

Secondary Schools Advent Liturgy v1

Set out hall/church with screen, candles, advent wreath and cross at front with chairs in a semi-circle with 'Prepare the Way/purple' banner/sign at front..

As people gather: Wait for the Lord (Taize)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s7GexlvX8HU>

Introduction

Sign of the Cross.

Welcome to our advent liturgy. Advent is that time of the year when we prepare to welcome Jesus into the world and our lives again. As we entered the Hall this morning a Taize chant was playing to help us focus our minds so we can prepare the way for the Lord into our world and lives this advent. The words 'Wait for the Lord, who's day is near, take watch, keep heart' are repeated over and over as we eagerly await the arrival of Jesus, who is true God and true Man in the form of a helpless baby. His arrival changes the world forever, it is Gods greatest gift to us. We know this baby to be Jesus who when he grows up will bear the Cross to forgive our sins and reconcile us back to the father, 'For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.'

Opening prayer

Loving God, you want the whole world to welcome Jesus and be joyful at his arrival. Help us to prepare for his coming by changing our lives for the better. We make this prayer to you through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives with you and the Holy Spirit, forever and ever. **Amen.**

Lighting of the wreath: Advent is a time for waiting and preparing for the coming of Jesus into our world and lives again.

Reflection

- In the fullness of time God sent his only son into our broken world. He chose Mary, a un educated, poor teenager to bear our saviour. She was confused and frightened, what would people think? How would Joseph react? But she said yes and trusted in God.

Marys Perspective – (up to 1m 12s)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3kBicrhrcf8>

Bring forward statue of Mary

- Joseph was chosen too. He would be Jesus' earthly father but Joseph was upset when he heard the woman he was about to marry was pregnant. He didn't know what to think until an angel put his mind at rest telling him she conceived by the Holy Spirit and was to bring the Son of God into the world.

Joseph perspective – (3m58s)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sghwe4TYY18>

Bring forward statue of Joseph

- God chose Jesus' cousin, John the Baptist to announce his arrival. He was to proclaim a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, he was getting people's souls ready to receive Jesus asking them to 'prepare a way for the Lord' and told them 'I baptise you with water, but someone is coming, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to undo the strap of his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire.'

Scripture Reading – Gospel | Luke 3:1-6

The word of God came to John son of Zechariah, in the wilderness. He went through the whole Jordan district proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the sayings of the prophet Isaiah:

A voice cries in the wilderness:
 Prepare a way for the Lord,
 make his paths straight.
 Every valley will be filled in,
 every mountain and hill be laid low,
 winding ways will be straightened
 and rough roads made smooth.
 And all mankind shall see the salvation of God.

Homily – parish priest

Our hopes and prayers this Christmas

In a moment you will be invited up a row at a time to take a piece of straw which you can add to the empty manger where Jesus will be born into this Christmas. In a few moments of silence tell Jesus what you want from him this Christmas. Maybe it's for peace in our world or homes, or you are praying for a loved one who is unwell or recently died. We place all our hopes and prayers into the humble manger and into the hands of Jesus.

Pupils are invited our row by row to place their piece of straw in the manger then return back to their place to pray. As they do this Marys Song the Magnificat by CJM music is played

Closing prayer & Blessing – parish priest

Merciful God, you sent John the Baptist to prepare the people for the coming of your Son, Jesus. In this season of Advent, help us to prepare for his coming as well. Help us to use this time of waiting to make positive changes in our lives and the lives of others around the world.

We say together the word our saviour taught us, Our father...

The Lord be with you
and with your spirit

May Almighty God bless you, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit
Amen

The baby Jesus will now be carried forward and placed in the manger on top of our Christmas prayers and hopes. Jesus is the light coming into our darkness of our world. In this season of advent we eagerly await Jesus arrival into our world and lives once more.

A closing carol may be sung