**Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup>  
December 2024 -  
Christmas Day**  
**8.30 Holy Communion in St  
Philip and St James' Church**  
**9.30 Holy Communion in St  
Thomas' Church**  
**11.00 Holy Communion in St  
Philip and St James' Church**

**Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> December 2024**

***NB Times and Venues***

8.30 Holy Communion in St Philip and St James' Church

10.30 Service of the Word in St Thomas' Church



**Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> January 2025*****NB No 10.30 Midweek Holy Communion*****Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2025**

8.30 Holy Communion in St Thomas' Church

9.30 Holy Communion in St Thomas' Church

11.00 Holy Communion in St Philip and St James' Church

**Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2025*****NB No 10.30 Midweek Holy Communion*****Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2025**

8.30 Holy Communion in St Thomas' Church

9.30 Morning Prayer in St Thomas' Church

11.00 Morning Prayer in St Philip and St James' Church

**Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2025*****10.30 Midweek Holy Communion in St Thomas' Church*****Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2025**

8.30 Holy Communion in St Thomas' Church

9.30 Holy Communion in St Thomas' Church

11.00 Holy Communion in St Philip and St James' Church

18.30 Sausage Service in St Philip and St James' Church

**Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2025*****10.30 Midweek Holy Communion in St Thomas' Church*****Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2025**

8.30 Holy Communion in St Thomas' Church

10.30 United Service of the Word in St Philip and St James' Church

***Special Preacher at the 10.30 – the Rev. Canon Patrick Harvey (Rector of******Abbeyleix Union) whose late grandfather, The Very Rev. Thomas Arnold Harvey was Rector of Booterstown, 1916-1933, and who was then elected Dean of St Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin.*****Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> January 2025*****10.30 Midweek Holy Communion in St Thomas' Church***

---

# 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 prepared the mulled wine (non-alcoholic) and mince pies for the Carols by Candlelight! It was lovely to gather together and to enjoy each other's company!*

---



Thank you to all who  
sang and collected  
for  
**Dublin SIMON**

**Well done everyone!**



© dreamstime.com

ID 147595869 © Alexifman

**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.*



Our Sunday Clubs have had very enjoyable gatherings over the past few months. The dates of the meetings for January – May 2025 will be on the website in the near future and all children who are toilet-trained are welcome!



## 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.



**Healer Prayer Group**

Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2025

19.30 hours *via Zoom*

*Unto Us  
a Child is Born*



## Colouring Section

