



THE ARCHANGEL

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Heart of Emmanuel

Advent is the time when the Church bids her children to prepare spiritually for the great feast of Christmas. At Christmas, we celebrate not only the birth of Christ in Bethlehem, but also the very mystery of the Incarnation whereby the Second Person of the Holy Trinity assumed human nature and was born of our Lady.

The prophet Isaiah had announced many centuries before: « Behold a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and his name shall be called Emmanuel. » (Is. 7:14), « which being interpreted is God with us. » (Mat. 1:23) Henceforth, the human race may boast of divinity within its ranks. God has come to us in flesh and blood and lives as a humble son of Adam. He shares in the joys and sorrows of life here below and becomes our friend and companion as we navigate the often perilous path to salvation. No one can say that God is remote and unconcerned with the hardships of human existence. The Incarnation makes Jesus Christ as much our brother as the next man, for we are all born of Adam and we all must bear the burden of his legacy: life marred by the effects of sin.

There is a particular devotion that illustrates and embodies the truth of our Lord's closeness and companionship. It is a devotion that reminds us of His presence and delicate solicitude, a devotion that brings us into such intimacy with Him that He really becomes to us the *Emmanuel - God with us*. It is the consecration of families to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

The family consecration to the Sacred Heart needs no theological explanation or justification. It is the natural consequence of devotion to our Lord's salvific love whereby He offers Himself as the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. His redemptive love is a divine love that springs from a human heart. It is the expression of His infinite goodness and the seal of our hope. Our Lord's divine love flowing from His human heart is His great gift to us.

It is encapsulated in the Blessed Eucharist. It flames anew at the sacrifice of the Mass and is poured forth into our hearts when we receive Him in Holy Communion. Its power becomes irresistible to those hearts which receive Him gladly and lovingly, and it transforms us from enemies to friends, from lukewarm souls to fervent disciples.

The family consecration to Our Lord's Most Sacred Heart is also the natural expression of our recognition of and submission to His kingship and rule over the family. By virtue of His incarnation alone, Christ, the divine man, is our head and leader to whom we owe fealty and tribute. Additionally, Christ is also our Saviour and Redeemer who has purchased us from Satan and made us His own. He occupies, therefore, the first place in all our assemblies, and, in the home, he must be hailed and king and centre of the family. Is not every Catholic family built on the sacrament of marriage that Christ instituted and empowered with His life giving blood?

By consecrating itself to our Lord's Most Sacred Heart, the family brings Christ into the home not as a visitor or a companion but as a fully fledged member without Whom it risks, if not wilfully avoids or shuns, its identity as a Catholic family. Our Lord then enters the home and takes up residence. He truly becomes the family's Emmanuel, God in residence, to protect, nurture, guide and console father, mother and children so that their home becomes an abode of justice, goodness and love, full of supernatural life and holiness.

Every Catholic family should, therefore consecrate itself and its members to the Sacred Heart. In His gratitude, our Lord will shower such families with grace, happiness and holiness, as He did to His own family long ago, when He was cradled in the loving arms of His mother and St Joseph, surrounded by shepherds and celebrated by angels.

Fr John Brucciani, Prior

Hopeful Hearts

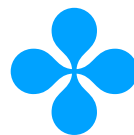
If someone asked, "What do you want more than anything on earth," what would be our answer? A new car? Great friends? A unique person to love as another self? Yet behind these transient goods - for good things they certainly are - lies the never-ending search for a true and lasting good. Sought by humans from time immemorial, hunted after with more enthusiasm than the elusive fountain of youth, happiness is the one good which accurately answers the question, "What do you desire?"

We all know this; we are created for happiness both here on earth and later in heaven. Do we realise, though, that all our seeking will be in vain if we look in the wrong places? Do we honestly expect anything created to satisfy the innate desires of an immortal soul, created by an infinite God for eternal happiness? If so, not only are we seriously mistaken but we are emptied of our very reason of existence and, consequently, we will be the most wretched and miserable of souls. Why is this?

St Augustine once wrote, "Our hearts are restless until they rest in Thee," to demonstrate the incessant movement of the human heart towards God. Said another way, the human heart's desire for beatitude can be likened to an internal compass which should direct mankind to its final destination. The reason for Solomon's passionate outburst, "Vanity of vanities...!" is simple: A man's heart is created, not for this world, which is a "vale of tears," but for eternal happiness. Whatever goods the world proffers as containing happiness - pleasure, wealth, fame or similar things - are merely temporary, the empty shell of what could and should bring true delight to a heart seeking beatitude.

How beautiful, then, that Our Lord should give His own most tender and sacred Heart as an object for our devotion! It is the true compass which leads to happiness. It alone is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. In the sacred Heart and solely in that furnace of charity will our cold and hardened souls find warmth and tenderness. "In peace in the selfsame will I sleep and will I rest, for Thou, O Lord, hast settled me in hope" (Ps. 4:8).

Hope is the key to happiness according to the Psalmist. Moreover, hope is arguably the single-most abandoned virtue of our time. Thus, Our Lord complained to St Margaret Mary how rarely souls show their love for His Sacred Heart. They do not hope and place their trust in Him, so how can they love Him? How appalling would it be if that "they" should, in fact, be "we"! What better time, as we enter the season of Advent, to rekindle our hope, to seek after happiness where it can truly be found, namely, in the joyful expectation of the coming of Our Divine Saviour. Do we dare to demand a greater proof of the infinite tenderness and love of His Sacred Heart than the promise of a redeeming God-Child? Come, O Emmanuel! Take up Your abode in us that we may abide in You!

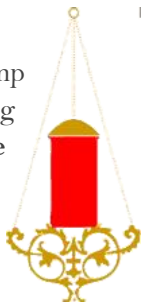


Advent Fair, Portal Hall
Sat. 14th Dec. 12-3pm



Sanctuary Lamp in Memory

It is now possible to request that a sanctuary lamp burn in memory of loved one or in thanksgiving for graces received. **Each 1st. Wed. of the month, Holy Mass will be celebrated for those remembered and their donors.** The memorial will be published in this newsletter.



- £10 for one 7 day lamp (Sunday-Saturday)
- Online reservations.
- Proceeds go towards church embellishment (vestments, statues, furnishings).

Sanctuary Lamp - High altar - In memory of:

Dec. 01 - Fr Basil Wrighton
Dec. 08 - Fr Michael Crowdy
Dec. 15 - Fr Eldred Leslie
Dec. 22 - Fr Clifford Beecroft
Dec. 29 - Mr Michael MacDonald

Sanctuary Lamp - Lady altar - In memory of:

Dec. 01 - Bereaved family
Dec. 08 - Mr Ronald Warwick
Dec. 15 - Mr Michael O'Connor
Dec. 22 - Mr and Mrs Wiggins (early benefactors)
Dec. 29 -

The consecration of one's family to our Lord's Most Sacred Heart is no light matter. It must be accomplished with the firm purpose of giving the family to the Sacred Heart of Jesus by recognising our Lord as the king and head of the family. All family decisions, especially those that pertain to the children's education, rest henceforth upon the dictates of His Divine Will.

The family consecration is a lifelong process. It begins with the solemn blessing and enthronement in the home of a statue or picture of the Sacred Heart, in the presence of the priest. The family recites a prayer of consecration and receives the priestly blessing. The certificate of consecration along with the blessed image are fixed in a place of honour in the home and thus serve as a continual reminder to all the family members of their new status as subjects (and apostles) of the Sacred Heart. The blessed image becomes a powerful sacramental that wards off Satan's influence on the family.

First Friday devotions should also become part and parcel of the family's devotions. As far as possible, family members should attend the Holy Hour of reparation each first Friday, as a sign of loyalty and devotion to the sovereign and king of the family. First Saturday devotions should also become a prominent part of family life. True devotion to the Sacred Heart naturally leads to the love and honour of our Lady's Most Immaculate Heart.

The family rosary is the most natural expression of a family's submission to and dependence on our Lord and our Lady. It is a moment when the family, as a single unit, pays due homage to God through the intercession of His Mother. The family rosary also provides the family with the opportunity to daily renew its consecration to the Sacred Heart. (See holy cards - available narthex)

Fr Mateo Crawley, the great apostle of the consecration of families to the Sacred Heart, saw the family consecration as a powerful and desperately needed protection against Satan and his all-out war on families. The spirit, fashions, customs, laws and gadgets of the modern world all conspire to rob parents of their authority and children of their purity. Families have never before faced such existential challenges. Only with God's help can they hope to navigate and over-

come a world that seeks to destroy the sovereign rights and nobility of the family.

Finally, vocations most often come from families that have consecrated themselves to the Sacred Heart. When a family takes its consecration seriously and seeks to live by it year in, year out, the blessings promised by our Lord cannot fail to have an effect. Parents should seek to encourage vocations in their children by every means possible, notably by their own life of prayer which then serves as the basis for the family's life of piety and service. Vocations come of holy families. Families are made holy by holy parents, who become holy through their submission and devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

Twelve Promises

In His communications with Sr. Margaret Mary, Our Lord also promised blessings to those who honour His Sacred Heart. These became known as the Twelve Promises of the Sacred Heart:

1. "I will give them all the graces necessary in their state of life.
2. "I will establish peace in their families.
3. "I will comfort them in all their afflictions.
4. "I will be their secure refuge during life, and above all in death.
5. "I will bestow a large blessing upon their undertakings.
6. "Sinners shall find in my Heart the source and the infinite ocean of mercy.
7. "Tepid souls shall become fervent.
8. "Fervent souls shall quickly mount to high perfection.
9. **"I will bless every place where a picture of My Heart shall be set up and honoured.**
10. "I will give to priests the gift of touching the most hardened hearts.
11. "Those who shall promote this devotion shall have their names written in My Heart, never to be blotted out.
12. "I promise thee in the excessive mercy of My Heart that My all-powerful love will grant to all those who communicate on the First Friday of nine consecutive months the grace of final penitence; they shall not die in my disgrace nor without receiving their sacraments; My Divine Heart shall be their safe refuge in this last moment."



*On the 1st Sunday of the month, after each mass, fathers are invited to pray the **Fathers' Prayer for Vocations** at the communion rail.*

MEMORIAL POINSETTIAS CHRISTMASTIDE

If you wish to place around the altar poinsettias in memory of a loved one, please [fill out and hand in the forms](#) before the 16th December. The January newsletter will list the names of those remembered. Holy Mass will be offered for them and for their benefactors on the 1st January, Feast of the Circumcision.

Poinsettias (for the sanctuary and church): £15 a pot.



Online Christmas Raffle

Meat Box, Fine Art, Toys,, Champagne, Cash Prize, Goodies...

Tickets also available from school office or on request

01635 278137



CONCERT OF SACRED MUSIC

Sunday 8th Dec. 16:00

Feast of the Immaculate Conception

WORKS BY VICTORIA, BYRD & GEORGE MALCOLM

Dir. Thomas Neal / Organ Gabriele Damiani

Vespers and Benediction 17:30

Advent RECOLLECTION - Sat. 21st Dec. -

- ➔ 9:00 *Veni Creator* and conference
- ➔ 10:15 Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, silent meditation, confessions
- ➔ 11:15 Rosary and Benediction
- ➔ 12:00 Holy Mass, followed by lunch in the refectory with spiritual reading (Bring packed lunch)
- ➔ 13:30 Conference followed by Stations of the Cross. End.

SSPX 3rd Order members are expected to attend. The recollection is also open to the parish.

Liturgical Calendar - Dec. 2024 Confessions before Saturday and Sunday Masses & during 1st Friday Holy Hour.

1	First Sunday of Advent	7:30, 9:00
	<i>2nd Collection for District Seminary Fund</i>	18:00 Benediction
2	St. Bibiana, Virgin & Martyr	7:15
3	St. Francis Xavier, Virgin & Martyr	7:15
4	St Peter Chrysologus, Bp, conf, Doct.	7:15
5	Feria of Advent	7:15
6	St. Nicholas, Bp & Conf. Holy Hour 6PM	7:15 / 19:00
7	St. Ambrose, Bp., Conf. Dr (Fast Day SSPX)	7:30 / 12:00
8	Immaculate Conception of the BVM	7:30, 9:00
	<i>Concert 16:00, Vespers 17:30</i>	18:00 Benediction
9	Feria of Advent	7:15
10	Feria of Advent	7:15
11	St Damasus, pope, conf.	7:15
12	Feria (Our Lady of Guadalupe)	7:15
13	St. Lucy, Virgin & Martyr	7:15
14	Feria of Advent (Advent Fair)	7:30 / 12:00
15	IIIrd in Advent - Gaudete Sunday	7:30, 9:00
		18:00 Benediction
16	St. Eusebius, Bishop & Martyr	7:15
17	Feria of Advent	7:15
18	Ember Wednesday of Advent	7:30 am
19	Feria of Advent	7:30 am
20	Ember Friday of Advent	7:30 am
21	St. Thomas, Apostle DAY of RECOLLECTION	7:30 / 12:00
22	Fourth Sunday of Advent (Rorate)	7:30, 9:00
		18:00 Benediction
23	Feria of Advent	7:30 am
24	Vigil of the Nativity of Our Lord	7:30 am
25	Nativity of Our Lord	0:00, 9:00, 10:30 (sung)
26	St. Stephen, Deacon & Protomartyr	12:00
27	St. John, Apostle & Evangelist	12:00
28	Holy Innocents, Martyrs Holy Hr 11:00	12:00
29	St Thomas of Canturbury, 1st Cl.	7:30 / 12:00
	<i>Sunday in the Octave of Christmas</i>	18:00 Benediction
30	Sixth Day in the Octave of Christmas	7:30 am
31	Seventh Day in the Octave of Christmas	7:30 am
1	Circumcision of Our Lord - Holy Day	7:30/9:00

Importance of [Gift-Aid](#)

- In 2022, **46%** of Sunday collection donations were gift-aided.
- In 2023, **60%** of Sunday collection donations have been gift-aided.
- In 2024, **63%** of Sunday collection donations have been gift-aided.

Sunday collections and other donations to the priory serve for maintenance of church buildings and liturgical items, and the board, lodging and care of priests and religious. The District office provides the inevitable shortfall. Please continue to support your priest generously.