

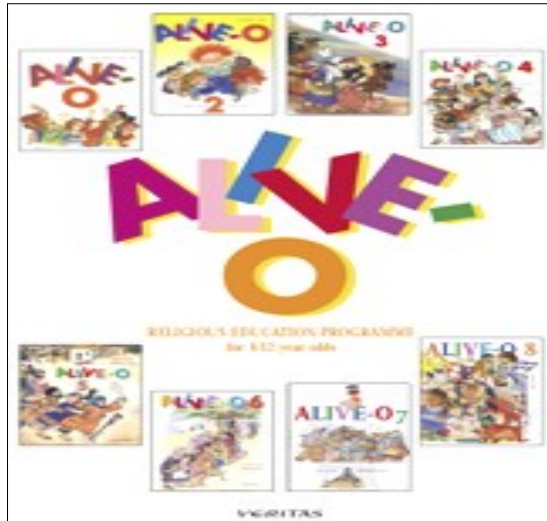
A Classroom Sacred Space

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November is a time to remember loved ones who have passed away. The images above are the November Sacred Spaces from the classrooms of Ms. Noonan, Ms. Mulcahy and Ms. Donovan in Shanagolden N.S.



♦ The glory of God is people fully alive ♦
 St. Irenaeus

Saints & Feasts for December

Dec 3rd St. Francis Xavier
 Dec 4th 2nd Sunday of Advent
 Dec 6th St. Nicholas
 Dec 7th St. Ambrose
 Dec 8th Immaculate Conception BVM
 Dec 11th 3rd Sunday of Advent
 St. Finian
 Dec 13th St. Lucy
 Dec 14th St. John of the Cross
 Dec 18th St. Flannan
 Dec 18th 4th Sunday of Advent
 Dec 25th Nativity of Our Lord
 Dec 26th Holy Family
 St. Stephen
 Dec 27th John, Apostle & Evangelist
 Dec 28th The Holy Innocents
 Dec 29th Thomas a Becket

Feast of the Immaculate Conception- December 8th



The Blessed Virgin Mary and St. Anne, the mother of Mary.

On December 8th we celebrate the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. We remember how God chose Mary to be mother of Jesus, God's Son. On this day, we remember that Mary was filled with grace from the very first moment of her life and that from that very first moment God knew that she would become the mother of his Son.

God had prepared Mary for the great task she would perform. Mary came into existence already specially chosen by God, already blessed with God's favour, already Spirit-filled. The Church teaches that Mary is the only person ever to 'be free from any trace of sin' from the first moment of her existence. Mary is called the Immaculate Conception and this is why we say that she is 'full of grace' and 'blessed among women'. She is a woman full of love. Nine months from December 8th, on September 8th, we will celebrate Mary's birthday. December 8th is a Holy Day of Obligation.

Limerick Diocesan Advisory Service

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Advent- Waiting in Joyful Hope

A voice cries in the wilderness: Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight... Go up on a high mountain, joyful messenger to Zion. Shout with a loud voice, joyful messenger to Jerusalem. Shout without fear, say to the towns of Judah, 'Here is your God'.

Isaiah 40: 3-4. 9-10



The word 'Advent' means 'God is close', 'God is near', 'God is on the way.' During Advent we prepare for God's coming anew into our lives and our world at Christmas, through the birth of his Son, Jesus. We also wait as the people of Israel waited- 'in joyful hope'- for his arrival. During Advent, as we prepare ourselves to receive Jesus anew, we take time to listen to the words of those who spoke of his birth, long, long before the first Christmas. We listen to the prophets from the Old Testament, especially Isaiah and Jeremiah. We listen to John the Baptist and to St. Luke's story of the Nativity. At Mass each Sunday of Advent, we can hear their words in the readings and psalms. The people of Israel waited for many generations for God to send a Saviour who would be their path to the Tree of Life and to God. For them, to live without God was to live in the dark. When God's promised Saviour would come, they would live in the light. They never gave up hope. They never stopped trusting that God would keep his promise. They told each new generation of children the story of God's covenant with them; how God had led them out of slavery in Egypt and promised to send them a Saviour, a Messiah. They watched constantly for signs that the Saviour had come. During Advent, we remember that waiting in joyful hope, and we look forward to Jesus' coming anew into our lives, as our leader, as a light for the world waiting in darkness, and as our Saviour.



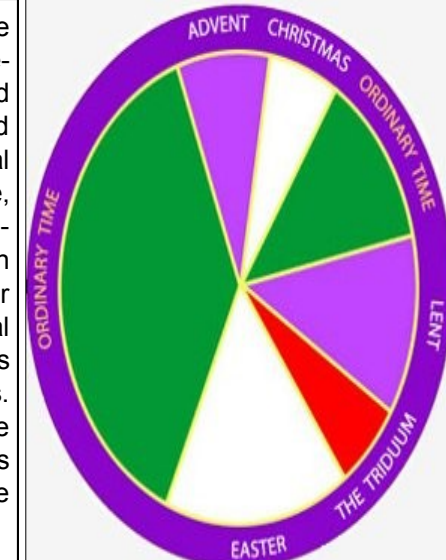
We wait, we pray, we hope. Come, Lord Jesus.

The Liturgical Year

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The Church year, or liturgical year, unlike the calendar year is patterned around the life of Jesus Christ. The birth, death, resurrection and ascension of Christ are celebrated at assigned periods on this liturgical calendar. The liturgical year, instead of commencing on a fixed date, such as January 1st, begins with the First Sunday of the season of Advent, at a date which moves between November 27th and December 3rd. Advent is the first season of the liturgical year. It begins four Sundays before Christmas and is a period of preparation for Christmas. After Advent comes the Christmas season. The season begins with the Vigil Mass on Christmas Eve and ends on the feast of the Baptism of the Lord, on the Sunday after January 6th.



An Advent Reflection by Joyce Rupp



My heart exults in the Lord.
1Samuel 2:1

In this season of “counting down the days until Christmas,” I get trapped in my frenetic world of self-imposed preparations and miss the things for which I need to give thanks. My heart forgets to ‘exult in God’ because I am unaware of so much that is happening. I get caught up in complaining about “how little time there is” to do all the things I hope to do. I become inattentive to the consistent goodness of God as revealed in people and creation around me.

So for these remaining days of Advent, I will try to awaken each morning and recommit my heart to “exulting in God” by seeing and welcoming with gratitude the numerous blessings that are mine. I will be grateful for the use of my body and mind, for the voices of those who care, for the hands and hearts that send letters of cheer, and for each moment that I breathe and have life. At evening I will again “exult in God” by calling to mind the joys my day has held.

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord.
Luke 1:46

The Advent Wreath and Advent Tree

An Advent Wreath can help us to make our journey through Advent by marking the time, week by week. The circular shape of the Advent wreath keeps beginnings and endings together. It reminds us that God’s love never ends. God is with us always, in every beginning and every ending. The Church uses violet as the colour of Advent, as the colour of ‘looking forward.’ The rose-coloured candle is lit on the third Sunday of Advent, which tells us that Christmas is getting closer. The white candle is the last candle to be lit, when Christmas has arrived.

The prophet Isaiah has important words to say to us during Advent. He described the Saviour who would come as being like ‘a branch that sprouts from a stump.’ An Advent tree reminds us of a family tree. It reminds us of the tree or house of David, which Jesus came from. Its branches remind us that many different people in many different countries all over the world come from the same Christian family tree and are waiting with us as this time of year. Its branches come to one place— Bethlehem, one time, Christmas, and one person— Jesus.



Limerick Fairtrade Celebrations

Congratulations to all the schools who participated in the Fairtrade Christmas Card competition. Some of the prizewinners are pictured with the Mayor, Jim Long, and Dolores O’Meara, Chairperson Fairtrade Limerick, at the award ceremony in Thomond Park recently. Limerick was awarded the best Fairtrade Town/City 2011.



The Eucharistic Congress Bell Visits Limerick



The IEC Bell visits St. Joseph’s Primary School, Dromcollogher.

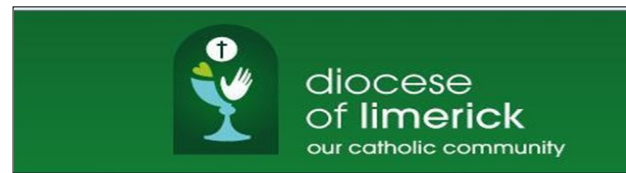


Pupils from Mahoonagh Primary School ringing the IEC Bell in Castlemahon Church.

The Glendalough Mass Liam Lawton Workshop



New Diocesan Website Launched www.limerickdiocese.org



On Monday November 21st 2011, the Diocese of Limerick launched a new website www.limerickdiocese.org.

The website contains resources for Religious Education, including the **CREIDIMID** newsletter. All editions of **CREIDIMID** can now be downloaded from the website. The website is a useful way of keeping updated and informed about the different events taking place across the diocese.

