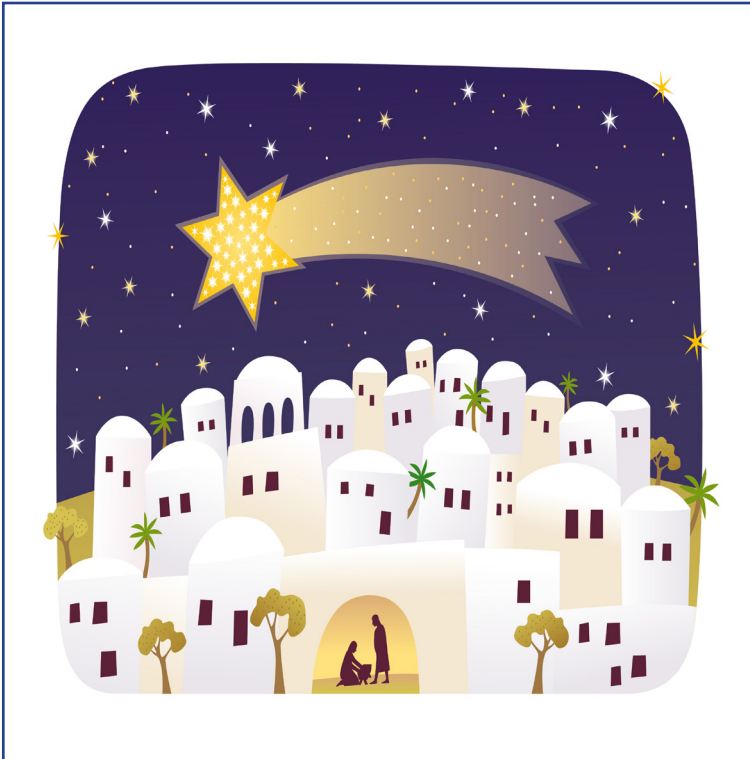


ADVENT RESOURCES

FOR THE DIOCESE OF OSSORY



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SUGGESTION FOR ADVENT DAILY PRAYER

WEEK FOUR

This week why not start or end your day with one of the following prayer phrases taken from the O Antiphons of 17th-24th December!

- “Wisdom of the Most high, come and teach us the way of truth”
- “Ruler of the House of Israel, come and save us with outstretched arm”
- “Root of Jesse, come to save us, and delay no more”
- “Emmanuel our king and lawgiver, come and save us”
- “Key of David, come to liberate from prison the captive who lives in darkness”
- “King of the people’s and corner-stone of the Church, come and save us”
- “Morning star, sun of justice, come and enlighten those who live in darkness”

THE FOURTH WEEK OF ADVENT

Theme: God's Gift

Sing: "Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

Reading

First reader: We have gathered together today to light the fourth candle on our Advent wreath. But before we do let's relight the other three candles and be reminded of each message.

First child: (Relight first candle.) On the first Sunday of Advent we lit a candle to remind us to get our hearts ready for the coming of Jesus.

Second child: (Relight second candle.) On the second Sunday we lit the candle of love.

Another child: (Relight third candle.) We lit the third candle to remind us that the angels sang "news of great joy."

First reader: Today's candle makes the whole wreath bright. This candle reminds us of the giving part of Christmas.

Second reader: God has given us many gifts. Sometimes we try to count our blessings and the list is always long. But of all His gifts, none is greater than the gift of His Son Jesus. In giving us His Son



He gave us himself.

Another family member: (Light the fourth candle.) I light this candle on the fourth Sunday in Advent to remind us of God's gift.

First reader: 2 Corinthians 4:6: "God, who first ordered light to shine in darkness, has flooded our hearts with his light. We now can enlighten men only because we can give them knowledge of the glory of God, as we see it in the face of Jesus Christ" (Phillips).

Talk about love turning into a specific person — Christ, the gift, expresses himself in love. What can we give Him? Find ways to give ourselves with our gifts.

Sing: "O Little Town of Bethlehem," paying special attention to verse three.

Prayer time: Ask God to help you understand real giving, which is the gift of yourselves. Offer to be available as a package to be given again and again wherever He needs you in His service.

Thought for the days between now and Christmas: "The gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord" (Romans 6:23, KJV). While we are wrapping gifts, let us remember God's gift to us.