

# Our Lady of Loretto & St Michael

## FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT (YEAR A)



### Blessing of the Advent Wreath

This is what we have heard from God and are declaring to you: God is light, and there is no darkness in him at all. If we say that we share in God's life while we are living in darkness, we are lying, because we are not living the truth. But if we live in light, as he is in light, we have a share in one another's life, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, cleanses us from all sin.

We bless this Advent Wreath - a reminder of life in the depth of winter

***The Priest blesses the wreath with Holy water.***

We light this first candle - a reminder of the presence of Christ in the world

*The Priest (or a member of the congregation) lights the first purple candle.*

If we say we have no sin we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us; if we acknowledge our sins, he is trustworthy and upright, so that he will forgive our sins and cleanse us of all evil. (1 John. 1:5-9)

So let us freely confess our sin

Lord Jesus, you are the light of the world.  
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

You call us to walk in the light of your truth.  
Christ, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.

You call us to stand ready for your coming to us.  
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

May almighty God...

**FIRST READING** A reading from the prophet Isaiah (2:1-5)

The vision of Isaiah son of Amos, concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

In the days to come  
the mountain of the Temple of the Lord  
shall tower above the mountains  
and be lifted higher than the hills.  
All the nations will stream to it,  
people without number will come to it, and they will say:

'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,  
to the Temple of the God and Jacob  
that he may teach us his ways  
so that we may walk in his paths;  
since the Law will go out from Zion,  
and the oracle of the Lord from Jerusalem.'  
He will wield authority over the nations  
and adjudicate between many peoples;  
these will hammer their swords into ploughshares,  
their spears into sickles. Nation will not lift sword  
against nation, there will be no more training for  
war. O House of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light  
of the Lord. **The word of the Lord.**

**R. I rejoice when I heard them say:  
'Let us go to God's house.'**

I rejoiced when I heard them say:  
'Let us go to God's house.'  
And now our feet are standing  
within your gates, O Jerusalem. **R.**

It is there that the tribes go up,  
the tribes of the Lord.  
For Israel's law it is  
there to praise the Lord's name.  
There were set the thrones of judgement  
of the house of David. **R.**

For the peace of Jerusalem pray:  
'Peace be to your homes!  
May peace reign in your walls,  
in your palaces, peace!' **R.**

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## FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT (YEAR A)

For love of my brethren and friends  
I say: 'Peace upon you!'  
For love of the house of the Lord  
I will ask for your good. **R.**

**SECOND READING** A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans (13:11-14)

You know 'the time' has come; you must wake up now: our salvation is even nearer than it was when we were converted. The night is almost over, it will be daylight soon – let us give up all the things we prefer to do under cover of the dark; let us arm ourselves and appear in the light. Let us live decently as people do in the daytime: no drunken orgies, no promiscuity or licentiousness, and no wrangling or jealousy. Let your armour be the Lord Jesus Christ. **The word of the Lord.**

**Alleluia, alleluia! Let us see, O Lord, your mercy and give us your saving help. Alleluia!**

**GOSPEL** A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew (24:37-44)

Jesus said to his disciples: 'As it was in Noah's day, so will it be when the Son of Man comes. For in those days before the Flood people were eating, drinking, taking wives, taking husbands, right up to the day Noah went into the ark, and they suspected nothing till the Flood came and swept all away. It will be like this when the Son of Man comes. Then of two men in the fields one is taken, one left; of two women at the millstone grinding, one is taken, one left.'

'So stay awake, because you do not know the day when your master is coming. You may be quite sure of this that if the householder had known at what time of the night the burglar would come, he would have stayed awake and would not have allowed anyone to break through the wall of his house. Therefore, you too must stand ready because the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.'  
**The Gospel of the Lord.**

**So stay awake...**



### The Nicene Creed

**I believe in one God,  
the Father almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all things visible and invisible.**

**I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the Only Begotten Son of God,  
born of the Father before all ages.  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
consubstantial with the Father;  
through him all things were made.  
For us men and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,**

**(all bow until man)  
and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate  
of the Virgin Mary,  
and became man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate,  
he suffered death and was buried,  
and rose again on the third day  
in accordance with the Scriptures.  
He ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory  
to judge the living and the dead  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of  
life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is adored and  
glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.**

**I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.  
I confess one baptism for the forgiveness of sins  
and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead  
and the life of the world to come. Amen**