

FAITH ENGAGEMENT ADVISOR

You may be aware that, following his appointment as Faith Engagement Adviser at the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, **Colin Bloom** has been asked to lead a review into **how best the government should engage with faith groups in England.**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/independent-faith-engagement-review-call-for-evidence/independent-faith-engagement-review-call-for-evidence>

The review is made up of 4 sections

1. Are faith groups, places of worship and people of faith a force for good in society?
2. The extent which the government and its agencies has sufficient faith literacy and considers the partnership between faith groups and the State
3. Looks at some aspects where harm might be caused through religious and faith-based practices and a review in the government's role in tackling them

Set of recommendations for the government to consider and respond to

They have asked for sources, reports, case studies, surveys as well as personal anecdotes to underpin any points made.

Please could I encourage you to VISIT THE SITE BELOW to enable Catholics to have a prominent voice. It is important that we take this opportunity to have our say and contribute to change in the effectiveness of government's engagement with faith groups.

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=EGg0v32c3kOociSi7zmVqLAvxFsmpeJAuen06HiiIOVUNk0zOUg1TUdBSzkONE8wWIVWTEZEMUZCUS4u>

It may be of interest to parishioners, who wish to find out more about this, that Catholic Voices are hosting a webinar on December 2nd at 7pm.

The event will be to explain the purpose of the review and there will be the opportunity to put questions to Colin Bloom (Government Faith Engagement Advisor), questions can be submitted before the day.

<https://www.catholicvoices.org.uk/events/independent-faith-review?fbclid=IwAR2YwoM2bp3c9a12GZMs2nCMExmywwu6aDiiRCCS-tw1Oeqt5e1f7n3qm4I>

The Advent Wreath or Advent crown, is a Christian tradition that symbolizes the passage of the four weeks of Advent in the liturgical calendar of the Western church.



**Song as we light Advent Wreath candles
(Tune—Away in a Manger)**

**A candle is burning, a candle of peace;
A candle of hope that all conflict will
cease.**

**Beat swords into ploughshares,
change hatred to love,
The Spirit of God is revealed as a dove.**

**COVID 19 VIRUS IS STILL
PREVALENT SO KEEP A
SAFE DISTANCE FROM
EACH OTHER. TOUCH AS
LITTLE AS POSSIBLE.**

**Mass each day continues to be
shown live on my Facebook
page—Paul Roy Lomas. It is also
available to use after the Mass
has ended in case you can't be
on your computer, smart
phone or lap-top at the exact
time.**

EXPOSITION & BENEDICTION ON FRIDAYS IN ADVENT.

After Mass on
Friday morning
the Blessed
Sacrament will
be
Exposed on the
Altar for
adoration, pray-
er & reflection.
Benediction at
11.15am
4th, 11th, 18th.
December
Take this time to prepare yourself to
celebrate Christ's coming again to your
heart.



**CHURCH CLOSED UNTIL
NEXT SUNDAY—2ND SUN-
DAY OF ADVENT 2020. UN-
TIL THEN MASS AT USUAL
TIMES LIVE STREAMED ON
MY FACEBOOK PAGE**

*"O that you would tear the heavens asunder
and come down to us O God;
come be with us... comfort your people..."*

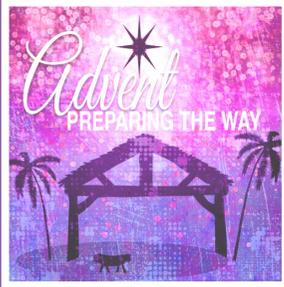
The Advent cry from the Prophet Isaiah holds new meaning for our times and greater urgency because of the global COVID-19 pandemic.

In the face of such extreme suffering and heartache as a result of COVID-19, as well as the economic, political, social unrest and uncertainty across our world, together with the devastating impact of climate change on our planet and our lives, we hope and pray this season will comfort you and your family in your waiting, hoping and longing!

**NEXT WEEK THERE WILL BE A SECOND
COLLECTION FOR THE POOR PARISHES
OF THE DIOCESE. ARCHBISHOP BERNARD
ASKS US TO BE AS GENEROUS AS WE
CAN IN SUPPORTING THIS FUND.**

Reflection

We often make denigrating remarks about time — about being early, about being late, and about being right on time. This is because no matter who we are, none of us has complete control of our time. So we deal with it the best way we can.



Bluegrass songwriter, John Cadley, sings about the difficulty we have with time in his song called "Time." *"When I was young, I dreamed of being older. Now that I am older, I dream of being young. There are*

times when I complain about having no time. Then I wonder where that time has gone. Things I plan, I never do. Things that I never planned, I do. Once there was a time, when there was no time at all. And I wonder where that time has gone."

Since the beginning of time, we human times have struggled with time. We want to remember who we were in the past and we want to know who we will be in the future. As Christians, we want to know about our salvation that was given to us in the past, promised to us in the future, and what we are preparing for in the present.

I think that almost all religions, in some way or another, try to give their followers a plan for salvation. In the first reading for the First Sunday of Advent, the prophet Isaiah reminds the Israelites and us where the plan comes from. The plan comes from God who is the father with the hands of a potter who forms us, who fashions us, who directs us along the path of time.

The Season of Advent is the time given to us for contemplating the salvation given to us. The season encourages us not to try and land the best deals when it comes to our Christmas shopping or to go to extreme lengths to make our Christmas special. The Season of Advent reminds us of the past, when Jesus was born for the purpose of our salvation. It reminds us of Jesus' presence in our lives today. And it reminds us to look forward to when Jesus will come again at the end of the world.

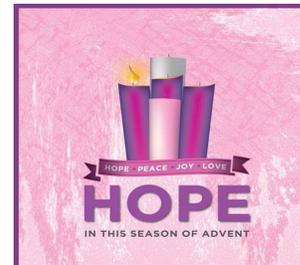
During her time on earth, Blessed Theresa of Calcutta said, "Yesterday is gone. Tomorrow has not yet come. We have only today. Let us begin." So we have to be courageous enough to ask God our questions, to be humble enough to be open to God's reply, and to be patient enough to wait for God's plan of salvation available to each of us.

THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT (Yr B)

VIGIL MASS 28th NOVEMBER 2020 4.00 pm
SUNDAY MASS 29th DECEMBER 2020 9.30 am

MASS THIS WEEK

Sunday	29th	1st SUNDAY OF ADVENT	Mass 9.30 am	<i>Holy Souls</i>
Monday	30th	Feast of Andrew the Apostle	NO MASS	
Tuesday	1st Dec	Feast of St Edmund Champion	Mass 10am	For the intention of all those named on the Remembrance Tree at St. Thomas More Academy
Wednesday	2nd	1st Wednesday of Advent	Mass 10am	<i>Health of John Baslow</i>
Thursday	3rd	Memorial of St. Francis Xavier	Mass 10 am	Intention of the Souls of Ingram & Dogrell families.
Friday	4th	1st Friday of Advent	Mass & Exposition 10 am	<i>Holy Souls</i>
Saturday	5th	CHURCH WILL BE OPEN FOR MASS AT 4 PM		<i>Parishioners</i>



Next Week—SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT (YEAR B)

VIGIL MASS (5th) 4.00 pm SUNDAY (6th December) MASS 9.30 am



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