

FUEL #3

Advent

GET TO KNOW MORE
ABOUT GOD

church
of ireland 
youth
department

IT'S GREAT THAT YOU HAVE
DECIDED TO PICK UP A COPY OF
FUEL. WHAT YOU HOLD IN YOUR HAND
REPRESENTS AN OPPORTUNITY TO
INTERACT WITH THE ONE, TRUE GOD
WHO LOVES YOU MADLY. HE MADE
EACH PERSON ON THIS PLANET FOR
HIMSELF OUT OF LOVE FOR EACH
OF US. WE ARE ON THE RECEIVING
END OF AN ALMOST UNBELIEVABLE
PLAN WHERE WE FIND ULTIMATE
SATISFACTION, PURPOSE, DIRECTION
AND FULFILMENT IN A RELATIONSHIP
WITH GOD'S SON... JESUS CHRIST.

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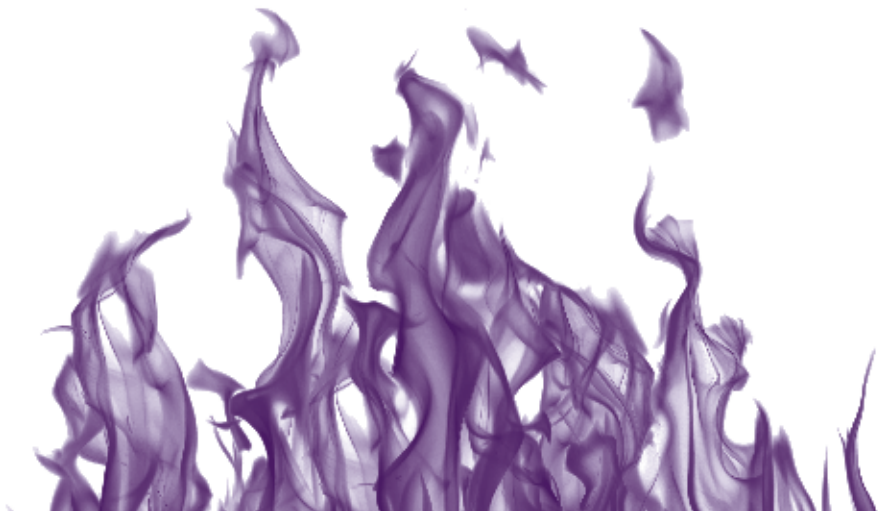
FUEL #3 Advent

FUEL is an opportunity for you to get to know more about God, yourself, others and the world you live in. Don't worry if you think you're not very 'spiritual'... be open-minded and hungry for something deeper than what you've experienced so far.

FUEL's purpose is to enable you to hear God speaking through His words in the Bible. In this booklet you'll see two different pages. On the left there will be a space to write the date and where you were reading from in the Bible (don't try to read too much at one time; take a smaller section to reflect and think about what it is saying). Take your time... reading the section a few times slowly. Below that will be a series of questions to help you hear how God is speaking to you. Feel free to answer these questions in whatever order you find most helpful.

When it comes to communicating with God, there is no 'right' way to go about it. He is constantly communicating with us in a variety of ways. Make sure that you own a version of the Bible that is easy for you to read and understand; there are lots of helpful study bibles out there for young people. If you need help, ask your youth leader or minister/pastor.

The second page is a blank space for you to express yourself in any way you wish, you can write prayers or doodle - be creative!



FUEL #3 Advent

Advent is the first season of the Church year and it helps us begin with the end in mind: to live always ready for Christ's second coming. Advent lasts for four weeks leading up to Christmas Day on December 25. "Advent" comes from the Latin *adventus*, meaning "coming or arrival."

Advent is a four week season, beginning four Sundays before Christmas Day.

It is a season of fasting and waiting, not only in preparation to celebrate Christmas, but also in longing for Christ to make himself known among us now and in His second coming.

For us as the people of God, the season points us first to the "arrival" of God in Jesus Christ when he was born on the original Christmas Day. Secondly, it points us to the upcoming "arrival" of Jesus Christ, when he will return to fully establish his Kingdom and to judge the living and the dead.

So, the season of Advent is a season of preparation and waiting. We celebrate Christ's first arrival as a humble servant-king and we are joyfully expectant and long for Christ's second coming to make all things right.

WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS?

Advent and Christmas are often confused because many people begin celebrating Christmas before it arrives. Just like the season of Easter is prefixed with a season of preparation - Lent, so too Advent is the season of preparation for the season of Christmas.

To celebrate Advent as a time of preparation and waiting, however, we must refocus from the cultural confusion of the season, spending our time until Christmas in reflection and hopeful longing.

In Advent, we delve into history, from Creation and the Prophets to Revelation. We remember again what God is doing with His world, what is to come, and how we can re-align our lives with His story and His Kingdom, helping us learn afresh to live for Him each day.

After this Advent season of preparation, we joyfully celebrate Christmas, which is a 12 day feast and celebration until Epiphany - 6th January each year.

FUEL #3 Advent

QUESTIONS TO PONDER DURING ADVENT:

What do you hope for?

What do you long for Christ to heal and fix?

Why is the Incarnation (God becoming human) so important to us?

What might God want to teach me in this season of waiting?

HE IS COMING

(THE OLD TESTAMENT PROPHECIES)

- Day 1 – Isaiah 9:2-7
- Day 2 – Isaiah 11:1-5
- Day 3 – Isaiah 7:10-14
- Day 4 – Micah 5:1-5
- Day 5 – 2 Samuel 7:12-16

HE WILL GIVE

(THE GIFT OF OUR SALVATION IN THE EPISTLES)

- Day 14 – Romans 6:20-23
- Day 15 – Galatians 4:1-7
- Day 16 – 1 Timothy 1:15-17
- Day 17 – Titus 3:3-7
- Day 18 – Philippians 2:6-8

HE IS HERE

(THE BIRTH STORY IN THE GOSPELS)

- Day 6 – Luke 1:26-33
- Day 7 – Luke 1:34-38
- Day 8 – Luke 1:46-55
- Day 9 – Matthew 1:18-25
- Day 10 – Luke 2:1-7
- Day 11 – Luke 2:8-12
- Day 12 – Luke 2:13-20
- Day 13 – Matt. 1:1-17

HE WILL RETURN

(THE HOPE FOR CHRIST'S SECOND COMING)

- Day 19 – John 14:1-6
- Day 20 – Daniel 7:13-14
- Day 21 – Revelation 1:4-7
- Day 22 – Revelation 3:20-22
- Day 23 – Revelation 22:12-13
- Day 24 – Revelation 22:16-17
- Day 25 – Revelation 22:20



FUEL #3 *Advent*

MAY YOU EXPERIENCE
THE WONDER, MYSTERY
AND LOVE THAT IS GOD
AS YOU MAKE SPACE
TO MEET WITH HIM



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Dear friends, God is good. So I beg you to offer your bodies to him as a living sacrifice, pure and pleasing. That's the most sensible way to serve God. Don't be like the people of this world, but let God change the way you think. Then you will know how to do everything that is good and pleasing to him.

Romans 12: 1-2



FUEL #3 Advent

Sample Reading from the Book of Luke

He continued according to plan, travelled to town after town, village after village, preaching God's kingdom, spreading the Message. The Twelve were with him. There were also some women in their company who had been healed of various evil afflictions and illnesses: Mary, the one called Magdalene, from whom seven demons had gone out; Joanna, wife of Chuza, Herod's manager; and Susanna—along with many others who used their considerable means to provide for the company.

⁴⁻⁸ As they went from town to town, a lot of people joined in and travelled along. He addressed them, using this story: "A farmer went out to sow his seed. Some of it fell on the road; it was tramped down and the birds ate it. Other seed fell in the gravel; it sprouted, but withered because it didn't have good roots. Other seed fell in the weeds; the weeds grew with it and strangled it. Other seed fell in rich earth and produced a bumper crop.

"Are you listening to this? Really listening?" ⁹ His disciples asked, "Why did you tell this story?"

¹⁰ He said, "You've been given insight into God's kingdom—you know how it works. There are others who need stories. But even with stories some of them aren't going to get it: Their eyes are open but don't see a thing. Their ears are open but don't hear a thing.

¹¹⁻¹² "This story is about some of those people. The seed is the Word of God. The seeds on the road are those who hear the Word, but no sooner do they hear it than the Devil snatches it from them so they won't believe and be saved.



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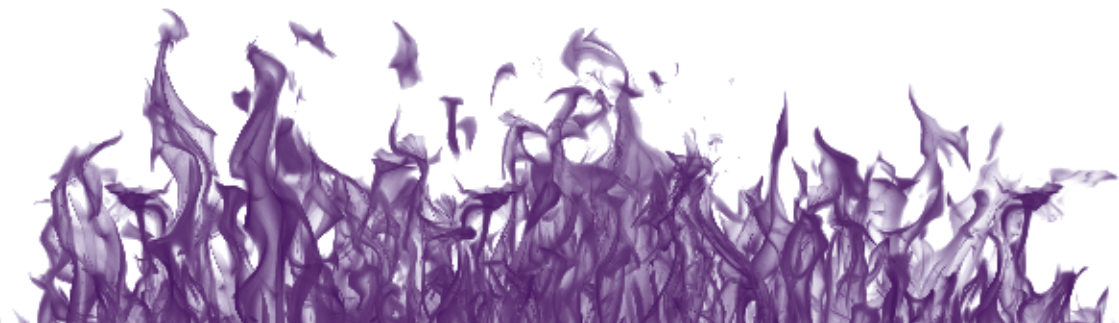
Advent

¹³ “The seeds in the gravel are those who hear with enthusiasm, but the enthusiasm doesn’t go very deep. It’s only another fad, and the moment there’s trouble it’s gone.” ¹⁴ “And the seed that fell in the weeds—well, these are the ones who hear, but then the seed is crowded out and nothing comes of it as they go about their lives worrying about tomorrow, making money, and having fun.” ¹⁵ “But the seed in the good earth—these are the good-hearts who seize the Word and hold on no matter what, sticking with it until there’s a harvest.

¹⁶⁻¹⁸ “No one lights a lamp and then covers it with a washtub or shoves it under the bed. No, you set it up on a lamp stand so those who enter the room can see their way. We’re not keeping secrets; we’re telling them. We’re not hiding things; we’re bringing everything out into the open. So be careful that you don’t become misers of what you hear. Generosity begets generosity. Stinginess impoverishes.”

¹⁹⁻²⁰ His mother and brothers showed up but couldn’t get through to him because of the crowd. He was given the message, “Your mother and brothers are standing outside wanting to see you.” ²¹ He replied, “My mother and brothers are the ones who hear and do God’s Word. Obedience is thicker than blood.” ²²⁻²⁴ One day he and his disciples got in a boat. “Let’s cross the lake,” he said. And off they went. It was smooth sailing, and he fell asleep. A terrific storm came up suddenly on the lake. Water poured in, and they were about to capsize. They woke Jesus: “Master, Master, we’re going to drown!” Getting to his feet, he told the wind, “Silence!” and the waves, “Quiet down!” They did it. The lake became smooth as glass. ²⁵ Then he said to his disciples, “Why can’t you trust me?” They were in absolute awe, staggered and stammering, “Who is this, anyway? He calls out to the winds and sea, and they do what he tells them!”

Luke 8: 1-25 The Message



FUEL #3 Advent

Sample Responses

DATE:..... 3rd December 2023 WHAT I READ:..... Luke 8: 1-25

What word, phrase or sentence stood out to me as I read?

But the seed in the good earth—these are the good-hearts who seize the Word and hold on no matter what, sticking with it until there's a harvest. (v15)

How does it make me feel? What does it lead me to think about?

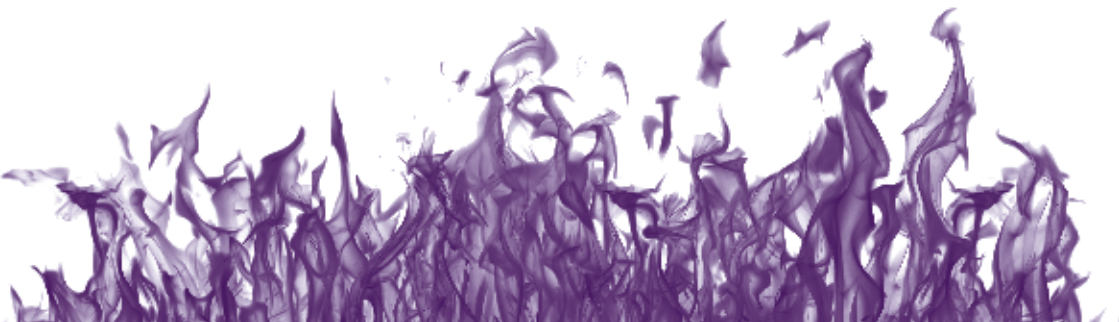
I feel excited, humbled, honoured. It makes me think about what wonderful things God might want to do and use me as part of it.

What does this Scripture say to me about who God is?

It lets me know that God is about relationships and people and that we all have a job to do - He wants me to partner with Him in His work in the world.

What might God be trying to say to me through it?

He may be asking me to be telling others more about Him - being part of that harvest and keeping hold of his Word.



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How do I want to respond to what God is saying to me?

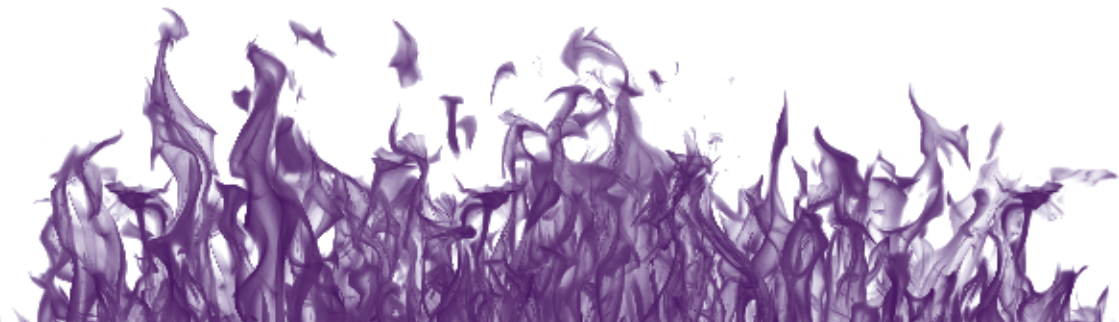
I really do want to trust Him and continue on the great adventure of walking through life with Him - seeking more opportunities to serve Him.

How will what God has said impact or change my life?

The way I think, speak and act has an impact on those around me as a witness for God. I will always see what I do as either working with or against God.

What would I most like God to do in my life today? (Ask Him)

God, please help me be courageous in telling others about you and being part of that seed planting and good soil that produces a good harvest!



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Finding your own 'Thin Place'

When the message of Jesus Christ came to the shores of Ireland through the work of Saint Patrick and others, early Irish Christians exemplified some unique qualities which still hold meaning for our world today. These Christians had a deep reverence for God's created world and treated it with much respect. They had a steadfast commitment to the Scriptures (Bible) which showed in how they lived their daily lives. Central to all of their worship was the Holy Trinity - the Father, the Son and Holy Spirit.

One of the practices of the early Irish Church that you may find helpful in your own journey with God is that of finding a 'thin place'. These Christians believed that there were places in the world around them where heaven and earth were drawn more closely together. These were special places that often helped turn the hearts and minds of those present towards God. Thin places are where God seems more near to you than anywhere else. Do you have a place like this? In which places do you sense God most strongly in your life? What activities help you 'see' God more clearly?

If you don't have a thin place start looking for one. It's a place where you and God enjoy each others' full attention. This can be anywhere: at school, church, in your bedroom, with a friend or outdoors. Ask God to reveal Himself to you and draw you closer to Him.

Throughout history, God has never failed those who have desired to know Him.

It is very important to have people in your life that bring the best out in you, that encourage you to trust more and more of yourself to God. It's also important to have someone with whom you can be unguarded and share your thoughts and feelings; including what God is doing in and through you. If you don't already know someone you can do this with, ask God to bring a sincere Christian your way who will support you in your developing relationship with Jesus. Sometimes it's easier to be more aware of God in our lives when someone else helps us see Him at work.





OUR VISION

To equip, empower and engage the Church of Ireland, young people and adult youth leaders & workers with the right skills, knowledge and understanding to facilitate progressive youth ministry.

www.ciyd.org

www.ireland.anglican.org



An Roinn Leanaí, Comhionannais,
Míchumais, IAnpháirtíochta agus Oige
Department of Children, Equality,
Disability, Integration and Youth



FUEL

Created and written by Rev. Canon Shane Tucker - CIYD is grateful to Shane, a former staff member, for his original vision & creation of this resource to get into the hands of young people across the island and beyond to encourage them in their relationship with Jesus. Thank you Shane!

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EVERYTHING IN THE SCRIPTURES
IS GOD'S WORD. ALL OF IT IS USEFUL
FOR TEACHING AND HELPING PEOPLE
AND FOR CORRECTING THEM AND
SHOWING THEM HOW TO LIVE.
THE SCRIPTURES TRAIN GOD'S
SERVANTS TO DO ALL KINDS
OF GOOD DEEDS.

2 TIMOTHY 3: 16-17

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