

Dear Friends

This Sunday will be a Eucharist Service at 10.30, led by the Rev'd Katharine Rumens. This is Katharine's last Sunday with us, and we thank her for enthusiastic help during the last month.

30 November is St Andrew's Day. St Andrew was the brother of Simon Peter, both fishermen, and the first to be called as disciples. He is patron saint in a number of countries, including Scotland, Cyprus, Ukraine and Russia. The Scottish saltire is a "St Andrew's cross", as the apostle was crucified on an X-shaped cross.



*The statue of St Andrew by Francois Duquesnoy*

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## Christmas Fair 2 December

Join us **this Saturday** to browse the wonderful stands.

**Bring your friends!** Tell them you will meet them at the fair to look around together. The more the merrier!

Remember to **eat a yummy lunch or a snack upstairs** at the All Saints' Country Kitchen!

Let's all make this our most fun and most successful Christmas Fair ever.



DIOCESE  
IN EUROPE

ALL SAINTS' ANGLICAN CHURCH MILAN

Via Solferino 17, 20121, Milano

[www.allsaints.it](http://www.allsaints.it)

3 DECEMBER 2023

## Advent and the Church New Year begin on 3 December

Advent marks the beginning of the church year, year "B", which focuses on the Gospel according to St Mark, which you may like to read. This should only take a couple of hours. It is surprising how few Christians are in the habit of reading whole books of the Bible; we are content to accept the piecemeal passages that are read out in church on a Sunday. Mark's gospel is a good place to begin, both because it is the first of four gospels to have been written, and because it is short and surprisingly racy.

Advent is a season of expectation and preparation as the Church prepares to celebrate the coming of Christ. Among the several themes for this time of the year are: repentance, anticipation of the Incarnation, anticipation of the Second Coming, and the movement from darkness to light. Sometimes the four candles we light each Sunday are said to represent 1) hope, 2) peace, 3) love, and 4) joy. Another way of theming this season is to devote the four Sundays of Advent to 1) the Patriarchs 2) the Prophets, 3) John the Baptist, 4) Virgin Mary.

Church decorations are simple and sparse, and purple is the traditional colour used.

Advent is recognised in different ways by different church denominations. Orthodox and Catholic Churches generally consider this period a fast, and the dates of commencement and cessation vary. Traditions stem from the *Quadragesima Sancti Martini*, or St Martin's Lent, a 40 day fast starting on 11 November - St Martin's Day. In the Anglican Church Advent starts at sunset on 2 December and ends at sunset on 24 December, when Christmas begins.

## Christmas raffle

Tickets are €2 and come in books of 10. A long list of prizes is on the Church noticeboard and include meals out, hampers, wellbeing prizes, champagne and many delicacies.

You can buy tickets in Church for cash, through [this givealittle link](#), or by transfer (bonifico) to the church account with reference (causale) "Fundraising" using [this IBAN](#).

## Links to our regular activities

Sunday is first Sunday of the month pizza lunch. Sign up at the back of the Church.

**Sunday evening prayer** on Zoom is [here](#). **Morning prayer** is at 9.00 Monday to Friday - the link is [here](#).

Bible study in person takes place on Thursdays at 13.00 in the Church rooms. Bible study by Zoom is held on Tuesday at 6pm using the link found [here](#).

The **Jolly Club** is held on Tuesday beginning at 12.30 in the church's upstairs parish room.

For pastoral care during the coming week, please telephone (0039) 345 5835978 (Church mobile), (0039) 026 552258 (Priest's apartment), or email [allsaintsmilanpriest@gmail.com](mailto:allsaintsmilanpriest@gmail.com)