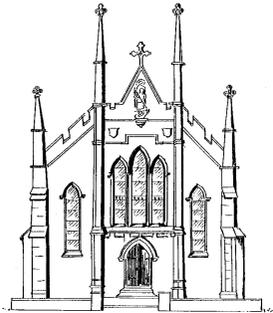


DAILY PRAYERS 1st SUNDAY OF ADVENT



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

www.kendalcatholicchurch.uk

Sunday - Advent Week 1 (Year C)

Collect:

Grant Your faithful, we pray, almighty God,
the resolve to run forth to meet Your Christ
with righteous deeds at His coming,
so that, gathered at His right hand,
they may be worthy to possess the heavenly kingdom.
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 21:25-28, 34-36

Today's prayer:

Lord Jesus,
Master of both the light and the darkness,
send Your Holy Spirit upon our preparations for Christmas.
We who have so much to do and seek quiet spaces to hear Your voice each
day,
We who are anxious over many things look forward to Your coming among
us.
We who are blessed in so many ways long for the complete joy of Your
kingdom.
We whose hearts are heavy seek the joy of Your presence.
We are Your people, walking in darkness, yet seeking the light.
To You we say, "Come Lord Jesus!" Amen.

Henri J.M. Nouwen

Monday - Advent Week 1

Collect:

Keep us alert, we pray, O Lord our God,
as we await the advent of Christ Your Son,
so that, when He comes and knocks,
He may find us watchful in prayer
and exultant in His praise.
Who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Today's Gospel reading: Matthew 8:5-11

Today's prayer:

Father, just as You sent John the Baptist to prepare the way for Jesus,
help me to clear the path in my heart, too.
Show me the distractions in my life that block me from waiting for You this
Advent. Lord, I await Your coming!
As I celebrate the first Advent—the first coming—
I look toward the day where I will see You face to face.
I imagine what it will be like.
Give me a heart, Lord, that looks for Your coming on a daily basis.
Help me to live my life where I'm constantly seeking Your presence.
My offering to You today is my life
for I know I am Yours.
Show me today how I need to be refined, purified, forgiven.
Give me the strength to ask for forgiveness
and to then change my ways.

By Sarah Martin, from "The Awe & Wonder of Advent"

Tuesday – St Andrew

Apostle,
Patron saint of Scotland

Collect:

We humbly implore Your majesty, O Lord,
that, just as the blessed Apostle Andrew
was for Your Church a preacher and pastor,
so he may be for us a constant intercessor before You.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son,
who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
One God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Today's Gospel reading: Matthew 4:18-22

Today's prayer:

O glorious St. Andrew,
you were the first to recognise and follow the Son of God.
With your friend, St John,
you remained with Jesus,
for your entire life,
and now throughout eternity.
Just as you led your brother, St Peter,
to Christ and many others after him,
draw us also to Him.
Teach us how to lead them,
solely out of love for Jesus
and dedication to His service.
Help us to learn the lesson of the Cross
and carry our daily crosses without complaint,
so that they may carry us to God the Almighty Father. Amen.

St Andrew, Pray for us

Wednesday - Advent Week 1

St Ralph Sherwin and His Companions
The Martyrs of the Venerable English College Rome

Collect:

Prepare our hearts, we pray, O Lord our God,
by Your divine power,
so that at the coming of Christ Your Son
we may be found worthy of the banquet of eternal life
and merit to receive heavenly nourishment from His hands.
Who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Today's Gospel reading: Mathew 15:29-37

Today's prayer:

Most Holy Priest and Martyr, Saint Ralph Sherwin,
you gave your whole life freely and earnestly,
forsaking all risk to yourself,
seeking to do the Lord's will "today rather than tomorrow".
You died for love of Christ and His Church,
as a witness to bring others to the truth.
Pray that we might follow the Lord more earnestly,
with eyes fixed firmly on His Son,
never putting off till tomorrow what can be done today.
Obtain for us the grace to share your courage and conviction,
to live lives transformed by love of Jesus,
following His call wherever it may lead,
sharing Him with all whom we meet. Amen.

St Ralph Sherwin, Pray for us
All Martyrs of the Venerable English College, Pray for us

Thursday - Advent Week 1

Collect:

Stir up Your power, O Lord,
and come to our help with mighty strength,
that what our sins impede
the grace of Your mercy may hasten.
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 7:21, 24-27

Today's prayer:

Heavenly Father,
in this Advent season of expectation
draw us together in unity,
that our praise and worship
might enlighten our minds and hearts
and also shine out through our words and deeds.
In this Advent of expectation
draw us together in mission,
that the hope within us
might be both the song we sing,
and the melody of our lives.
In this Advent of expectation
draw us together in service,
that the path we follow
might lead us from a stable
to a glimpse of eternity.

Friday – St Francis Xavier

Pastor,
Patron saint of Catholic missions.

Collect:

O God, who through the preaching of Saint Francis Xavier won many peoples to Yourself, grant that the hearts of the faithful may burn with the same zeal for the faith and that Holy Church may everywhere rejoice in an abundance of offspring. 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: Mark 16:15-20

Today's prayer:

O my Lord Jesus!
Teach me to be generous,
teach me to serve You as You deserve,
to give, and not to count the cost,
to fight and not to heed the wounds,
to toil and not to ask for rest,
to labour, seeking no reward,
save that of knowing that I do Your will. Amen.

St Francis Xavier (7th April 1506 – 3rd December 1552)

St Francis Xavier, Pray for us

Saturday – Advent Week 1

St John Damascene
Doctor of the Church,
Patron Saint of icon painters and theology students

Collect:

O God, who sent Your Only Begotten Son into this world to free the human race from its ancient enslavement, bestow on those who devoutly await Him the grace of Your compassion from on high, that we may attain the prize of true freedom. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit, One God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Today's Gospel reading: Matthew 9:35-10:1,5a,6-8

Today's prayer:

I salute you, O Mary!
You are the hope of Christians:
receive the petition of a servant who tenderly loves you,
especially honours you,
and places in you all the hope of my salvation.
From you I have life,
you restore me to the favour of your Son;
you are the certain pledge of my salvation.
I implore you, then,
to deliver me from the burden of my sins;
dispel the darknes of my mind;
banish earthly affections from my heart;
repel the temptations of my enemies,
and so order my life,
that I may reach, by thy means and by your guidance,
the eternal joy of paradise. Amen.

St John Damascene (676 – 749)

St John Damascene, Pray for us