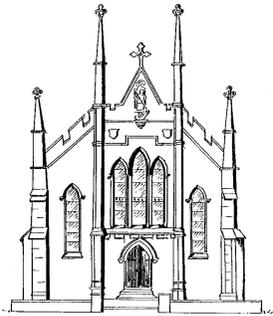


DAILY PRAYERS THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT



**HOLY TRINITY & ST GEORGE
CATHOLIC CHURCH**
Serving Kendal and Sedbergh

www.kendalcatholicchurch.uk

Sunday - Advent Week 3 (Year B)

St Lucy

Collect:

O God, who see how Your people
faithfully await the feast of the Lord's Nativity,
enable us, we pray,
to attain the joys of so great a salvation
and to celebrate them always
with solemn worship and glad rejoicing.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son,
who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Today's Gospel reading: John 1:6-8, 19-28

Today's prayer:

O Lord our God,
make us watchful and cheerful
as we await the coming of Your Son, Christ our Lord,
that when He comes and knocks,
He will find us not sleeping in sin
but awake and rejoicing in His praises,
Through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

From the Gelasian Sacramentary

Prayer to St Lucy

Saint Lucy, whose beautiful name signifies light,
by the light of faith which God bestowed upon you,
increase and preserve His light in my soul,
So that I may avoid evil, be zealous in the performance
of good works, and abhor nothing so much
as the blindness and the darkness of evil and sin.
Obtain for me, by your intercession with God,
perfect vision for my bodily eyes and the grace to use them
for God's greater honour and glory and the salvation of souls.
St Lucy, hear my prayers and obtain my petitions. Amen.

Monday – St John of the Cross

Religious

Collect:

O God, who gave the Priest Saint John
an outstanding dedication to perfect self-denial
and love of the Cross,
grant that, by imitating him closely at all times,
we may come to contemplate eternally Your glory.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son,
who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Today's Gospel reading: Luke 14:25-33

Today's prayer:

Advent Poem of St John of the Cross

If you want, the Virgin will come walking down the road
pregnant with the Holy and say,
“I need shelter for the night.
Please take me inside your heart, my time is so close.”
Then, under the roof of your soul,
you will witness the sublime intimacy,
the divine, the Christ, taking birth forever,
as she grasps your hand for help,
for each of us is the midwife of God, each of us.
Yes, there, under the dome of your being,
does creation come into existence eternally,
through your womb, dear pilgrim,
the sacred womb of your soul,
as God grasps our arms for help:
for each of us is His beloved servant never far.
If you want, the virgin will come walking down the street,
pregnant with Light, and sing!

St John of the Cross (24th June 1542 — 14th December 1591)

He was a Spanish, mystic, and a Carmelite friar. He is a major figure of the Counter-Reformation in Spain, and he is one of the thirty-six Doctors of the Church.

St John of the Cross, Pray for us

Tuesday - Advent Week 3

Collect:

O God, who through Your Only Begotten Son
have made us a new creation,
look kindly, we pray,
on the handiwork of Your mercy,
and at Your Son's coming
cleanse us from every stain of the old way of life.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son,
who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Today's Gospel reading: Matthew 21:28-32

Today's prayer:

Come Lord, Your wounded world is yearning
for You to come again.
Come Lord, Your weary world is crying out
for You to lift us up
out of our despair, our hunger,
our thirst for something better,
our need for the food that will last.
Come Lord, come again,
we need to begin again.

Sue Allerton/CAFOD

Wednesday - Advent Week 3

Collect:

Grant, we pray, almighty God,
that the coming solemnity of Your Son
may bestow healing upon us in this present life
and bring us the rewards of life eternal.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son,
who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Today's Gospel reading: Luke 7:18b-23

Today's prayer:

Heavenly Father,
thank for You giving me the best gift of all:
salvation through Your Son, Jesus Christ!
May this precious gift always be a reminder to me
that You are an on-time God
and that You are worth waiting for and trusting.
May my heart be filled with anticipation and joy
as I rest in the truth that You know what is best for me
and when it is best for me.
Lord, thank You for loving me and giving me good gifts.
I love You.

Thursday – Advent Week 3

17th December – From today our anticipation of Christ's impending birth intensifies

Collect:

O God, Creator and Redeemer of human nature,
who willed that Your Word should take flesh
in an ever-virgin womb,
look with favour on our prayers,
that Your Only Begotten Son,
having taken to Himself our humanity,
may be pleased to grant us a share in His divinity.
Who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Today's Gospel: Matthew 1:1-17

Today's prayer:

The days from 17th to the 23rd December make up a special time and during these days at Evening Prayer there are special antiphons, or vespres, that are read or sung before the Magnificat, they are known as the 'O Antiphons'. (The 24th December is Christmas Eve and Vespers for that evening marks the beginning of the Christmas Celebrations.)

The exact origin of the 'O Antiphons' is not known. Boethius (c. 480-524) made a reference to them, thus telling us they were in use in his day. At the Benedictine abbey of Fleury they were recited by the abbot and other abbey leaders in descending rank, and then a gift was given to each member of the community. By the eighth century, they are in use in the liturgical celebrations in Rome. We can conclude that in some fashion the 'O Antiphons' have been part of our liturgical tradition as they were of the early Church. The importance of the 'O Antiphons' is twofold: Each one highlights a title for the Messiah: and each one refers to the prophecy of Isaiah of the coming of the Messiah.

We will use them over the next seven days for our daily prayer and reflection in anticipation of the Messiah's birth at Christmas.

O Sapientia...

O Wisdom, O holy Word of God, You govern all creation with Your strong yet tender care. Come and show Your people the way to salvation.

Isaiah had prophesied;

The spirit of the Lord shall rest upon Him: a spirit of wisdom and of understanding, a spirit of counsel and of strength, a spirit of knowledge and fear of the Lord, and His delight shall be the fear of the Lord. (Isaiah 11:2-3), and Wonderful is His counsel and great is His wisdom. (Isaiah 28:29).

Come, Lord Jesus, do not delay!

Friday - Advent Week 3

18th December

Collect:

Grant, we pray, almighty God,
that we, who are weighed down from of old
by slavery beneath the yoke of sin,
may be set free by the newness
of the long-awaited Nativity
of Your Only Begotten Son.
Who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Today's Gospel reading: Matthew 1:18-25

Today's prayer:

O Adonai...

O sacred Lord of ancient Israel, who showed Yourself to Moses in the
burning bush, who gave Him the Holy Law on Sinai mountain: come,
stretch out Your mighty hand to set us free.

Isaiah had prophesied:

But He shall judge the poor with justice, and decide aright for the lands
afflicted. He shall strike the ruthless with the rod of His mouth, and with the
breath of His lips he shall slay the wicked. Justice shall be the band around
His waist, and faithfulness a belt upon His hips. (Isaiah 11:4-5); and Indeed
the Lord will be there with us, majestic; yes, the Lord our judge, the Lord
our lawgiver, the Lord our king, He it is who will save us. (Isaiah 33:22).

Come, Lord Jesus, do not delay!

Saturday – Advent Week 3

19th December

Collect:

O God, who through the child-bearing of the holy Virgin
graciously revealed the radiance of Your glory to the world,
grant, we pray,
that we may venerate with integrity of faith
the mystery of so wondrous an Incarnation
and always celebrate it with due reverence.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son,
who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Today's Gospel reading: Luke 1:5-25

Today's prayer:

O Radix Jesse...

O shoot of Jesse's stem, You have been raised up as a sign for all peoples;
kings stand silent in Your presence; the nations bow down in worship
before You.

Come, let nothing keep You from coming to our aid.

Isaiah had prophesied:

But a shoot shall sprout from the stump of Jesse, and from His roots a bud
shall blossom. (Isaiah 11:1), and, On that day, the root of Jesse, set up as a
signal for the nations, the Gentiles shall seek out, for his dwelling shall be
glorious. (Isaiah 11:10). Remember also that Jesse was the father of King
David, and Micah had prophesied that the Messiah would be of the house
and lineage of David and be born in David's city, Bethlehem (Micah 5:1).

Come, Lord Jesus, do not delay!