

NATIONAL OFFICE FOR VOCATION

ADVENT NEWSLETTER

WELCOME

Welcome to our Advent Newsletter. In this edition we will reflect on the many events that took place at COP26 in Glasgow and as we begin Advent, we are proud to launch our 'Keeping Christ in Christmas' Advent Video Calendar. Advent is a time for preparation of the coming of Jesus at Christmas, God becoming one of us. As we start the new Church's year it is important for us to get ready and look at our own lives as we journey to the stable and beyond. What is God calling us to next? What can we say yes to, just like Mary did at the Annunciation? As we go through these weeks, how can we follow God more closely and deepen our relationship with Him? In this beautiful season within the Church's year, we continue to pray for vocations and to have the courage to follow Him as we journey through 2022.

COP26 SOWING SEEDS OF THE FUTURE



Friday 5th - Sunday 7th November 2021

The UK hosted the 26th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26) in Glasgow on the 31 October – 12 November 2021. The National Office for Vocation England & Wales, Vocations Network Scotland, and Vocations Ireland collaborated together and organised a number of events that were spread throughout the city. The weekend was filled with meeting people on the streets and discussing the importance of God's call for each of us to become stewards of the earth. During our conversations, bags of wildflower seed were handed to people with a prayer card, giving them the opportunity to take the message of caring for our common home away with them and encouraging people to plant the seeds at home.

The events that took place around the city were attended by families and communities, beginning with the Rosary Procession at Carfin Grotto on Sunday 31st October. This was attended by followers online and those present at the Grotto with just over 300 people in total. The Welcome Hub was based at the Pauline Books and Media store in St Enoch's Square, where people were able to visit and chat with the various vocation teams whilst having a cup of tea. The Mercy bus, which drew people's attention on the square, was located outside the book store and gave a chance for the team to engage people in conversation, give out seeds and prayers. People also entered the bus for a chat and confession.

Night Fever took place in St Andrew's Cathedral on the Saturday night and drew in people from outside as they entered a place of prayer and quiet contemplation after the busy day's events. People had the chance to light a candle and just have some time in prayer and the opportunity to go to Confession.



COP-26 CONTINUED...

The Mass for delegates took place in St Aloysius Church on Sunday 7th November and this was attended by many different Catholic organisations, delegates and visitors to COP26. The Mass was celebrated by Bishop Hugh Gilbert OSB, Bishop of Aberdeen and Chair of The Catholic Bishops' Conference of Scotland, Papal Nuncio, Archbishop Claudio Gugerotti and Bishop John Arnold of Salford Diocese. The Mass was focused around prayer for the outcomes of COP26 and for all negotiations taking place.



VOCATION GARDEN

The Vocation Garden was run for schools and parishes that were unable to attend COP26 in person. Vocation Gardens have now been set up in over 18 schools and parishes around the United Kingdom. We still have some seeds available for you to start your own garden. Please email james@ukvocation.org with your school/parish address and these will be sent to you. The garden should be a place where students and young people can go to for some quiet time of prayer and reflection in their busy days in order to deepen their relationship with God. The creation of a vocation garden will also help young people to understand the importance of being stewards of the earth and also care for creation.

KEEPING CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS

Advent begins on the 28th November and this year we have reached out to a number of people around England and Wales to submit messages which highlight the importance of 'Keeping Christ in Christmas'. A message will be available each day which can be viewed on the National Office for Vocation YouTube, Facebook and Twitter social media accounts. We hope these messages will form part of your Advent observances and will be shared with friends and family to focus on Christ as the centre of Christmas.



FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

The Feast of The Holy Family falls on the Sunday after Christmas Day, 26th December. This is a day where we pay particular attention to Marriage and Family life. There will be a number of resources on our website, including a Pastoral Letter from Bishop David Oakley (Marriage and Family Life), the final video of our 'Keeping Christ in Christmas' Calendar, downloadable prayer cards and children's liturgy worksheets, to help you deepen your understanding of the Holy Family. We pray for the vocation to marriage and family life and use the example of The Holy Family to guide us within our families and for those who are discerning the vocation to marriage.

100 DAYS OF PRAYER

ITS BACK!

Starting 1st January, the 100 Days of Prayer will begin and this year we will focus on the Saints from around the world. We will explore their vocation and the importance of who they are by providing information on their lives and their path to holiness. You will be able to follow this on our website and social media platforms.

CONTACT US

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