



September 21, 2021

By the time we launch our 18th Festival of Sacred & Religious Music on the First Sunday of Advent 2021 we would have lived through 22 months of the Pandemic - months of uncertainty, depression, job losses, online studies, sickness, bereavement. The great news is that we are still alive!

We are aware that choirs have not been able to meet due to lockdown restrictions. However, we believe that human contact can still be fostered. We are oceans and continents apart, yet the pandemic has helped us find ways and means in which we can stay connected and feel united!

John 3:19-21 Christ is “the Light that came into the world” to dispel the darkness of sin and to radiate the truth and love of God. We wish to celebrate this thought with all the members of the FIPC.

ONLINE FESTIVAL (*conducted on Zoom & relayed on you tube*)

This year as part of our online festival, we have decided to celebrate the 4 Sundays in Advent with music and the lighting of the Advent candles. We propose to dwell on the theme of each week in advent. The progressive lighting of the candles during Advent shall express our:

- Expectation and **Hope** for the coming of Our Lord (Prophet’s Candle)
- Longing to experience His presence now; our Journey of **Faith**. (Bethlehem Candle)
- **Joyful anticipation** of the Second Coming of our Lord. (Shepherd’s Candle)
- **Peaceful** Preparation for His coming, now and at end times. (Angel’s Candle)

This will carry forward the theme we dwelt on last December – ‘**Be Love**’.

We look forward to your participation in any way possible.

PRE – Festival

Musically:

- a) Through your individual choral contributions (pre-recorded). The pieces sung may have any advent theme. We will feature your performance on any one of the Sundays.
You may also perform a Christmas carol preferably one from your country.
- b) Some of your choir members may choose to have their voices recorded and included in the Theme song. We will share this music with you, as soon as possible as also the details for those interested.

Through interaction between participants:

Pre-fixed Zoom meetings open to any members of choirs, in order to share thoughts on the practical meaning of the themes. We shall then edit these and feature some part on each Advent Sunday presentation.

On the 4 Sundays (Festival)

Advent Candle lighting Ceremony: Each Federation can organize the lighting of an Advent candle on each Sunday in Advent at different churches/venues. You may choose to have one Advent Wreath with the candles circulated and lit by different choirs of your Federation.

We will organise a zoom meeting with us for The Lighting of the Advent candles so that this may be viewed online by all. We propose to encourage many Federations lighting the candle at the same time (*time convenient to all*) and viewable by all.

The lighting of the candle will be accompanied by a prayer (*organised and conducted by us*)

Advent Actions:

- a) We would like to propose an Action Calendar that can be shared with all singers, to be executed at the discretion of each individual. These mini-actions could then be shared on the Pueri Cantores Facebook page if so desired. (*upto each individual*)
- b) A choir as a whole may decide to carry out their own Advent actions/events.

Christmas Day

We propose the relay of Christmas Carols from around the world according to your contributions.

Looking forward to your collaboration and participation.

Joseph Cordo
President
Pueri Cantores India Federation

