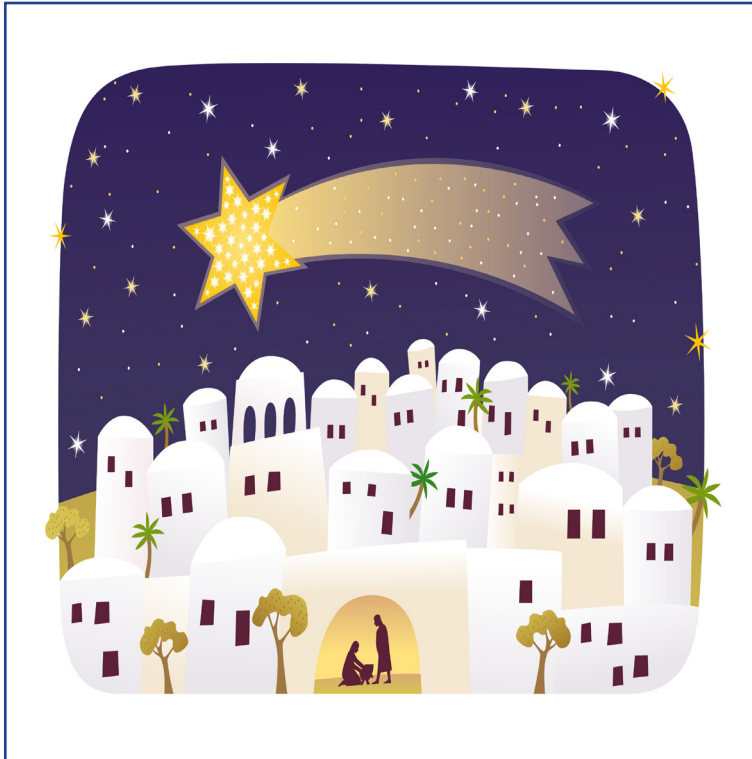


ADVENT RESOURCES

FOR THE DIOCESE OF OSSORY



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SUGGESTION FOR ADVENT DAILY PRAYER

WEEK THREE

This week why not start or end your day with one of the following prayer phrases taken from the Scripture readings of the Third Sunday of Advent!

- “Truly, God is my salvation, I trust, I shall not fear.”
- “May that peace of God, which is so much greater than we can understand, guard our hearts and our thoughts, in Christ Jesus.”
- “The Spirit of the Lord has been given to me; he has sent me to bring the good news to the poor.”
- “Come Lord Jesus”



THE THIRD WEEK OF ADVENT

Reader 1:

Lord, your promise to us is one of joy and hope. During this season of Advent, we await your coming with joyful hearts, grateful for all the gifts you have given us.

(Light the third purple candle on the Advent Wreath)

Reader 2:

May this light remind us of Jesus, Who is the true Light of the World.

Reader 3: Scripture

"The glory of the Lord is shining on you!

'Though the night still covers the earth and darkness the peoples.

But on you the light of the Lord will shine;

The brightness of His presence will be with you." [Is. 60: 1 - 2]

Hymn: The Clouds Veil (L. Lawton)

Reader 1:

Advent, however, is a time for more than waiting. It is also a time for action. We should remember how lucky we are in many ways, and of the need for us to help others, less fortunate people.

Reader 2: Reflection by Oscar Romero

No one can celebrate a genuine Christmas without being truly poor. The self-sufficient, the proud, those who, because they have everything, look down on others, those who have no need for God - for them there will be no Christmas. Only the poor, the hungry, those who need someone to come on their behalf, will have that someone. That someone is God, Emmanuel, God-with-us. Without poverty of spirit there can be no abundance of God

Prayers of the Faithful

1) We pray for all families, that they may remember to appreciate each other this Christmas.

Lord hear our prayer

2) We pray for all new born babies, that they may grow up knowing that they are loved by you,

Lord hear our prayer

3) We pray for people who won't have very much this Christmas.
Help us to show them that we care,
Lord hear our prayer

4) We pray for people who won't be with us this Christmas. Bring
your peace to all people who will miss somebody this Christmas
Lord hear our prayer

5) We pray for all people who show your love to us, help them to
always teach by their actions.
Lord hear our prayer

6) We pray that we may remember to share all that God has
entrusted to us,
Lord hear our prayer

Reflection

The story is told of a lion cub that got lost in the forest, A sheep found him, and brought him up with her lambs, For a long time he had no idea that he was anything else but a sheep, If he saw a wolf or a dog he fled for his life. But one day a lion's roar echoed through the hills. The cub pricked up his ears. Some chord awoke in his nature that had never been touched before... He found that he could roar too, he felt that he had it in him to become king of the forest. Now if he saw a dog or a wolf, it was he who chased and they who fled. So long as he thought himself a sheep, he behaved like a sheep, As soon as he discovered that he was a lion he behaved like a king.

We are called to be children of God, to be people of hope, joy and expectation. The seed sown in darkness will put down strong roots until the moment of readiness which the soil will give way to the light of a new dawn, where the natural goodness of creation will strengthen it to face the elements, So too with us. God's word is planted in our hearts. It will rest silently in the darkness waiting patiently to come to light in our world.

Concluding Prayer

God our father, we are part of your family, We are part of the story of Christianity. As we come closer to Christmas help us to be good to all. Let us take example from mothers getting ready for the birth of their babies, How do they prepare? Help us to prepare for this Christmas with our acts of love and our thoughts.

Closing Hymn: Here I am Lord.