

Blessing of the Christmas Crib

The first nativity scene was created, in Greccio, Italy, by Saint Francis of Assisi in 1223.

Loving God,
You are the God of every nation and every people.
From the beginning of time,
you have shown us your love.
When we were in need of a Saviour,
you sent your Son, born of Mary,
to be our light and our hope.
He brings us joy and peace, justice, kindness and love.



Lord, bless all who look upon this crib.
May it remind us of Jesus' simple birth
and lift our hearts to him — God-with-us,
our Saviour and our friend,
who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

Amen.

The Year Ahead

May God make this year a happy one!

Not by shielding us from all sorrows and pain,
But by strengthening us to bear it, as it comes;

Not by making our path easy,
But by making us sturdy and able to travel any path;

Not by taking hardships from us,
But by taking fear from our heart;

Not by granting us unbroken sunshine,
But by keeping our faces bright, even in the shadows;

Not by making our life always pleasant,
But by showing us people and causes that need us most,
and by making us anxious to be there to help.

God's love, peace, hope and joy
to us all for the year ahead.

Amen.



Our Lady Immaculate Church
darndale belcamp parish

**Advent +
Christmas
2025**



As we journey through Advent and draw near to the manger, may the Lord kindle in us a fresh hope, a steady peace, and a joy that no darkness can overshadow. May Christ bless our homes, our communities, and all who gather with us this season.

**Wishing you a grace-filled Advent and a joyful Christmas.
Emmanuel, God-with-us, be your strength and your peace.**

Sun. 30th Nov.: 9.30 am & 11 am Masses - First Sunday of Advent

Sat. 6th Dec.: 3 pm Multicultural Community Carol Service

Advent and Christmas readings, poems, songs, and music from around the world and from Ireland, with traditions shared.

Mon. 8th Dec.: 10 am Feast of the Immaculate Conception Mass

Come celebrate our parish patronal feast day – Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception. We will be joined by the Junior and the Senior schools.

Sun. 7th Dec.: 9.30 am & 11 am Masses - Second Sunday of Advent

Sun. 14th Dec.: 9.30 am & 11 am Masses - Third Sunday of Advent
With celebration of Advent Reconciliation

At all Masses today we will have the opportunity to prepare for the celebration of Christ's birth through a communal celebration of reconciliation, reflecting on the Gospel of the day. All are welcome!

Wed. 17th Dec.: 12 noon Carol Concert led by the Sacramental Groups

Children preparing for First Holy Communion and Confirmation, joined by the catechists and staff, lead a Carol Concert. Special guests are the children and staff from OLI Junior School.

Wed. 17th Dec.: 7.30 pm Community Advent Reconciliation Service

A Parish Cluster celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation through prayer, song, readings and reflections. Individual Confession will be available for those who wish to avail of the opportunity. We welcome folks from our sister parishes of Bonnybrook and Priorswood.

Fri. 19th Dec.: 11 am Carol Service led by the Senior School

Children and staff from the OLI Senior School guide us through the story of Christmas with songs and readings. All are welcome!

Sun. 21st Dec.: 9.30 am & 11 am Masses - Fourth Sunday of Advent



Wed. 24th Dec.: 7 pm Night Mass of Christmas

Christmas Eve "Unto us a Child is born" - Begin with **CAROLS** at 6.30 pm followed by the Celebration of the NIGHT MASS OF CHRISTMAS. All are welcome!

Thu. 25th Dec.: 9.30am & 11am Christmas Masses

Christmas Day "God-with-us" Come celebrate the reason for Christmas.

Blessing of the Advent Wreath

The Advent Wreath has evergreen leaves, reminding us that God is always with us. It is shaped like a circle, with no beginning or end, just like God's love for us is always there for us, surrounding us every day.



Lord our God,
we praise you for your Son, Jesus Christ:
He is Emmanuel, the hope of the peoples,
He is the Wisdom that teaches and guides us,
He is the saviour of every nation.
Lord God, let your blessing come upon us
as we light the candles of this wreath.
May the wreath and its light
be a sign of Christ's promise to bring us salvation.
May He come quickly and not delay.
We ask this through Christ our Lord,
Amen.

Blessing of a Christmas Tree

The modern Christmas tree originated in Germany, where families set up a "paradise tree" in their homes on December 24, the religious feast day of Adam and Eve.

Let us ask God to send his blessing upon us
and upon this sign of our faith in the Lord.

Lord, give light to our hearts.

Lord God, let your blessing come upon us
as we illumine this tree.
May the light and cheer it gives
be a sign of the joy that fills our hearts.
May all who delight in this tree
come to the knowledge and joy of salvation.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen

