

Quiet period...

Opening hymn

Introduction and Gathering Prayer

L. We gather in the name of the Father
and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit

All: Amen

L: Birthing God,
We wait
With hope and expectation
The coming of Christ child anew
Quiet our hearts and minds
That we may welcome you
Into our homes with love.



Come is a word of invitation, of welcome, a word that offers hospitality. It is a word we hear in the liturgy of Advent, that special time of waiting again for the birth of the Christ Child in our hearts and in our world.

All: Advent – a time of waiting

R1. A time of year-end busyness

All: Advent – A time of preparation

R1: A time of hectic tidying up

All: Advent – a time of prayer

R1: A time of crazy shopping

All: Advent – A time of rest

R1: A time of rushing to meet deadlines

All: Advent – A time of calm

R2. Advent is a time for making space. A time to clear away the clutter in our hearts; to get rid of bitterness; to let go of grudges; to make space for others and for the coming of Jesus.

What is it I truly want to let-go of, the disappointments, worries, anxieties?

Quiet time...

Short ritual to symbolise what I want to leave behind from this year, my burdens....

Psalm: My Soul is Longing for Your Peace....

READING: Matthew 2: 7-12 Birth of Jesus....



R. Prayers incorporating our hopes and dreams...

Response: O Come Emmanuel, Christ with us.

May the hope of this sacred season be a source of courage during difficult times **R/**

May the wonder and awe of Christmas, lead us to a renewed appreciation of all creation. **R/**

May we daily open the gift of our lives and in gratitude reach out more to others. **R/**

May we trust that the Star within us will guide and direct us each day **R/**

May we become more sensitive to the 'Cry of Earth and Cry of the Poor' this Advent **R/**

L: We bring the stories of our lives this year, all our hopes and dreams, our disappointments, and concern for others to prayer, as together we pray the words of Jesus

All: Our Father

Gift of Light: Take a t-light and light it from the Advent Candle as a sign of new beginnings, the foundation for this year's scaffolding that will bring each of us to Christmas 2017.

JESUS WAS A REFUGEE...



Refugee baby in cardboard box, Lesbos, Greece.

As we journey with the Holy Family to Bethlehem, we pray for all who make forced journeys. Give them strength to carry on and courage to walk the road ahead.

Wake up, little baby God And hear our cry

As we hear the innkeeper say there is no room, we pray for refugees for whom there is no country. Gather them to yourself and keep them free from harm.

Wake up, little baby God And hear our cry

As we contemplate that first Christmas night, we pray for those with nowhere to lay their head. Comfort them in their need and uphold them in their plight.

Wake up, little baby God And hear our cry

(Cafod Prayers)



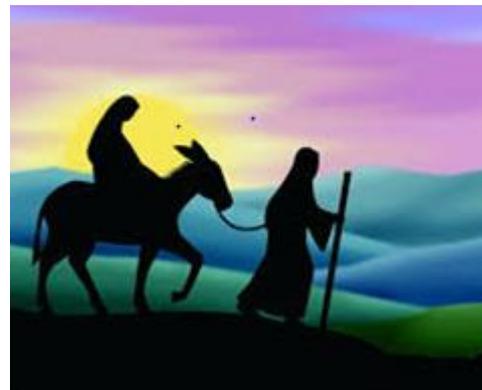
There are 61 million people displaced in our world today...

Closing Hymn: Awake from your slumber....



ADVENT SERVICE

'SCAFFOLDING'



**Wednesday 6th December,
St. Augustine's,
Taylor's Lane**

7.30pm