

**Parishes of The Forest of Dean and Newent  
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First Sunday of Advent (Year C)  
Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> November



Please use this link to enable you to access all Live or Recorded videos from our Church Website:

<https://vimeo.com/forestrchurch>

**FRIDAY TALK AVAILABLE ON 26TH NOVEMBER**

### **Advent**

In my first parish I was less experienced and still full of zeal. When the first Advent came I looked forward to celebrating the season. No Christmas carols, only Advent carols, no pre-empting the Feast until the day, honouring the Penitential nature of Advent etc. That was my plan but there was a dear lady in the parish who had a different plan.

She had been there longer and had seen off more experienced Priests than me. The parish custom had this soul putting up a Christmas tree on the Altar well before the 25<sup>th</sup>. My plea fell on deaf ears. Could we reach a compromise? I still remember the look I got. Trying to explain that Advent was about looking forward cut no ice. However, after some conversation had taken place, I agreed to the tree and she agreed not to have the lights on during Mass until Christmas itself.

The Sunday before Christmas I could see her at Mass looking at her tree. Coming up to Communion, she returned to her seat past the tree and with a flick of the switch triumphantly turned the lights on! The congregation watched with glee, for Communion or no Communion, they knew exactly what was taking place.

May the Lord Bless your Advent!

And may the Lord Bless those seeking to help refugees at this time, remembering that the Holy Family were refugees.

Bless you all  
Barnabas

### **Second Collection this weekend - Clergy Training Fund**

The collection taken across the Diocese enables the Bishop to support those who offer themselves for training for the Diocesan priesthood. This fund enables the Bishop to fund their training at seminary and offer them a grant during their years of formation. The fund, at times, is also used to support the on-going formation opportunities for clergy in our Diocese and formation of permanent Deacons.

**CHILDREN'S LITURGY** – Here is a link to the Sunday Gospels and reflection aimed at children [Children's Liturgy Playlist](#) although it can be enjoyed by all the family. Each new Sunday Gospel is posted on Saturday afternoons. This Sunday is the First Sunday of Advent (Year C) This week we are looking at number 51 in the series.

### **First Communion at Newent**

Thank you to all who helped in any way with our 6 children who made their First Communion last Sunday.

Many hands were at work not least the Catechists and those who prepared the church and the food afterwards.

It was good to welcome our guests including from Poland.



### **Forest Advent Synod meetings**

**For a Synodal Church**

**Communion / Participation / Mission**

You are invited to meetings during Advent to consider the questions the Pope is asking about the Church.

They will be in Coleford hall on Wednesday evenings at 7pm on the 1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> of December.

Coffee, Advent Prayer and then considering the questions.

There could also be more sessions in the New Year.

### **Catholic Bishops of England and Wales**

The Bishops have issued a statement on 'Honouring Sunday' which can be found using this link:

<https://www.cbcew.org.uk/bishops-statement-honouring-sunday/>

### **This Saturday 27th November will be The AGM of the RC Churches of the Forest of Dean**

It will be held in St Margaret Mary's church hall, Coleford.  
Coffee and cakes at 10.30am and meeting starts at 11am.

**We look forward to welcoming our Church Community.**

### **For Children 'The Christmas Donkey'**

*A new and interactive way to tell the Christmas story suitable for children.*

*Please use this link:*

[The Christmas Donkey - The God Who Speaks](#)

*Travel with our donkey detective from Nazareth to Bethlehem as he seeks to unravel the Christmas story. Pick up clues along the way and store them on his saddle.*



### **CHURCH NEWS - PAPER COPIES**

Paper copies of the Church News are now available in the Churches. Because the majority of parishioners receive an online copy, we would kindly ask that you only take a paper copy if you do not receive one by email. This will enable everyone to keep up with the 'Church News' and will also allow printing costs to be kept to a minimum. Many thanks.

### **MASSES AND SERVICES**

Saturday 27 <sup>th</sup> November	6pm Lydney - Live-streamed
Sunday 28 <sup>th</sup> November	9am Cinderford
	11am Newent
Tuesday 30 <sup>th</sup> November	10am Coleford - Live-streamed
<b>Private Prayer in the Church after Mass until 12 noon</b>	
Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> December	12 noon Newent
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> December	10am Lydney
Saturday 4 <sup>th</sup> December	6pm Coleford - Live-streamed