

Wait Well



ST. JOSEPH'S HIGHGATE

2020 NOV 28

Advent is here again and the first Sunday of Advent is the Sunday of Hope. It is the time of year that we look forward to celebrating the birth of Jesus on Christmas Day and spending time with our families and loved ones. In the church context, it is the time of year that we prepare ourselves, and also remind ourselves that we are all waiting expectantly, for the fullness of time when Christ will return. Because of this, sometimes the texts we read don't feel very Christmas-y.

Mark 13 is often called the “Little Apocalypse” because its tone and content reflect that of the book of The Revelation. While there is no way to exactly date when the book of Mark was transcribed into written form, most scholars believe it was the earliest of the four Gospels to be written. This means it was likely written around the time the first Christian generation was nearing their end of life, and documenting their stories had become important. It also seems that at this point in time, many Christians were struggling with complacency about their faith and how they lived it.

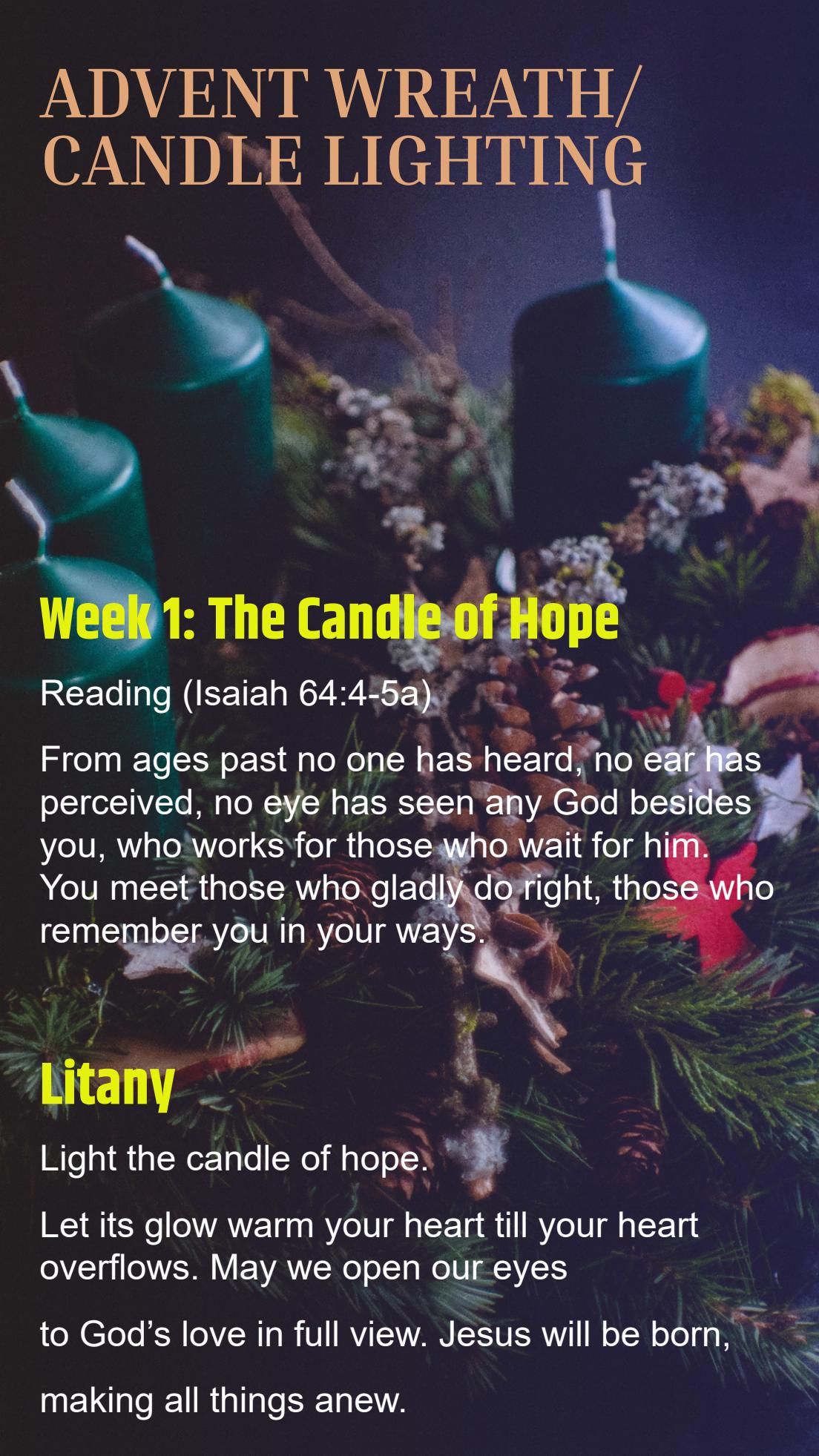
The people for whom this Gospel was written were living in a dark time where they were often persecuted for their beliefs. When you are constantly under pressure not to follow your faith because it puts you and your loved ones in danger, even the most faithful will falter. Yet, the call Jesus makes is to continue the work. Keep at it. Don't become complacent and fall asleep. Remember what it is we are called to hope for and live the life that aligns with it.

We live in our own dark time. We do live in a time where it seems as though living our faith doesn't make a big difference to our world. But you see, we don't do the things we are called to do because of the outcome we expect or want to happen. We live this way – love God and love neighbour – because of who we are as God's children.

We struggle with what it means to wait with hope and how we defend against the forces that would have us forego hope for complacency and despair.

May you find your unique and blessed way to waiting with expectant hope this Advent season.

ADVENT WREATH/ CANDLE LIGHTING



Week 1: The Candle of Hope

Reading (Isaiah 64:4-5a)

From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him. You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways.

Litany

Light the candle of hope.

Let its glow warm your heart till your heart overflows. May we open our eyes to God's love in full view. Jesus will be born, making all things anew.

Oremus

We long for you, O God. We long to see you.
But how good it is, when waiting is full of hope!
Waiting, we look for every sign of you.

Waiting, we remember every time we've seen
you.

Waiting, our anticipation builds.

Waiting, we receive from you the spiritual gifts
we need:

love, joy, and peace;
patience, kindness, and generosity;
faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

Thank you for waking us up, sounding the
alert.

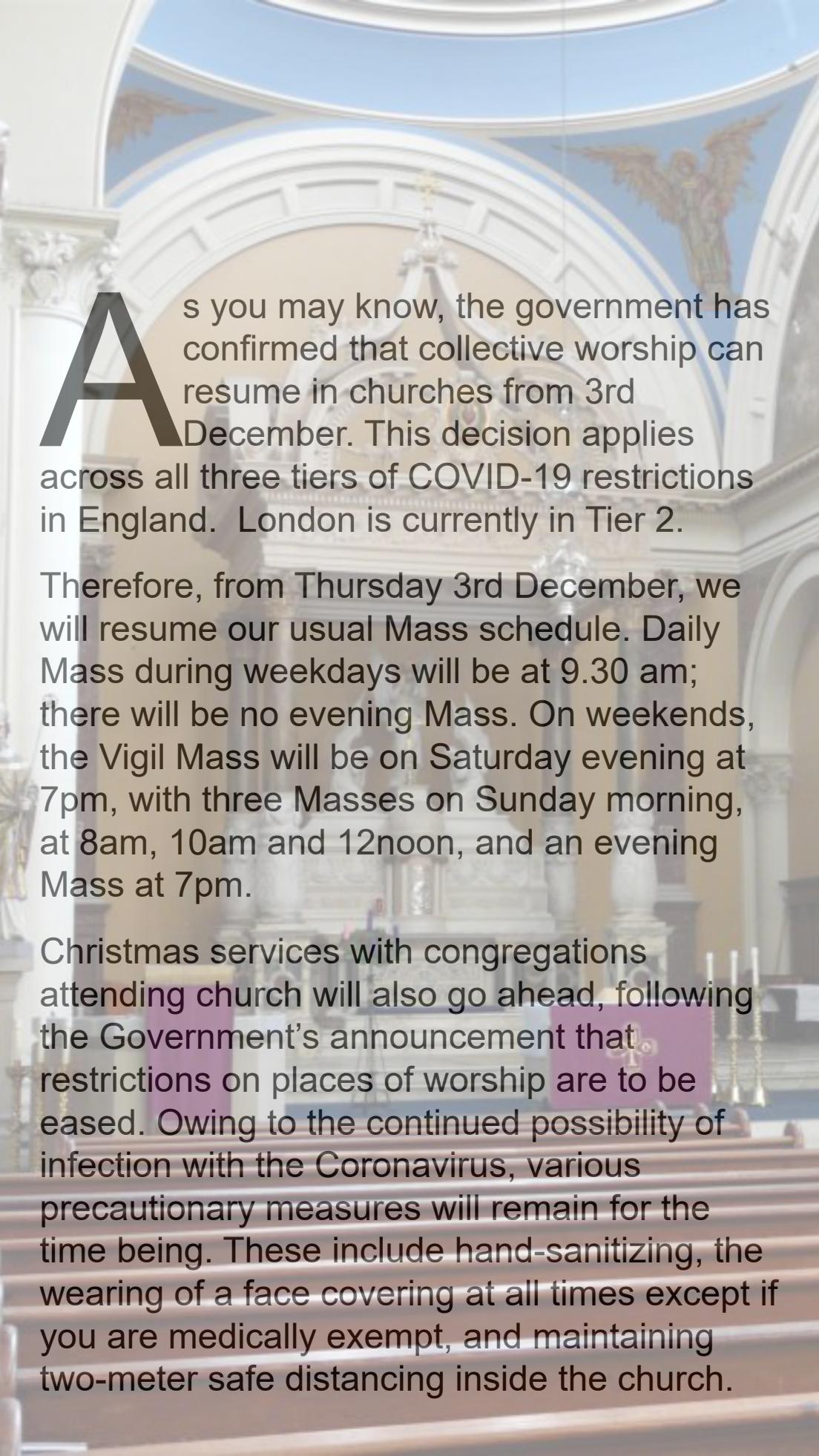
Thank you for the strength to reach the end,
blameless in your sight through grace,
that we may enjoy your fellowship forever.

We await. Come, Lord Jesus – in your perfect
time.

Amen.

Welcome Back





As you may know, the government has confirmed that collective worship can resume in churches from 3rd December. This decision applies across all three tiers of COVID-19 restrictions in England. London is currently in Tier 2.

Therefore, from Thursday 3rd December, we will resume our usual Mass schedule. Daily Mass during weekdays will be at 9.30 am; there will be no evening Mass. On weekends, the Vigil Mass will be on Saturday evening at 7pm, with three Masses on Sunday morning, at 8am, 10am and 12noon, and an evening Mass at 7pm.

Christmas services with congregations attending church will also go ahead, following the Government's announcement that restrictions on places of worship are to be eased. Owing to the continued possibility of infection with the Coronavirus, various precautionary measures will remain for the time being. These include hand-sanitizing, the wearing of a face covering at all times except if you are medically exempt, and maintaining two-meter safe distancing inside the church.

These precautions are aimed at ensuring maximum safety and peace of mind for those who worship and pray at St Joseph's.

To meet the government's safe-distancing requirements, we can accommodate a maximum of 100 people inside the church for Mass (members of the same household can sit together). To keep track of the numbers, it is necessary to reserve seats before attending any of the weekend Masses. There will, of course, be some seats set aside for those who do not have internet access and are unable to book online. We would also encourage you to vary the Mass timings you attend. Usually, the Vigil Mass at 7pm on Saturdays and the 8am and 7pm Masses on Sundays have plenty of space.

For Track and Trace purposes, please use the NHS Covid-19 App when you check-in. If the App is not used, we will ask for your name and a contact telephone number.

Our dedicated Stewards will be on hand to assist and we urge you to follow their guidance, as they continue to do their best to ensure that we all stay safe and secure during these challenging times.

Eternal Rest

+Finbarr Casey

+Marie Nasser

+Teresa Vecjheshy

+Jackie Taylor

+Josephine Talbot

+Gerard Totman

Perpetual Light

Fr. Aidan Baker, CP

Andreas Panayiotou



Christmas Masses

We are now preparing for our Christmas Masses. To enable maximum attendance in compliance with applicable COVID-19 guidelines, the Parish will offer additional Masses on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Bookings for these Masses are now open on the Parish's Diocesan website: <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/highgate/events/>. Attendance at all Masses remains capped at 90 persons, so please pre-book now for Christmas!

A young girl with long brown hair is sitting on a red couch, looking excitedly at a white gift box with a diamond pattern she is holding. Behind her is a large, decorated Christmas tree with various ornaments and glowing lights.

A donation of £50 has
been given, by
anonymous donor, to
cover the cost of the
church diaries 2021.
Thank you for your
generous gift!

thank you

We can't exist without the generosity
of the people that call Holy Joes home.
When we give generously, we share in
the true nature of God's abundant love.

Confirmation



Confirmation preparation will take place on Saturday, Dec 5 10-4pm in the Red Room and the Library at the Monastery.

Mass for the Candidates and one family member per candidate will be celebrated in St Joseph's at 3 pm.

Please confirm attendance, and pray hard that nothing interrupts us this time!

Offers for help with lunch/setting up are gratefully welcomed.

Come as You are!



Dear Parents,

We invite all our children to dress up at home as a Nativity character and send a photo of our little Marys, Josephs, Baby Jesus', angels, shepherds, kings, stars, donkeys, camels, innkeepers, sheep... etc.

To the following email:

littlejoes@stjosephshighgate.org.uk

We will be uploading the photos to the parish website and the best ones may even end up on the Christmas edition of the parish bulletin!

This is your child's opportunity to be the character they want.

You could even dress up as a family group! Adults are warmly welcomed to join in if they wish!

We look forward to seeing the Christmas story come to life!

Please send all photos by
20th December 2020.

We Learn, Love,
and Grow with God
at the Centre.

<https://st-josephs.islington.sch.uk/>



CHILDREN'S LITURGY



We'll be thinking about

How do we prepare in Advent?
What colour is the church today?
Did you notice anything different
on the alter today?



We'll be talking about...

What does it mean when we talk about a new church year?
What we know about the birth of Jesus?
Why we have an advent wreath and what it represents.



We'll be praying for...

My family and friends,
that they will be prepared
for the coming of Jesus.
Help to listen to the
word of God.



Our Gospel is about...

Today is the first Sunday of Advent and the beginning of the Church Year. It is a time to wait and prepare for the coming of Jesus. In Mark's Gospel Jesus says, 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven."



Welcome Back



We resume
congregational worship
on Thursday 3 December

Weekdays 9:30
Weekends Sat 7PM
Sunday 8AM, 10AM,
12 PM and 7PM

Mass Online

Weekdays 9:30AM

Sundays 12Noon and 7PM

We are both on our website

stjosephshighgate.org.uk

and on our YouTube channel;



St. Josephs Highgate

