

# Parish of St. Ultan

BOHERMEEN –CORTOWN- BOYERSTOWN

Fr. Andy Doyle. P.P.

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

27<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2022

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**'We are called to be a welcoming caring faith community who bring people to Jesus who sends us out with Good News for all'.**

## Advent Candles Meaning

Advent candles have meaning and symbolism for the Christian holiday season. The most common tradition typically uses four candles. Each advent candle is lit on one of the four Sundays leading up to Christmas.

The color of these candles can vary, but it is common for the first, second, and fourth candles to be purple, while the third is rose-colored, red, or a pinkish hue. In some cases, all the candles are red, blue, or white; often, a fifth white candle is placed in the middle of the wreath and lit on Christmas Day itself. Catholic tradition even states that the four candles, representing the four weeks of Advent, each stand for 1,000 years to total the 4,000 years from Adam to the birth of the Messiah.

**First Advent Candle:** The first purple candle symbolizes hope. Also known as the "Prophecy Candle" in memory of the prophets, particularly Isaiah, who prophesied the birth of Christ. It symbolizes the anticipation felt in awaiting the coming Messiah.

**Second Advent Candle:** The second purple candle symbolizes faith. Also known as the "Bethlehem Candle," signifies Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem.

**Third Advent Candle:** The third candle is ordinarily pink and represents joy. This candle is pink because the rose color represents joy, also known as the "Shepherd's Candle." The third Sunday of Advent is meant to remind us of the world's joy at the birth of Jesus and that the faithful have arrived at the midpoint of Advent.

**Fourth Advent Candle:** The final purple candle marks the last week of Advent as we anticipate the birth of our Savior. This final candle, also known as the "Angel's Candle," signifies peace. It reminds us of the angels' message: "Peace on Earth, Good Will Toward Men" ([Luke 2:14](#)).

## The Advent Wreath

As the story goes, in 1839, a [Lutheran](#) minister working at a children's mission in Germany created a wreath out of the wheel of a cart. The minister placed 20 small red candles out of the wheel's outer

ring and four larger white candles inside the ring, lighting the red candles on weekdays and the four white candles on Sundays as a way for the children to count down the days until Christmas.

Advent wreaths were eventually fashioned out of evergreens, twisted together in a circle to symbolize continuous life across the seasons, from the death of winter to the new life of spring. Naturally, this earthly symbolism also points to the spiritual symbolism of newness and the promise of eternal life and salvation offered through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ ([John 3:16](#)). The circular nature of the Advent wreath, similar to a wedding ring or band, is further meant to reflect the unending love of Christ and eternal life offered through salvation.

Holly leaves, berries, and seeds are also added to the Advent wreath. Holly leaves can be prickly and therefore used to represent the crown of thorns placed on Jesus's head during his crucifixion. Berries, which are typically red, also point to Christ's sacrifice and the bloodshed for sins. Pinecones, seeds, and nuts are also placed within the wreath as a symbol and promise of new life. Together, the elements of the Advent wreath reflect the new life and eternal salvation offered through the death and [resurrection](#) of Jesus Christ, who we now celebrate.



## OUR NEW PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

This weekend we have the Nomination sheets available in our three Churches and we are asking you to nominate a person who meets the requirements (see below) to be considered for our new Parish Pastoral Council.

### The skills, qualities and experience required to be a member are;

- (i) Baptised
- (ii) Practising the catholic faith
- (iii) In full communion with the church
- (iv) A regular attender of Mass in the parish
- (v) Be at least 16 years of age
- (vi) Supporting the parish through giving of time, energy and finances
- (vii) Aware of the nature, role and work of the PPC
- (viii) Understanding that they will be working as part of a team

There boxes will remain in the three Churches until December 4<sup>th</sup>.

**Mass Intentions** Sat. 26<sup>th</sup> Nov. to Sun. 4<sup>th</sup> Dec. 2022

**Bohermeen Church**-Daily mass at 9.30am  
(Funeral replaces Mass)

**Sat. 26<sup>th</sup> Nov.**

Cortown at 6.00pm

-John, Kevin, Dan & Sr. Frances Farrelly-Ann. Mass

Bohermeen at 7.15pm

-Margaret & James Fay-Ann. Mass

**Sun. 27<sup>th</sup> Nov.**

Boyerstown at 10.00am

-Joe Casserly-Ann. Mass

Bohermeen at 11.30am

-Richard Lynn-1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary

**Mon. 28<sup>th</sup> Nov. at 9.30am**

-St. Joseph's Young Priests

**Sat. 3<sup>rd</sup> Dec.**

Boyerstown at 6.00pm

-Dec'd members of The Hurley & Quirke families

Bohermeen at 7.15pm

-Peter, Kathleen & Mary Brady-Ann. Mass

-Pat & Rose Rispin & Annie Ryan-Ann. Mass

**Sun. 4<sup>th</sup> Dec.**

Cortown at 10.00am

-Brendan, Patrick & Elizabeth Henry-Ann. Mass

Bohermeen at 11.30am

-for the people of the parish

**Ministers of the Word:**

Sat. 26<sup>th</sup> Nov: Helen Mallon

Sun. 27<sup>th</sup> Nov: Pat Farrell

Sat. 3<sup>rd</sup> Dec: Helen Mallon

Sun. 4<sup>th</sup> Dec: Pat Farrell

**Eucharistic Ministers:**

Sat. 26<sup>th</sup> Nov: Carmel McQuaid

Sun. 27<sup>th</sup> Nov: Joe Murtagh & Kathleen Keating

Sat 3<sup>rd</sup> Dec: Bridget Mackin & Jennifer Reilly

Sun. 4<sup>th</sup> Dec: Julie Yore & Joe Murtagh

**Pray** for Rita Heaney, Kilberry (mother of Mary Luddy) who died recently. May she rest in peace.

**Finances - Thank You**-We wish to acknowledge and thank all those who have sent in their Offerings and weekly envelopes and all those who pay by standing order. This really helps our finances. It is greatly appreciated. Offerings can be made by;

- leaving your weekly envelopes into the envelope boxes in the Churches or into the Parish Office.
- go online and do a weekly/monthly direct debit to

Bank of Ireland, Navan, IBAN IE04 BOFI 903509 8059 7424 BIC BOFIE2D (please include your box no.)

Building Fund €581.00 Priests Offerings €115.00

**Offertory Collections: Bohermeen – €424.00**

**Cortown –€123.00**

**Boyerstown – €212.00**

**Thank you to all who contribute, collect and count.**

**CHRISTMAS MARKET FUNDRAISER for Kells Meals on Wheels & S.V.D.P.**

Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> December in St. Ciaran's Community School, Kells from 1.00 a.m. til 5.00p.m. (Santa will be there from 2-4)

Jewellery, Paintings, Candles, Soaps, Wreaths, Decorations, Beauty Products, Baked Goods, and many more. Tea/Coffee refreshments will be available also.

**DUNDERRY SET DANCING CLUB- CD CEILÍ**

Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> November in Boyerstown Parish Centre from 3.00pm til 6.00pm. Light refreshments served.

€10.00. All welcome.

**Points to Ponder – Advent-The Always News** by

Luis Rodriguez SJ

God is always close to us, but we retain the freedom to pretend not to notice. Even St. Augustine in his Confessions admits that much to God: *You were with me, but I was not with you.* This gigantic step of closeness to us taken by God at the Incarnation remains always operative on God's side. There is a story (probably apocryphal) that is pertinent in this context:

An elderly married couple had for many years used Sunday afternoon to go out for a car ride in the countryside. The wife had never obtained a driver's licence, so the husband always did the driving. On one Sunday a pickup truck pulled in ahead of them from a trunk road and, as the truck lined up in front of them, they could see a young couple sitting very cosily together with plenty of space between the girl and the passenger door. The wife remarked: *Oh, remember when we were young, how we used to sit together like that?* The man did not blink, he kept on driving, but he did say: *I have not moved.*

Perhaps funny as a story, but it can speak to us more deeply than just that. At those times, when we perceive God as distant, if we listen honestly, we can hear God say: *I have not moved.*

Because in our present life-setting- especially in our digital environment – our attention is drawn in so many directions, we need to remain aware of God's closeness to us. Seeking God in all things is what we can do on our part. Finding God in all things is a gift.

