

Dear friends in Christ,

The season of Advent is upon us, a time of special spiritual preparation for Christmas. It is a time of waiting and expectation, but also, in the words of Pope Francis, a "journey of conversion". It is a time given to us "to welcome the Lord who comes to meet us, verify our desire for God, to look ahead and prepare ourselves for the return of Christ."



Our joy this year is increased by the knowledge that, after many months of waiting, our churches are now able to open their doors more widely again. This weekend, we will be able to gather in significant numbers for the first time since March, accommodating 120 parishioners at each Mass at St Patrick's, and 50 at St John Vianney's.

This will also be my first weekend among you as your parish priest. With grateful thanks to my predecessor, Fr Michael, I look forward very much to serving you. I do hope to meet you in person at Mass and other parish activities in the coming weeks. Please pray for me as I begin, and be assured of my prayers for you.

Through the intercession of St Patrick, St John Vianney and all the Holy Angels, may this Advent be a time of deep prayer for all of us as we prepare to meet the Christ Child this Christmas.

Best wishes and God bless,

Fr Cameron Forbes  
Parish Priest