



Saint Francis Catholic Community in Cuenca

Fourth Sunday of Advent-A, December 21 2025

In Service to the English-speaking Catholic Community and Visitors of Cuenca

**WELCOME TO OUR
ENGLISH-SPEAKING
CATHOLIC FAMILY IN
CUENCA!**

OUR PASTORS:

Padre Joffre Astudillo,
Pastor of San Francisco



Father Kevin Codd,
Presider of the English-
Speaking Catholics of
Cuenca. Contact Father
Kevin at:
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REGULAR EVENTS:

Mass in English:

Sunday: 10:00 am
Followed by Coffee & Not Donuts
Iglesia San Francisco
Padre Aguirre y Pdte. Cordova
(Plaza San Francisco)

Weekday Mass: Wednesdays, 11:00 am,
Father Kevin's home: Edificio Alqamari,
Los Capulíes y Los Molles. Apt. 502.

Reconciliation and Anointing of the Sick: By appointment. Please contact
Father Kevin to schedule.

We're on Social Media

- ❖ Our WEBSITE:
CuencaCatholic.org
- ❖ You can find us on FACEBOOK
at [CUENCA ENGLISH MASS](https://www.facebook.com/CuencaEnglishMass)
- ❖ Audio of Father Kevin's recent
homilies can be found at:
kacodd.podbean.com

Christmas Day Mass

Our Christmas Mass in English will
be celebrated on Christmas
morning, Thursday, December 25, at
10:00 am, Iglesia de San Francisco.

*(There will be no Wednesday Mass at
11:00 am on Dec 24th)*



**Our warmest prayers for a blessed Feast to all
of you wherever you might find yourselves on
Christmas Day!**

New Year's Day: Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

As most of you know, the first day of the new year is dedicated to
Mary, Mother of God. We will celebrate this Solemnity with Mass
in English on **January 1st, at 10:00 am** in the **Iglesia de San
Francisco**. All are welcome!

Continuing This Sunday: Offering Procession & Communion under Both Species

Continuing this Sunday, the Second Sunday of Advent, we are
offer two new liturgical practices to better celebrate the
Eucharist in our church community.

- The bread and wine to be used in the Eucharist are placed
on a small table in the center aisle of the church. Once we
have finished the Intercessions, we need two persons to
bring the bread and wine forward and offer them to
Father on behalf of all of us present.
- We are making available the Blood of Christ to you and
doing so as it is commonly done in the U.S., Canada, and
other countries: directly from the chalice.



NEXT SUNDAY: Little Brown Envelopes!

Next Sunday, December 28th, is the last of the
month and so time once again to take up our *Little
Brown Envelope* collection in support of our
friends at the *Fundación de Santa Maria de la
Esperanza* in Chordeleg and Gualaceo. As always,
please be as generous as your means allow!

A Few Words from Father Kevin

Dear Friends,

In just a few days more, we shall once again be celebrating the immensely important feast of Christmas, the Nativity of our Lord. There are two approaches to the day. One is focused on the festive ephemera of the “season”: hanging twinkly lights, arranging decorations in green and red, getting all the gifts bought and wrapped. It is all about the *festivity* and can easily become emptyfied of the spiritual foundation of the Christmas celebration.

The other approach is to take “the reason for the season” to heart and make both the season of Advent and that of Christmas as opportunities to prepare our spirits and our daily lives to conform ever more closely to the Way of the Gospel that Jesus proclaimed and lived. Through venerable traditions like the Advent Wreath, the Bethlehem Crib, singing together our favored hymns we do that preparation. Even more, we prepare by prayerfully celebrating *together* in faith, hope, and love, both at the tables of our homes with great feasts laid upon them and at the Tables of the Church, that of the Word and that of the Eucharist where we are nourished by the Good News of God’s coming to us and invited to share the feast of his Body and Blood.

Both approaches have their place in our lives, but the first without the second leaves us on December 26th empty and exhausted, while both together charge us for a new year of life and love with Christ. So in these late Advent days, let us truly prepare the way of the Lord!

A final note: All of us who were able to enjoy the very special Christmas gathering at the home of William and Tae Suk Harper in Dug Dug, Paute on Monday can feel nothing but immense gratitude for the warm welcome, grand hospitality and delicious food that were extended to us. The single word inscribed in the lawn just below the Harper home is a hallmark of what we shared on Monday: **AMOR**.

So, thank you to William and Tae Suk, for the wonderful time together in your home! And thank you to all who brought food and drink to share! And thank you, all of you, for making our little Catholic Expat community in Cuenca such a lovely family to be part of!

The Advent “O Antiphon” for December 21st:

*O Radiant Dawn,
Splendor of Eternal Light,
Sun of Justice:
Come and shine on those who dwell in darkness
and the shadow of death!*

Liturgy Tid-Bit: Advent’s “O Antiphons”

Most of us are very familiar with the Advent hymn, *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*; Advent would hardly be Advent without this anthem of the season! Fewer of us know that the hymn is actually a compendium of what have become known as the **O Antiphons**, which are part of the liturgy of the Church during the final seven days of the Advent season. An *antiphon* is a single sentence that introduces and concludes a psalm or canticle in the Church’s *Liturgy of the Hours*, (the daily prayers recited or chanted at several points in the day made up of several Psalms, scripture readings, and intercessions).

The **O Antiphons** are those that introduce and end the Canticle of Mary (the *Magnificat*) at Evening Prayer in the seven days before Christmas Eve. Each one pleads for the Savior to come and uses a different title for the Lord taken from the Old Testament prophets, particularly Isaiah. They can be chanted in a variety of tones and styles, often quite elaborate and always evocative of the mystery of the Incarnation that they herald. These titles are: **O Sapientia** (O Wisdom), **O Adonai** (O Ruler), **O Radix** (O Root of Jesse), **O Clavis** (O Key of David), **O Oriens** (O Radiant Dawn), **O Rex Gentium** (O King of the Nations), **O Emmanuel** (O God with us). If you take the first letter of each Latin name and reverse the order — that is, begin with E from Emmanuel, then Rex Gentium and so on you will spell the word **EROCRAS**, which in Latin means “I shall come tomorrow.”

Let Us Pray!

- FOR LINDA SORRENTO’S FRIENDS, **CINDY** AND HER BROTHER, **DON**, BOTH WITH CONGENITAL HEART CONDITIONS AND FOR A DONOR OF A HEART FOR DON.
- FOR THE BROTHER OF DON FORONDA, **ARNOLD FORONDA**, WHO IS PREPARING FOR MITRAL VALVE SURGERY IN ROME.
- AND FOR ANOTHER GOOD FRIEND OF FATHER KEVIN, REV. **SCOTT MCCOLL**, WHO HAS JUST BEEN DIAGNOSED WITH ACUTE LEUKEMIA.
- FOR SUE HAMPTON’S YOUNG GREAT-NIECE, **PENNY**, WHO IS FACING ANOTHER VERY SERIOUS SURGERY SOON.
- FOR A DEAR FRIEND OF OMAR FIGUEROA, **TERRI HAIR**, WHO PASSED AWAY LAST WEEK. MAY SHE REST IN PEACE.
- FOR THOSE WHO ARE OR WILL BE SOON TRAVELLING: **CHRYSTAL HOLLEY, ELFREIDE DECLUE, OMAR FIGUEROA, SUE AND TAYLOR HAMPTON, AND JEFF TALAGA**.