

THOUGHT OF THE DAY
FOR EVERY DAY OF ADVENT
2022

ADVENT

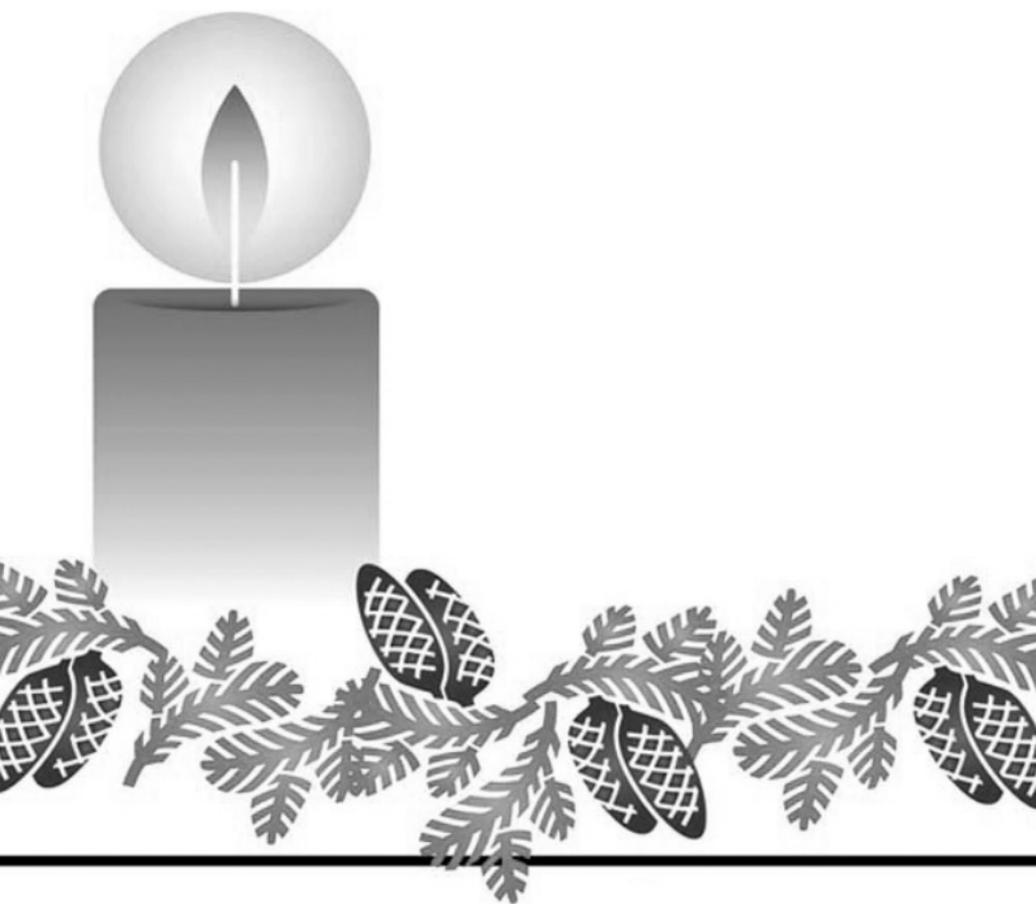
I am delighted to introduce you to this little reflection booklet for Advent 2022.

Our Diocesan Faith Development Group intend this booklet to be a support to people in journeying through Advent and in preparing to celebrate the arrival of our Lord at Christmas.

Each day of this journey is marked by a separate page which will help you to reflect on the scripture for that day and to take a few moments in prayer.

We hope you enjoy this booklet and find in it a support for your reflection and prayer.

Fr Dermot Ryan
Ossory Adult Faith Development



FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

First Sunday of Advent 27 November 2022

Introduction

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

Lighting of Candle (Optional)

May the light of Christ rising in glory dispel the darkness of our lives and fill us with the light of peace

Thanksgiving for this day

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

A Word from St Paul to the Romans (13:11-14)

You know 'the time' has come: you must wake up now: our salvation is even nearer than it was when we were converted. The night is almost over, it will be daylight soon

This Advent Day

As we begin Advent 2019 think of those who right now are experiencing the 'night' of trouble or difficulty, we think also of the great light that emerges from the Amazon Synod for the people in darkness there. Pray that this night will pass, and that it will be daylight soon for all. Pray, but also be for others a source of light in practical ways.

Intercessions

Bring us to life, Lord: may we be the servants found watching when the Master returns.

R: Send us your loving kindness. Send your Son to those who wait in hope: let no one search for you in vain.

R: Send us your loving kindness. Bless us as we work: give us faith until the end, when your Son will come in glory.

R: Send us your loving kindness. Father, we praise you for the presence of the Spirit in our lives, making men and women bearers of your message and your purpose.

R: Send us your loving kindness.

Our Father....

Concluding Prayer

Father in heaven our hearts desire the warmth of your love and our minds are searching for the light of your Word. Increase our longing for Christ our Saviour and give us the strength to grow in love, that the dawn of his coming may find us rejoicing in his presence and welcoming the light of his truth.

Blessing

May the Lord bless us and keep us this day and forever. Amen

Prayer to Mary the Mother of God

Mother of Jesus pray for us and all our families and friends that we may know the love of your Son this day. Amen

Monday 28 November 2022

Introduction

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen

Lighting of Candle (Optional)

May the light of Christ rising in glory dispel the darkness of our lives and fill us with the light of peace

Thanksgiving for this day

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.
Amen.

A Word from St Matthew's Gospel

When Jesus went into Capernaum a centurion came up and pleaded with him. 'Sir,' he said 'my servant is lying at home paralysed, and in great pain.' 'I will come myself and cure him' said Jesus. The centurion replied, 'Sir, I am not worthy to have you under my roof; just give the word and my servant will be cured.

This Advent Day

Think of those who come to Jesus in their needs. Pray that they will be assured of his presence. Give a word of assurance, compassion or hope today even over the phone to someone alone or in need of support. It will make a difference.

Intercessions

Inexhaustible light, dawning to remove the shadows that surround us, wake our faith from its slumber.

R: Come, Lord Jesus.

Let us walk safely all the day happy in the brightness of your presence. R: Come, Lord Jesus.

Teach us to serve you perfectly so that all people may see it, and know.

R: Come, Lord Jesus.

Come to create a new Earth for us where justice and peace may reign. R: Come, Lord Jesus.

Our Father....

Concluding Prayer

Give us the grace, Lord, to be ever on the watch for Christ your Son. When he comes and knocks at our door, let him find us alert in prayer, joyfully proclaiming his glory. We make our prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen

Blessing

May the Lord bless us and keep us this day and forever. Amen

Prayer to Mary the Mother of God

Mother of Jesus pray for us and all our families and friends that we may know the love of your Son this day. Amen

Tuesday 29 November 2022

Introduction

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen

Lighting of Candle (Optional)

May the light of Christ rising in glory dispel the darkness of our lives and fill us with the light of peace

Thanksgiving for this day

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

A Word from St Luke's Gospel

Everything has been entrusted to me by my Father; and no one knows who the Son is except the Father, and who the Father is except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

This Advent Day

Try and get to know God better, by spending a little extra time in prayer or reflection. Remember that God knows you intimately. He has created you! He has created all the people that you will meet today. The creative work of God can be seen in each person.

Prayers and Intercessions

God, in you we move, we live, we are: come to show us that we are your people.

R: Come, Lord, and save us.

You are close to each one of us: come swiftly and show yourself to all who seek you.

R: Come, Lord, and save us. Father of the poor, consoler of the afflicted, give freedom to captives and joy to those who mourn.

R: Come, Lord, and save us.

You hate death and love life: give freedom from eternal death to all who have died, and to us also.

R: Come, Lord, and save us.

Our Father....

Concluding Prayer

Lord God, you won so many peoples to yourself by the preaching of Saint Francis Xavier. Give us the same zeal that he had for the faith, and let your Church rejoice and see the virtue and number of her children increase throughout the world. Amen.

Blessing

May the Lord bless us and keep us this day and forever. Amen

Praying with Mary the Mother of God

Mother of Jesus pray with us for all our families and friends that we may know the love of your Son this day. Amen

Wednesday 30 November 2022

Today we also keep the feast of St Andrew

Introduction

I welcome this new day and begin this prayer in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

Lighting of Candle (Optional)

May the light of Christ fill my heart and the heart of each person with hope, joy, love and peace.

Thanksgiving for this day

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

A Word from St Paul to the Romans

If your lips confess that Jesus is Lord, and if you believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, then you will be saved.

This Advent Day

As we work together in Ossory in our new pastoral areas – what are the banquets we can prepare together. Shared gifts... rich foods.

Prayers and Intercessions

Father, when your Son rose from the dead, you showed him first to the apostles; let us make him known, near and far.

– Lord, remember your Church. You sent your Son into the world to proclaim the good news to the poor; grant that we may bring his gospel into the darkness of men's

lives.

– Lord, remember your Church. You sent your Son to plant in men's hearts the seed of imperishable life; may we labour to sow his word and reap a harvest of joy.

– Lord, remember your Church. You sent your Son to reconcile the world with yourself by the shedding of his blood; let us become his fellow workers in restoring men to your friendship.

– Lord, remember your Church. You placed your Son at your own right hand in heaven; receive the dead into the happiness of your kingdom.

– Lord, remember your Church.

Our Father....

Concluding Prayer

Lord God, we humbly pray that the saints may always plead for us in your presence. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Blessing

May the Lord bless us and keep us this day and forever. Amen

Praying with Mary the Mother of God

Mother of Jesus pray with us for us and all our families and friends that we may know the love of your Son this day. Amen

Thursday 1 December 2022

Introduction

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen

Lighting of Candle (Optional)

May the light of Christ rising in glory dispel the darkness of our lives and fill us with the light of peace

Thanksgiving for this day

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

A Word from the Prophet Isaiah

'Trust in the Lord for ever, for the Lord is the everlasting Rock'

This Advent Day

Continue to deepen your relationship with the Lord so that your trust in him will grow. As the Lord is a rock for you on which to build your life, be a rock of strength for a family member friend or neighbour who needs support right now

Prayers and Intercessions

Lord Jesus Christ, you called us to your kingdom of light: make us live our lives rightly, pleasing God in all things.

R: Be close to us, Lord.

You stand among us, unrecognised by the world: show

your face to all people.

R: Be close to us, Lord.

You are closer to us than we are to ourselves: keep strong in our hearts the trusting hope of salvation.

R: Be close to us, Lord.

You are the spring from which holiness flows: let us be holy and unstained on the day when you come again.

R: Be close to us, Lord.

Our Father....

Concluding Prayer

Show forth your power, O Lord, and come.

Come in your great strength and help us.

Be merciful and forgiving, and hasten the salvation which only our sins delay.

We make our prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen

Blessing

May the Lord bless us and keep us this day and forever. Amen

Praying with Mary the Mother of God

Mother of Jesus pray with us for all our families and friends that we may know the love of your Son this day. Amen

Friday 2 December 2022

Introduction

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen

Lighting of Candle (Optional)

May the light of Christ rising in glory dispel the darkness of our lives and fill us with the light of peace.

Thanksgiving for this day

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.
Amen.

A Word from the Prophet Isaiah

But the lowly will rejoice in Yahweh even more and the poorest exult in the Holy One of Israel

This Advent Day

John O' Donohue reminds us 'when there is love in your life share it spiritually with those who are pushed to the very edge of life. The more love you give away, the more love you will have' Today why not do something positive for someone.. be the difference.

Prayers and Intercessions

Let us learn, Lord, to support each other, just as Christ, by supporting us, gave honour to God.

R: Glory to your name, O Lord. Let our belief in you fill us with joy and peace so that we may walk in the

hope and the strength of the Holy Spirit.

R: Glory to your name, O Lord. Give help to all, Lord of infinite mercy: when people seek you without knowing it, let them find you.

R: Glory to your name, O Lord. You call your chosen people and set them apart: raise us sinners up, to be crowned with eternal happiness.

R: Glory to your name, O Lord.

Our Father....

Concluding Prayer

Lord help us to find out more about you and about the faith we profess, so that we may better understand the great love you have for us. May we open our hearts to the potential goodness that lies within each person and refrain from destructive criticism, born of envy or jealousy . Help us to grow in faith and humility and to trust in your forgiveness. We make our prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen

Blessing

May the Lord bless us and keep us this day and forever. Amen

Praying with Mary the Mother of God

Mother of Jesus pray with us for all our families and friends that we may know the love of your Son this day.
Amen

Saturday 3 December 2022

Today we also keep the feast of St Francis Xavier

Introduction

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

Lighting of Candle (Optional)

May the light of Christ rising in glory dispel the darkness of our lives and fill us with the light of peace

Thanksgiving for this day

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

A Word from St Matthew's Gospel

And when he saw the crowds he felt sorry for them because they were harassed and dejected, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, 'The harvest is rich but the labourers are few, so ask the Lord of the harvest to send labourers to his harvest.

This Advent Day

To be a Shepherd is to lead by working alongside every other member of the community in gathering the rich harvest of the Lord. Today pray for all leaders of the Church, men and women, that they will invest their time and energy solely in the task of proclaiming the gospel in their parishes and diocese.

Prayers and Intercessions

Great Shepherd of the flock of God, come to all people and unite us all in your flock.

R: Be good to us, Lord of good will.

Give help, Lord, to the shepherds of your wandering people: let them look after your flock with care until you come.

R: Be good to us, Lord of good will. Choose from among us preachers of your word: let them proclaim your good news over all the earth.

R: Be good to us, Lord of good will. Take pity on those for whom the journey is too much: let them find a friend who will give them support. R: Be good to us, Lord of good will.

Let your glory shine in your pastures in heaven for those who heard your voice in this life.

R: Be good to us, Lord of good will.

Our Father....

Concluding Prayer

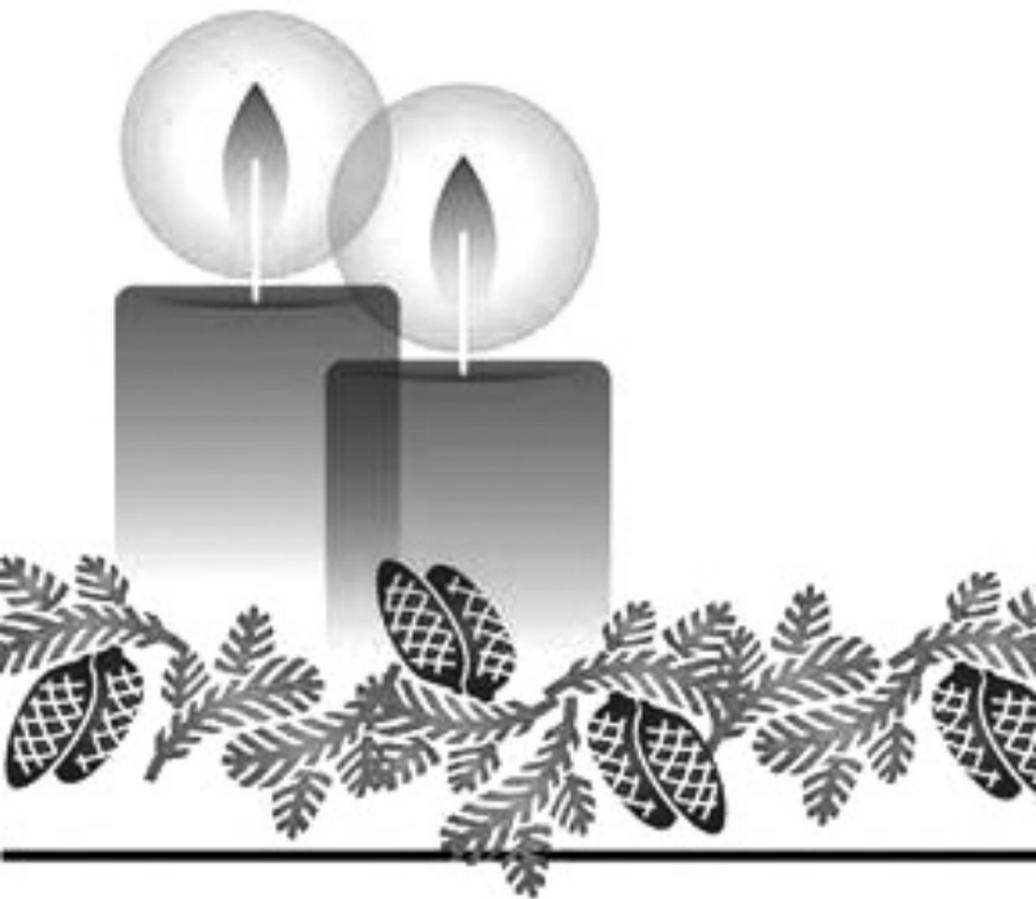
Lord God, you won so many peoples to yourself by the preaching of Saint Ambrose Bishop.

Blessing

Give us the same zeal that he had for the faith, and let your Church rejoice and see the virtue and number of her children increase throughout the world. Amen.

Praying with Mary the Mother of God

Mother of Jesus pray with us for all our families and friends that we may know the love of your Son this day. Amen



SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Second Sunday of Advent 4 December 2022

Introduction

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

Lighting of Candle (Optional)

May the light of Christ rising in glory dispel the darkness of our lives and fill us with the light of hope

Thanksgiving for this day

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

A Word from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

Everything that was written long ago in the scriptures was meant to teach us something about hope from the examples scripture gives of how people who did not give up were helped by God.

This Advent Day

Every time you read and reflect on the Word of God you are being filled with hope and become a sign of hope for others. That word speaks to us even today - December 2019. If you have hope give thanks. If you need hope you will find it in Christ Jesus. Stay with him, do not ever give up, he is with you on your journey. Many others are too. Pray to be aware of this all the more

Prayers and Intercessions

Christ and Lord, you took on flesh to teach the world the glory of your

divinity: by your coming, bring us life.

R: Come, Lord Jesus.

You took on our weaknesses: grant us your mercy and compassion.

R: Come, Lord Jesus.

The first time you came in humbleness and redeemed the world from sin: at your second coming, judge us and find us innocent.

R: Come, Lord Jesus.

You live and rule over all things: in your goodness, bring us to receive our eternal inheritance.

R: Come, Lord Jesus.

You sit at the right hand of the Father: shine on the souls of the departed and bring them happiness.

R: Come, Lord Jesus.

Our Father....

Concluding Prayer

Almighty and merciful God, let neither our daily work nor the cares of this life prevent us from hastening to meet your Son.

Enlighten us with your wisdom and lead us into his company.

We make our prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen

Blessing

May the Lord bless us and keep us this day and forever. Amen

Praying with Mary the Mother of God

Mother of Jesus pray with us in giving thanks to God who raises us up and remembers his mercy. Amen.

Monday 5 December 2022

Introduction

I welcome this new day and begin this prayer in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

Lighting of Candle (Optional)

May the light of Christ fill my heart and the heart of each person with hope, joy, love and peace

Thanksgiving for this day

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

A Word from St Luke's Gospel

Seeing their faith he said, 'My friend, your sins are forgiven'.

This Advent Day

Many people in our communities and our world are crippled by fear. Fear prevents us from reaching our full potential. This Advent day assure a family member, neighbour or friend of your support especially if they are going through a difficult time right now.

Prayers and Intercessions

The Lord who is to come is the Judge of the living and the dead.

– Christ, have mercy.

We thank you for the mercy you have shown us: let your compassion support us in our weakness.

– Christ, have mercy.

You humbled yourself to wash away

our guilt: forgive us the times when we have been indifferent to your pardon.

– Christ, have mercy.

Grant us also a spirit of understanding to forgive as we ourselves are forgiven.

– Christ, have mercy.

If you should mark the guilt of those who have died, Lord, who would survive?

– Christ, have mercy..

Our Father....

Concluding Prayer

Lord God, your gift of forgiveness gives us endless fresh starts. May we embrace the opportunities you place before us, and may we in our turn forgive and be gentle with those we encounter. We make our prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Blessing

May the Lord bless us and keep us this day and forever. Amen

Praying with Mary the Mother of God

Mother of Jesus pray with us in giving thanks to God who raises us up and remembers his mercy for all people. Amen.

Tuesday 6 December 2022

Introduction

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen

Lighting of Candle (Optional)

May the light of Christ rising in glory dispel the darkness of our lives and fill us with the light of hope

Thanksgiving for this day

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

A Word from St Matthew's Gospel

A voice cries, 'Prepare in the wilderness a way for the Lord. Make a straight highway for our God across the desert. Let every valley be filled in, every mountain and hill be laid low.

This Advent Day

This is a time of opportunity. Perhaps there is something to be put right with a family member, neighbour, friend, valleys of hurt to be filled in mountains of bitterness to be laid low. Whatever it is - now is the time.

Prayers and Intercessions

May the light of your presence dispel our shadows and make us worthy to receive your gifts.

R: Come, Lord Jesus.

Save us, Lord our God, so we can proclaim your holy name today.

R: Come, Lord Jesus.

Ignite our hearts so that they burn with thirst for you and hurry eagerly to be joined with you.

R: Come, Lord Jesus.

You took on our weakness: give help to the sick and those who are dying today.

R: Come, Lord Jesus.

Our Father....

Concluding Prayer

Lord God,
all the ends of the earth have seen your salvation.

Give us the grace to await with joy the glorious day of our Saviour's birth.

We make our prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen

Blessing

May the Lord bless us and keep us this day and forever. Amen

Praying with Mary the Mother of God

Mother of Jesus pray with us in giving thanks to God who raises us up and remembers his mercy for all people.

Amen.

Wednesday 7 December 2022

Today we also keep the feast of St Ambrose

Introduction

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen

Lighting of Candle (Optional)

May the light of Christ rising in glory dispel the darkness of our lives and fill us with the light of hope

Thanksgiving for this day

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.
Amen.

A Word from the Prophet Isaiah

The Lord is an everlasting God... his understanding is beyond fathoming.

He gives strength to the wearied, he strengthens the powerless.

Young men may grow tired and weary, youths may stumble, but those who hope in the Lord renew their strength

This Advent Day

This earthly journey can be a rollercoaster. We can experience great joy and also great pain. Pray for all young people that they may have strength and hope to become who they are called to be. Give a word of encouragement to any young person whom you meet today.

Prayers and Intercessions

Leaving the Father's side, you came to clothe yourself in human form free us from the weakness of our fallen nature.

R: Come, Lord Jesus.

When you come, your saints will reflect your glory:

as you come to us now, let us reflect your compassion.

R: Come, Lord Jesus.

We rejoice in your glory, Christ our Lord: bring us your salvation.

R: Come, Lord Jesus.

By faith you have led us into the light: let our good works be truly pleasing to you.

R: Come, Lord Jesus.

Our Father....

Concluding Prayer

Lord God, you are with us in the highs and lows of life. Help us to be aware of your presence in people, in our work and in our world today. We make our prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen

Blessing

May the Lord bless us and keep us this day and forever. Amen

Praying with Mary the Mother of God

Mother of Jesus pray with us in giving thanks to God who raises us up and remembers his mercy for all people. Amen

Thursday 8 December 2022

Today we keep the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception

Introduction

I welcome this new day and begin this prayer in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

Lighting of Candle (Optional)

May the light of Christ fill my heart and the heart of each person with hope, joy, love and peace

Thanksgiving for this day

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

A Word from St Luke's Gospel

The angel said 'Mary, do not be afraid; you have won God's favour. Listen! You are to conceive and bear a son, and you must name him Jesus.

This Advent Day

Many people in our communities and our world are crippled by fear. Fear prevents us from reaching our full potential. This Advent day assure a family member, neighbour or friend of your support especially if they are going through a difficult time right now.

Prayers and Intercessions

The Lord who is to come is the Judge of the living and the dead.

– Christ, have mercy.

We thank you for the mercy you have shown us: let your compassion

support us in our weakness.

– Christ, have mercy.

You humbled yourself to wash away our guilt: forgive us the times when we have been indifferent to your pardon.

– Christ, have mercy.

Grant us also a spirit of understanding to forgive as we ourselves are forgiven.

– Christ, have mercy.

If you should mark the guilt of those who have died, Lord, who would survive?

– Christ, have mercy..

Our Father....

Concluding Prayer

We rejoice in the privilege of our Lady's Immaculate Conception, which preserved her from the stain of sin by the power of Christ's redeeming death, and prepared her to be the Mother of God. Grant that through her prayers we ourselves may come to you, cleansed from all sin. We make our prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen

Blessing

May the Lord bless us and keep us this day and forever. Amen

Praying with Mary the Mother of God

Mother of Jesus pray with us in giving thanks to God who raises us up and remembers his mercy for all people. Amen.

Friday 9 December 2022

Introduction

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen

Lighting of Candle (Optional)

May the light of Christ rising in glory dispel the darkness of our lives and fill us with the light of hope

Thanksgiving for this day

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.
Amen.

A Word from the Prophet Isaiah

Thus says the Lord, your redeemer, the Holy One of Israel: I, the Lord, your God, teach you what is good for you, I lead you in the way that you must go.

This Advent Day

The Lord teaches us and leads us. Pray this day that your heart will be open to learn and your feet ready to walk the road to hope and new life. Then each day you will learn and walk a little more. When you are on this road then you too can teach and lead others.

Prayers and Intercessions

The prophets of old foretold your birth in the flesh: strengthen the virtues that are born within us.

R: Come, Lord Jesus.

Give us this gift: that, proclaiming your good news, we may attain salvation in you.

R: Come, Lord Jesus.

You came to heal the contrite of heart: we are feeble, give us strength.

R: Come, Lord Jesus.

You deigned to come to reconcile the world to yourself: when you come again in judgement, free us from pain and punishment.

R: Come, Lord Jesus.

Our Father....

Concluding Prayer

Lord, keep us ever alert and watchful as we, in the company of St Lucy, await the coming of your Son, so that, faithful to his teaching, we may hasten to meet our Saviour with lamps alight. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Blessing

May the Lord bless us and keep us this day and forever. Amen

Praying with Mary the Mother of God

Mother of Jesus pray with us in giving thanks to God who raises us up and remembers his mercy for all people.
Amen.

Saturday 10 December 2022

Introduction

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen

Lighting of Candle (Optional)

May the light of Christ rising in glory dispel the darkness of our lives and fill us with the light of hope

Thanksgiving for this day

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.
Amen.

A Word from the book of Ecclesiasticus

Happy shall they be who see you, and those who have fallen asleep in love.

This Advent Day

Many have lost loved ones during the past year. Pray for all who have died and all who are bereaved. Let a grieving person know that you are with them through some act of solidarity today, perhaps a visit or phonecall, a card or letter.

Prayers and Intercessions

Before the world began, you were. Come to us in this world, and save us.

R: Come, Lord; do not delay.
You created the world and all who live in it. Come to redeem the work

of your hands.

R: Come, Lord; do not delay.
You did not shun our mortal nature. Come and save us from the power of death.

R: Come, Lord; do not delay.
You came so that we could have life overflowing. Come and give us your gift of eternal life.

R: Come, Lord; do not delay.
You chose to unite all men in your kingdom. Come, bring together all who await the sight of your face.
R: Come, Lord; do not delay.

Our Father....

Concluding Prayer

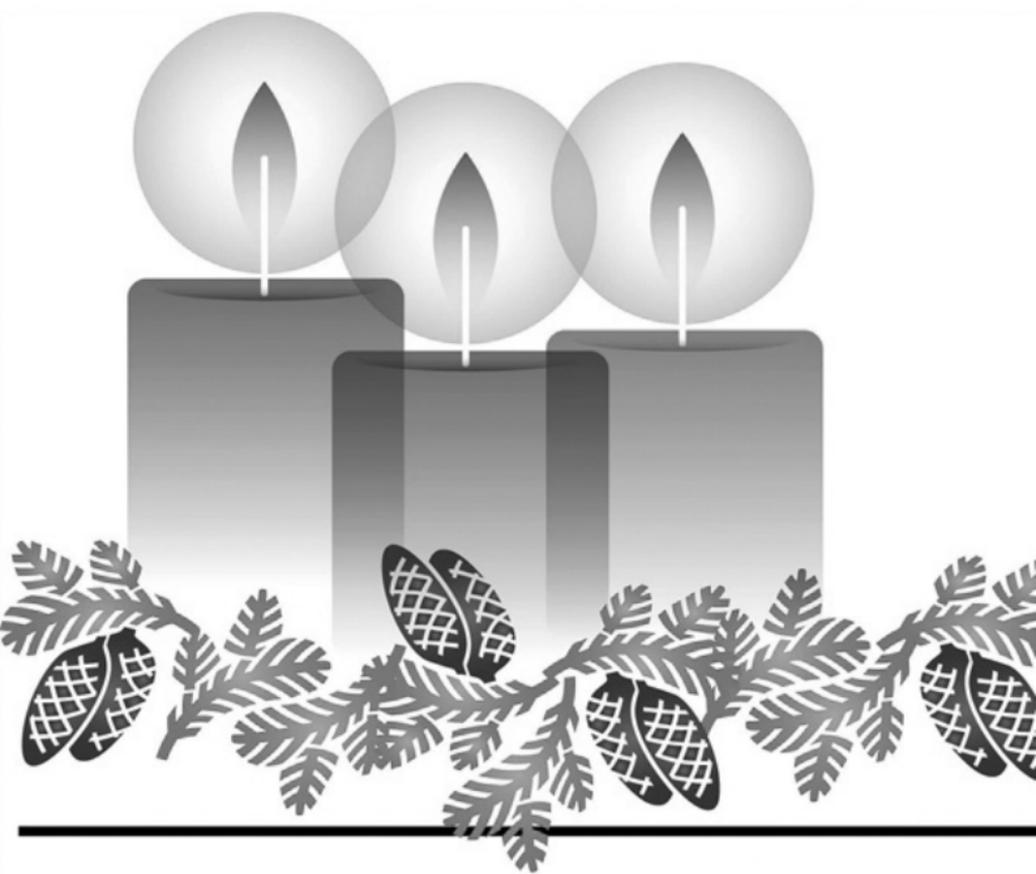
Grant, almighty God, that looking forward in faith to the feast of our Lord's birth, we may feel all the happiness our Saviour brings and celebrate his coming with unending joy. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

Blessing

May the Lord bless us and keep us this day and forever. Amen

Praying with Mary the Mother of God

Mother of Jesus pray with us in giving thanks to God who raises us up and remembers his mercy for all people. Amen.



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Third Sunday of Advent 11 December 2022

Introduction

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

Lighting of Candle (Optional)

May the light of Christ rising in glory dispel the darkness of our lives and fill us with the light of joy.

Thanksgiving for this day

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

A Word from the letter of St James

Be patient, brothers and sisters, until the Lord's coming. Think of a farmer: how patiently he waits for the precious fruit of the ground until it has had the autumn rains and the spring rains! You too have to be patient; do not lose heart, because the Lord's coming will be soon.

This Advent Day

Today we want everything now, in an instant. More often than not we have to wait. It can be wearisome and difficult. Healing takes time, reconciliation takes time. If you are tired and want a solution now, you may be disappointed. Be patient, do not lose heart. Good things come to those who wait. So it is with God.

Prayers and Intercessions

Jesus, Son of the Most High – the Virgin Mary was told of your coming by Gabriel: come to rule over your people for ever.

R: Come to us, Lord; remain with us.

Holy One of God – in Elizabeth's womb the Forerunner leapt in joy at your presence: come to give the whole world the joy of your salvation.

R: Come to us, Lord; remain with us. Jesus, Saviour – your name was revealed to Joseph by the Angel: come to your people and save them from their transgressions.

R: Come to us, Lord; remain with us. Light of the World – your coming was awaited by Simeon and all just men: come to us and console us.

R: Come to us, Lord; remain with us. Inexhaustible dawn – Zachariah foretold your coming down from heaven: come and give light to those who sit in the shadow of death.

R: Come to us, Lord; remain with us.

Our Father....

Concluding Prayer

Grant, almighty God, that looking forward in faith to the feast of our Lord's birth, we may feel all the happiness our Saviour brings and celebrate his coming with unfailing joy. We make our prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen

Blessing

May the Lord bless us and keep us this day and forever. Amen

Praying with Mary the Mother of God

Mother of Jesus you brought joy to Elizabeth carrying within you Jesus, the Word made flesh. Pray that we too with that same joy will be bearers of his love to all our brothers and sisters. Amen

Monday 12 December 2022

Introduction

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

Lighting of Candle (Optional)

May the light of Christ rising in glory dispel the darkness of our lives and fill us with the light of joy

Thanksgiving for this day

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

A Word from the Psalm

Lord make me know your ways. Lord teach me your paths. Make me walk in your truth, and teach me: for you are God my Saviour.

This Advent Day

Remember God is merciful and full of compassion. This is our hope. As you journey towards the feast of the coming of our Saviour, who proclaims with his life, death and resurrection the mercy of God, make plans to celebrate the sacrament of reconciliation this Advent.

Prayers and Intercessions

Inexhaustible light, dawning to remove the shadows that surround us, wake our faith from its slumber. R: Come, Lord Jesus. Let us walk safely all the day

happy in the brightness of your presence. R: Come, Lord Jesus.

Teach us to serve you perfectly so that all people may see it, and know.

R: Come, Lord Jesus.

Come to create a new Earth for us where justice and peace may reign. R: Come, Lord Jesus.

Our Father....

Concluding Prayer

In your love, Father, listen to our prayer:

may your Son at his coming dispel by his grace the darkness of our hearts.

We make our prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen

Blessing

May the Lord bless us and keep us this day and forever. Amen

Praying with Mary the Mother of God

Mother of Jesus you brought joy to Elizabeth carrying within you Jesus, the Word made flesh. Pray that we too with that same joy will be bearers of his love to all our brothers and sisters.

Amen

Tuesday 13 December 2022

Today we mark the feast of St Lucy

Introduction

I welcome this new day and begin this prayer in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

Lighting of Candle (Optional)

May the light of Christ fill my heart and the heart of each person with hope, joy, love and peace

Thanksgiving for this day

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

A Word from the Psalm

Remember your mercy, Lord, and the love you have shown from of old. In your love remember me, because of your goodness, O Lord.

This Advent Day

Who do you expect to find in the Kingdom of God. Jesus inclusive vision can be challenging. This Advent day ask yourself do you include sinners and outcasts in your vision of the Church. Do you believe that they too are sons and daughters of God?

Prayers & Intercessions

The Lord God said: 'I shall look for the lost one, bring back the stray, bandage the wounded and make the weak strong.'

- Lord our God, come to save us. Lord God, you made us and sustain us with your love: help us to recognize that you are in our midst.
- Lord our God, come to save us. You are close to each one of us: open our hearts to love you.
- Lord our God, come to save us. We pray for those who find their lives a burden too heavy to bear: Lord, be their strength and their hope.
- Lord our God, come to save us. You are Life, and the enemy of death: rescue us and all the faithful departed from eternal darkness.
- Lord our God, come to save us.

Our Father....

Concluding Prayer

Let the prayer of of your church sustain us all in our faith that one day we may see your face. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Blessing

May the Lord bless us and keep us this day and forever. Amen

Praying with Mary the Mother of God

Mother of Jesus you brought joy to Elizabeth carrying within you Jesus, the Word made flesh. Pray that we too with that same joy will be bearers of his love to all our brothers and sisters. Amen

Wednesday 14 December 2022

Today we mark the feast of St John of the Cross

Introduction

I welcome this new day and begin this prayer in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

Lighting of Candle (Optional)

May the light of Christ fill my heart and the heart of each person with hope, joy, love and peace.

Thanksgiving for this day

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

A Word from St Luke's Gospel

Are you the one who is to come, or must we wait for someone else?

This Advent Day

Open your eyes today and try and see signs of God's love all around you. Perhaps at the end of the day make a list of where you saw the power of God at work.

Prayers & Intercessions

The Word of God has chosen to live among us: let us thank him and give him praise:

– Come, Lord Jesus!

Bring justice to those bowed down with suffering: defend the poor and the powerless.

– Come, Lord Jesus!

Prince of Peace, turn our jealousies into love, teach us to

forgive rather than give way to anger.

– Come, Lord Jesus!

When you come to judge the world, may we stand before you without fear.

– Come, Lord Jesus!

You stand in our midst unknown: help us to find you in the poor and the troubled.

– Come, Lord Jesus!

Our Father....

Concluding Prayer

Lord God, we long to see your presence in the world in which we live. Give us the strength to care for our world as in doing so we care for the gift you gave us. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Blessing

May the Lord bless us and keep us this day and forever. Amen

Praying with Mary the Mother of God

Mother of Jesus you brought joy to Elizabeth carrying within you Jesus, the Word made flesh. Pray that we too with that same joy will be bearers of his love to all our brothers and sisters. Amen

Thursday 15 December 2022

Introduction

I welcome this new day and begin this prayer in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

Lighting of Candle (Optional)

May the light of Christ fill my heart and the heart of each person with hope, joy, love and peace

Thanksgiving for this day

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

A Word from St Luke's Gospel

I tell you of all the children born of women, there is no greater than John: yet the least in the Kingdom of God is greater than he.

This Advent Day

Today we are reminded of just how precious we are in the sight of God, take a moment to reflect on those people in your life who are important. Think of what they truly mean to you.

Prayers & Intercessions

Lord Jesus Christ, you have called us into your kingdom: may we enter in, and live according to your call.

– Be near us, Lord, today.
The world does not know you:

show yourself, in our midst, to all our brothers.

– Be near us, Lord, today.

We thank you, Lord, for all that we have: move us to give of our plenty to those who have little.

– Be near us, Lord, today.

We look for your coming, Lord Jesus: when you knock, may we be found watching in prayer and rejoicing in praise.

– Be near us, Lord, today.

Our Father....

Concluding Prayer

With sorrow, Lord, we confess our sins, unworthy servants that we are. Heal us and bring us joy by the coming of your only Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever.

Amen.

Blessing

May the Lord bless us and keep us this day and forever. Amen

Praying with Mary the Mother of God

Mother of Jesus you brought joy to Elizabeth carrying within you Jesus, the Word made flesh. Pray that we too with that same joy will be bearers of his love to all our brothers and sisters.

Amen

Friday 16 December 2022

Introduction

I welcome this new day and begin this prayer in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

Lighting of Candle (Optional)

May the light of Christ fill my heart and the heart of each person with hope, joy, love and peace

Thanksgiving for this day

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

A Word from the Prophet Isaiah

Thus says the Lord: have care for justice, act with integrity, for soon my salvation will come.

This Advent Day

Justice and Integrity are not optional extras. God is Justice & Integrity. We long for a world of justice and integrity. It begins with me.

Prayers & Intercessions

As we prepare to celebrate the birth of Christ, we pray that the Church may come to birth again in our times.

– Be born in us, Lord.

Lord Jesus, born of Mary, come again into our world.

– Be born in us, Lord.

Help us to show compassion and

respect for the mentally ill, since we are all children of God.

– Be born in us, Lord.

Through the Church's proclamation of your coming, bring light to those who search for truth.

– Be born in us, Lord.

You were born to die for our sins: at our death may we be born into your life.

– Be born in us, Lord.

Our Father....

Concluding Prayer

Let your grace, Lord, light our pilgrim way to the end. Support us now and always as we wait, longing with all our hearts, for the coming of Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever. Amen.

Blessing

May the Lord bless us and keep us this day and forever. Amen

Praying with Mary the Mother of God

Mother of Jesus you brought joy to Elizabeth carrying within you Jesus, the Word made flesh. Pray that we too with that same joy will be bearers of his love to all our brothers and sisters. Amen

Saturday 17 December 2022

Introduction

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

Lighting of Candle (Optional)

May the light of Christ rising in glory dispel the darkness of our lives and fill us with the light of joy

Thanksgiving for this day

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

A Word from the Matthew

'I tell you solemnly, tax collectors and prostitutes are making their way into the kingdom of God before you.

This Advent Day

We are God's Chosen people – that is a great honour but also a great responsibility. Are there ways, even small ways, this Advent that we can offer peace or justice to another, or help to those in need? It is what our faith demands.

Prayers and Intercessions

Let us rejoice as we wait for your coming. Come, Lord Jesus.

R: Come, Lord; do not delay. Before the world began, you were. Come to us in this world, and save us.

R: Come, Lord; do not delay. You created the world and all who live in it. Come to redeem the work of your hands.

R: Come, Lord; do not delay.

You did not shun our mortal nature. Come and save us from the power of death.

R: Come, Lord; do not delay.

You came so that we could have life overflowing. Come and give us your gift of eternal life.

R: Come, Lord; do not delay.

You chose to unite all men in your kingdom. Come, bring together all who await the sight of your face.

R: Come, Lord; do not delay.

Our Father....

Concluding Prayer

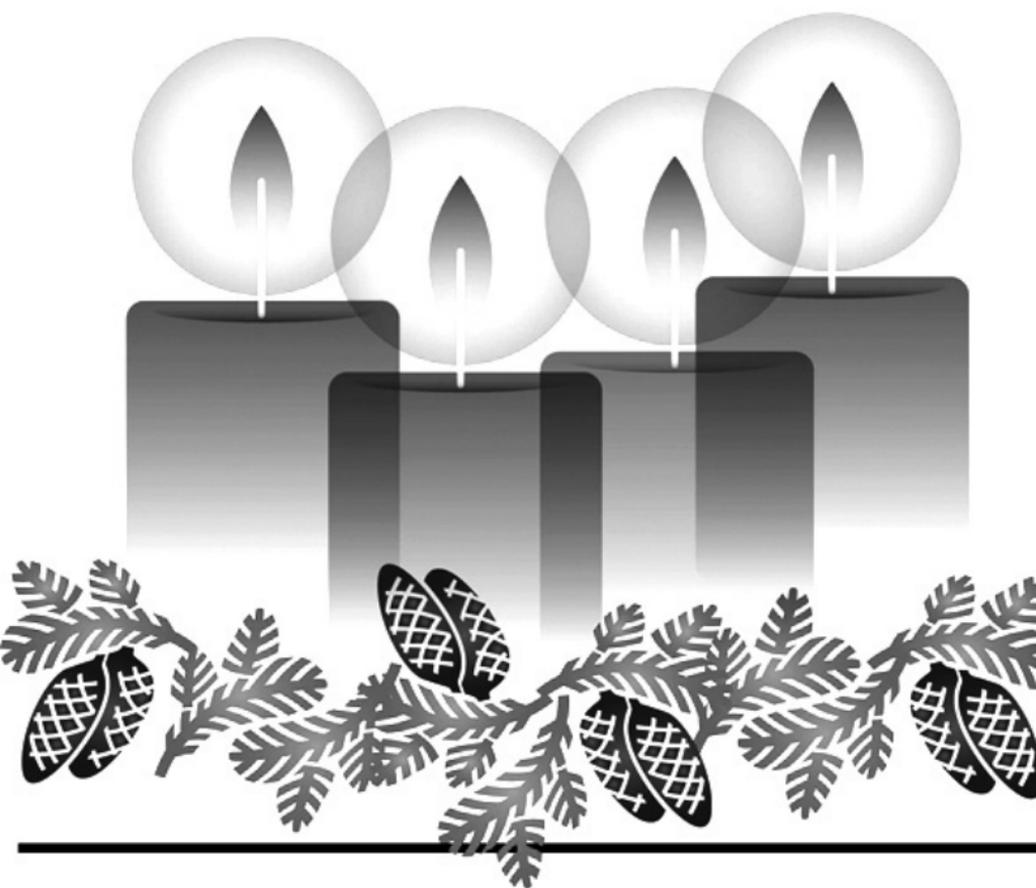
Father, by your will your Son took upon himself that human nature which you fashioned and redeemed. Grant that the Word who took flesh in the womb of the ever-virgin Mary and became a man like us may share with us his godhead. We make our prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen

Blessing

May the Lord bless us and keep us this day and forever. Amen

Praying with Mary the Mother of God

Mother of Jesus you brought joy to Elizabeth carrying within you Jesus, the Word made flesh. Pray that we too with that same joy will be bearers of his love to all our brothers and sisters. Amen



FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Sunday 18 December 2022

Introduction

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

Lighting of Candle (Optional)

May the light of Christ rising in glory dispel the darkness of our lives and fill us with the light of joy.

Thanksgiving for this day

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

A Word from St Matthew's Gospel

Now all this took place to fulfil the words spoken by the Lord through the prophet: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and they will call him Emmanuel, a name which means 'God-is-with- us.' When Joseph woke up he did what the angel of the Lord had told him to do: he took his wife to his home.

This Advent Day

When we really believe that God is with us then we can do what is right even when it might seem that the odds are stacked against us. Joseph believed and in taking Mary as his wife changed the path of history. If at the moment you are pondering a serious decision, trust in God, he is with you, do not be afraid to do what is right, a decision made with God will bring peace.

Prayers and Intercessions

Christ, Lord, you came to save sinners: defend us and keep us untroubled by temptation.

R: Come, Lord Jesus.

We believe that you will come in judgement in the sight of all: let all see in us the power of your salvation.

R: Come, Lord Jesus.

Give us the strength to keep to your precepts: so that we may stand firm in love, awaiting your coming.

R: Come, Lord Jesus.

You are blessed in all worlds and all ages. In your mercy let us live our time in this world in righteousness and virtue as we wait in blessed hope for the coming of your greatness.

R: Come, Lord Jesus.

Our Father....

Concluding Prayer

By the long-awaited coming of your new-born Son deliver us, Lord, from the age-old bondage of sin. We make our prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen

Blessing

May the Lord bless us and keep us this day and forever. Amen

Praying with Mary the Mother of God

Mother of Jesus you brought joy to Elizabeth carrying within you Jesus, the Word made flesh. Pray that we too with that same joy will be bearers of his love to all our brothers and sisters.

Amen

Monday 19 December 2022

Introduction

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen

Lighting of Candle (Optional)

May the light of Christ rising in glory dispel the darkness of our lives and fill us with the light of joy

Thanksgiving for this day

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.
Amen.

A Word from St Luke's Gospel

How I can be sure of this – I am an old man and my wife is getting on in years

This Advent Day

Your prayer has been heard, the angel said. Every prayer without exception is heard. Sometimes the answer may surprise or be unexpected or might be yes or no. Do not be afraid to pray. Do not be afraid of what the answer might be.

Prayers and Intercessions

Lord, as we announce your coming wash our hearts clean of attachment to vain things.

R: Come, Lord Jesus.

Lord and founder of the Church, may she proclaim your greatness to all peoples.

R: Come, Lord Jesus.

Lord, your law brings light to the eyes: may it protect the people who trust in you.

R: Come, Lord Jesus.

By your gift, the Church preaches that you are near: let our ardent prayers give us a sight of you.

R: Come, Lord Jesus.

Our Father....

Concluding Prayer

Deepen our faith, Lord God, as we celebrate the great mystery of the incarnation by which you revealed to the world the splendour of your glory through the Virgin Mary when she gave birth to your Son, We make our prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen

Blessing

May the Lord bless us and keep us this day and forever. Amen

Praying with Mary the Mother of God

Mother of Jesus you brought joy to Elizabeth carrying within you Jesus, the Word made flesh. Pray that we too with that same joy will be bearers of his love to all our brothers and sisters. Amen

Tuesday 20 December 2022

Introduction

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen

Lighting of Candle (Optional)

May the light of Christ fill my heart and the heart of each person with hope, joy, love and peace

A Word from the St Luke's Gospel

You are to conceive and bear a son and you must name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called son of the most high.

This Advent day

What news to get! Both reassuring and frightening, in equal measure. Today reflect on the moments when you need God most. Try to be attentive to his presence. Listen for his calming voice.

Prayers & Intercessions

Let us pray to Christ, whom the scriptures foretold, and whose coming we await in this holy season:

- Come, Jesus, our Saviour!
- Isaiah foretold that the spirit of the Lord would rest upon you: come to us bringing wisdom and understanding.
- Come, Jesus, our Saviour!
- The spirit of counsel and power is given to you; move the hearts of all who govern or rule.
- Come, Jesus, our Saviour!

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; teach us to know the Father as he is.

- Come, Jesus, our Saviour!

As now we live with you in faith and hope, prepare us to see the Father face to face.

- Come, Jesus, our Saviour!

Our Father....

Concluding Prayer

Come Lord Jesus do not delay. Many are waiting, many are hoping. (Here call to mind your intentions and present your hopes to the Lord for this Christmas). Come again into the deepest recesses of our hearts and our world so that the light of God shines upon us, renewing our hope and showing us the way to truth and life. Thank you Lord for hearing my prayer

Blessing

May the Lord bless us and keep us this day and forever. Amen

Praying with Mary the Mother of God

Mary Mother of Jesus as you gaze lovingly on your new born Son. May we too contemplate his birth in the silence of our hearts and fall to our knees before him bringing the gifts of our love and faithfulness. Amen.

Wednesday 21 December 2022

Introduction

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen

Lighting of Candle (Optional)

May the light of Christ rising in glory dispel the darkness of our lives and fill us with the light of joy

Thanksgiving for this day

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.
Amen.

A Word from Luke

They are happy whose God is the Lord, the people he has chosen as his own.

This Advent Day

Your prayer has been heard, the angel said. Every prayer without exception is heard. Sometimes the answer may surprise or be unexpected or might be yes or no. Do not be afraid to pray. Do not be afraid of what the answer might be.

Prayers and Intercessions

Lord, as we announce your coming wash our hearts clean of attachment to vain things.

R: Come, Lord Jesus.

Lord and founder of the Church, may she proclaim your greatness to all peoples.

R: Come, Lord Jesus.

Lord, your law brings light to the eyes: may it protect the people who trust in you.

R: Come, Lord Jesus.

By your gift, the Church preaches that you are near: let our ardent prayers give us a sight of you.

R: Come, Lord Jesus.

Our Father....

Concluding Prayer

Deepen our faith, Lord God, as we celebrate the great mystery of the incarnation by which you revealed to the world the splendour of your glory through the Virgin Mary when she gave birth to your Son, We make our prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen

Blessing

May the Lord bless us and keep us this day and forever. Amen

Praying with Mary the Mother of God

Mother of Jesus you brought joy to Elizabeth carrying within you Jesus, the Word made flesh. Pray that we too with that same joy will be bearers of his love to all our brothers and sisters. Amen

Thursday 22 December 2022

Introduction

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen

Lighting of Candle (Optional)

May the light of Christ rising in glory dispel the darkness of our lives and fill us with the light of joy

Thanksgiving for this day

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.
Amen.

A Word from St Luke's Gospel

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, and my Spirit exults in God my Saviour.

This Advent Day

Mary found comfort in the company of Elizabeth and in prayer to God. Today reflect on who it is that is a reassuring presence for you. To whom do you run? Do you confidently call on God?

Prayers and Intercessions

In a world divided by fear and greed, the Church calls again on her Saviour.

– *Lord Jesus, come to us in love.*
Help us to set our hearts where they will find fulfilment and not betrayal.
– *Lord Jesus, come to us in love.*
As we proclaim your saving power

to others, let us not ourselves lose hold of your salvation.

– *Lord Jesus, come to us in love.*
May our world be flooded with the grace of your coming: let us experience the fullness of your joy.
– *Lord Jesus, come to us in love.*
May we live our lives to the full in this world, and transfigure it with the hope of future glory.
– *Lord Jesus, come to us in love.*

Our Father....

Concluding Prayer

God and Father, you looked in pity on fallen man and redeemed us by the coming of your Son. Grant that we who profess our firm and humble faith in the incarnation of our Redeemer may have some share in his divine life. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Blessing

May the Lord bless us and keep us this day and forever. Amen

Praying with Mary the Mother of God

Mother of Jesus you brought joy to Elizabeth carrying within you Jesus, the Word made flesh. Pray that we too with that same joy will be bearers of his love to all our brothers and sisters. Amen

Friday 23 December 2022

Introduction

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

Lighting of Candle (Optional)

May the light of Christ rising in glory dispel the darkness of our lives and fill us with the light of joy

Thanksgiving for this day

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

A Word from St Luke's Gospel

The time came for Elizabeth to have her child, and she gave birth to a son; and when her neighbours and relations heard that the Lord had shown her so great a kindness, they shared her joy.

This Advent Day

Sharing in the joy of others is a sacramental. It strengthens the bonds of communion among us. As we approach the feast of the Lord's birth let others share in your joy especially those for whom this time of year may not hold out much happiness. The bereaved, those living alone, the sick, those in hospital or nursing homes, those with family away in other places. Be the one who brings the Good news of great joy to someone in need of your presence not your presents.

Prayers & Intercessions

Though the Lord's coming is at hand, we must have patience: for he will come in his own time, in his own way.

– *Lord Jesus, help us to believe that you*

are coming.

We live in a world weighed down by unbelief: Lord, increase our faith.

– *Lord Jesus, help us to believe that you are coming.*

Upon the richness and complexity of man's thoughts, among the theories and philosophies of our world today, let your coming shed its own glorious light.

– *Lord Jesus, help us to believe that you are coming.*

Give us the strong faith of the apostles, and their fervour in preaching your Word.

– *Lord Jesus, help us to believe that you are coming.*

Our Father....

Concluding Prayer

Almighty God, now that the birthday of your Son as man is drawing near, we pray that your eternal Word, who took flesh in the womb of the Virgin Mary and came to dwell among men, will show your unworthy people the greatness of his love and mercy. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever. Amen. May the Lord bless us and keep us this day and forever. Amen

Blessing

May the Lord bless us and keep us this day and forever. Amen

Praying with Mary the Mother of God

Mother of Jesus you brought joy to Elizabeth carrying within you Jesus, the Word made flesh. Pray that we too with that same joy will be bearers of his love to all our brothers and sisters. Amen

Christmas Eve Saturday 24 December 2022

Introduction

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

Lighting of Candle (Optional)

May the light of Christ fill my heart and the heart of each person with hope, joy, love and peace

A Word from St Luke's Gospel

John's father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke this prophecy: 'Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel for he has visited his people, he has come to their rescue

This Advent day

Again the Holy Spirit enables Zechariah to announce that the Lord has visited his people. The child born in Bethlehem is God in the flesh. Heaven and earth become one. Mary returns from visiting Elizabeth, the shepherds will return to their flocks, the angels to heaven, the wise visitors from the east to their countries. But God will not return his gift, he has pitched his tent among us to stay forever. Our God is close to us, our God is among us, our God has skin. God is with you. Celebrate and give thanks!

Prayers & Intercessions

Let us pray to Christ, whom the scriptures foretold, and whose coming we await in this holy season:

– *Come, Jesus, our Saviour!*

Isaiah foretold that the spirit of the Lord would rest upon you: come to us bringing wisdom and understanding.

– *Come, Jesus, our Saviour!*

The spirit of counsel and power is given to you; move the hearts of all who govern or rule.

– *Come, Jesus, our Saviour!*

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; teach us to know the Father as he is.

– *Come, Jesus, our Saviour!*

As now we live with you in faith and hope, prepare us to see the Father face to face.

– *Come, Jesus, our Saviour!*

Our Father....

Concluding Prayer

Come Lord Jesus do not delay. Many are waiting, many are hoping. (Here call to mind your intentions and present your hopes to the Lord for this Christmas). Come again into the deepest recesses of our hearts and our our world so that the light of God shines upon us, renewing our hope and showing us the way to truth and life. Thank you Lord for hearing my prayer. May the Lord bless us and keep us this day and forever. Amen

Blessing

May the Lord bless us and keep us this day and forever. Amen

Praying with Mary the Mother of God

Mary Mother of Jesus as you gaze lovingly on your new born Son. May we too contemplate his birth in the silence of our hearts and fall to our knees before him bringing the gifts of our love and faithfulness. Amen.

Christmas Day Sunday 25 December 2022

Introduction

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

Lighting of Candle (Optional)

May the light of Christ rising in glory dispel the darkness of our lives and fill us with the light of joy.

Thanksgiving for this day

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

A Word from St Luke's Gospel

Now when the angel had gone from them the shepherds said to one another "let us go to Bethlehem to see this things that has happened which the Lord has made known to us".

This Christmas Day

Every encounter with Christ is an occasion of joy. We are blessed to encounter him in so many ways: in his Word, in Sacrament, in each other, in the sick and the poor, in every human being. Through these encounters we are filled again and again with the Holy Spirit. The grace of Baptism is renewed and we grow as the Body of Christ. Today remember that your next prayer, the next person you meet is a coming face to face with Christ.

Prayers and Intercessions

You are the faithful witness to God's grace and the first-born from the dead. With your blood you have washed us clean of our sins. Make us mindful of the wonderful things you have done for us.

R: Look down on us, Lord, and hear us. You have raised up heralds to proclaim your Gospel: may they eagerly and faithfully teach the mysteries of your kingdom.

R: Look down on us, Lord, and hear us. King of peace, send your spirit upon those who rule, so that they take special care for the poor and destitute.

R: Look down on us, Lord, and hear us. Counsel those who suffer discrimination for their race, colour, status, speech or religion, that they may win recognition of their rights and dignity.

R: Look down on us, Lord, and hear us. Give all who have died a share in your blessedness, with the blessed Virgin Mary and all your saints.

R: Look down on us, Lord, and hear us.

Our Father....

Concluding Prayer

In your goodness, Lord, listen to your people's prayer.

As we rejoice in the coming of your Son in flesh and blood like ours, grant that when he comes again in glory we may receive the gift of eternal life

We make our prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen

Blessing

May the Lord bless us and keep us this day and forever. Amen

Praying with Mary the Mother of God

Mother of Jesus you brought joy to Elizabeth carrying within you Jesus, the Word made flesh. Pray that we too with that same joy will be bearers of his love to all our brothers and sisters. Amen

PRAYER FOR PEACE

O Mary, Mother of God and our mother, in this time of trial we turn to you. You never cease to guide us to Jesus, the prince of peace. Amid evil and war, you remind us that God never abandons us, but continues to look upon us with love, ever ready to forgive us and raise us up to new life. He has given you to us and made your Immaculate Heart a refuge for the church and for all humanity.

Therefore, O Loving Mother, hear our prayer: help us out of the depravity of war, inspire reconciliation, restore God's peace to the world, eliminate hatred, and teach us forgiveness. Queen of the Rosary, make us realise our need to pray and to love. Queen of Peace, obtain peace for our world from your Son, the Prince of Peace.

At this hour, we stand with you beneath the cross, entrusting to you the people of Ukraine and Russia. Mother of God and our mother, to your Immaculate Heart we solemnly entrust and consecrate ourselves, the church and all humanity, especially the people of Russia and Ukraine. Accept this act that we carry out with confidence and love.

Grant that war may end and peace spread throughout the world. We trust that, through your Immaculate heart, peace will dawn once more. To you we consecrate the future of the whole human family, the needs and expectations of every people, the anxieties and hopes of the world. Through your intercession, may God's mercy be poured out on the earth and the gentle rhythm of peace return to mark our days.

Amen.

Franciscus

Pope Francis

(adapted from Prayer 25th March 2022)



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