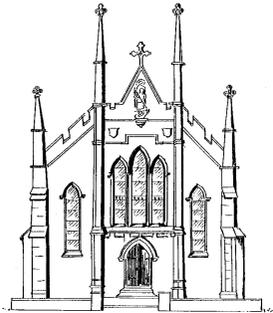


DAILY PRAYERS THE CHRISTMAS OCTAVE



HOLY TRINITY & ST GEORGE
CATHOLIC CHURCH
Serving Kendal and Sedbergh

www.kendalcatholicchurch.uk

Sunday – The Holy Family (Year C)

Collect:

O God, who were pleased to give us
the shining example of the Holy Family,
graciously grant that we may imitate them
in practicing the virtues of family life and in the bonds of charity,
and so, in the joy of Your house,
delight one day in eternal rewards.
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 2:41-52

Today's prayer:

O Holy Family of Nazareth,
make our family one with you.
Help us to be instruments of peace.
Grant that love, strengthened by grace,
may prove mightier
than all the weaknesses and trials
through which our families sometimes pass.
May we always have God at the centre of our hearts and homes
until we are all one family,
happy and at peace
in our true home with you. Amen.

Holy Family of Nazareth, bless, guide and protect our family

Monday – St John the Evangelist

Apostle

Patron saint of love, loyalty, friendships, and authors

Collect:

O God, who through the blessed Apostle John have unlocked for us the secrets of Your Word, grant, we pray, that we may grasp with proper understanding what he has so marvelously brought to our ears. 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 20:1a, 2-8

Today's prayer:

Lord, You are glorious and beyond our understanding. Your life-giving presence in this world is truly mysterious and awe-inspiring. Thank You for coming among us, as one like us, and thank You for revealing Yourself to us through the writings of St John the Apostle. May we come to know You more deeply through all that he has written and may we always imitate his example of being a beloved disciple.

St John, apostle and evangelist, Pray for us.

Tuesday – The Holy Innocents

Martyrs

Patron saints of Foundlings, Babies, Children's Choirs and Pro-Life Causes

Collect:

O God, whom the Holy Innocents confessed and proclaimed on this day, not by speaking but by dying, grant, we pray, that the faith in You which we confess with our lips may also speak through our manner 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 2:13-18

Today's prayer:

O Holy Innocents, blest Babes, earliest martyrs of Jesus Christ, the King of martyrs, how bright a life was won by that sharp death! Beautiful little martyrs of the Holy Child, your eyes soon closed upon the dull mists of earth, to open upon untold glories of Heaven. How sweet to have died for Him who came to give His life for you! Pray for me, you stainless ones, before the Throne of Life, that I too, unworthy and wayward as I am, may come to be with those who follow the Lamb in faith and love.

Most Holy Child Jesus, save all Your children.
All you Holy Innocents, Pray for us

Wednesday – St Thomas Becket

Martyr

Patron of all parish clergy

Collect:

O God, who gave the Martyr Saint Thomas Becket the courage to give up his life for the sake of justice, grant, through his intercession, that, renouncing our life for the sake of Christ in this world, we may find it in heaven. 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 16:24-27

Today's prayer:

Great Saint Thomas, Bishop, Priest, Martyr, and sacrificial lamb for the Faith, pray for us. You who were a fearless Shepherd of the people of God, pray for us to have courage in all the circumstances of our lives, to live according to the light that your example gives to our consciences. May we be faithful unto death, as you were. May we always seek God's Holy will for our lives. Saint Thomas, many were brought to you for healing both in your lifetime and especially after your martyrdom, please hear and accept my prayers for my loved ones. St Thomas pray for us that in Him, and with Him, we may live and move and have our being. Amen.

St Thomas of Canterbury, Pray for us

Thomas Becket (21st December 1118, Cheapside, London – 29th December 1170, Canterbury) also known as Saint Thomas of Canterbury, was Archbishop of Canterbury from 1162 until his murder in 1170. He engaged in conflict with Henry II over the rights and privileges of the Church and was murdered by followers of the king in Canterbury Cathedral.

Soon after his death, he was canonised on 21st February 1173 by Pope Alexander III

Thursday – Sixth Day of the Christmas Octave

Collect:

Grant, we pray, almighty God, that the newness of the Nativity in the flesh of Your Only Begotten Son may set us free, for ancient servitude holds us bound beneath the yoke of sin. 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 2:36-40

Today's prayer:

Praise to You, Lord God!
You have become one of us.
You have become a human being,
while still retaining all Your power and holiness as God!
You, O Lord, made the journey of the unborn child.
You joined all unborn and newborn children to You!
From the beginning of history, O Lord,
You were the Creator of every human life.
Now, with Christmas,
You join Yourself in an unthinkable way with the life You created.
Let this Christmas, O God,
fill all of us with awe and wonder
at how close human life is to You.
Cleanse the world of all that tarnishes
and rejects this gift.
Purify our hearts of all that fears this gift.
Let our Christmas joy be the joy of welcoming every human life! Amen!

Friday – Seventh Day of the Christmas Octave

Pope St Sylvester

Patron saint of the Sylvestrine Benedictines and the so very popular chivalric order of the Militia Aurata, or Militia of the Golden Spur – it seems!

Collect:

Almighty ever-living God,
who in the Nativity of Your Son
established the beginning and fulfillment of all religion,
grant, we pray, that we may be numbered
among those who belong to Him,
in whom is the fullness of human salvation.
Who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Today's Gospel: John 1:1-18

Today's prayer:

Saint Sylvester, a successor of St Peter,
you gained the liberty of Christians
after three centuries of persecution and shared with them
the happiness of being able to publicly profess their faith in Jesus Christ.
You proclaimed His divinity in the face of powerful opposition
and worked tirelessly to preserve the unity of all who acknowledge
Jesus as their Lord and Saviour.
Grant your protection especially
to those who are unjustly deprived of their freedom,
to those who are victims of oppression and torture,
to those whose human and civil rights are trampled upon.
Intercede for them, that God may be
their refuge and strength in all their trials.
Help us, after your example, to have the courage of our convictions
and never betray our faith.
Be mindful of us and inspire us to imitate your holiness of life.

Saint Sylvester, pray for us.

Saturday – Mary, Mother of God

Collect:

O God, who through the fruitful virginity of Blessed Mary
bestowed on the human race the grace of eternal salvation, grant, we pray,
that we may experience the intercession of her,
through whom we were found worthy
to receive the author of life,
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 2:16-21

Today's prayer:

Father, source of light in every age,
the virgin conceived and bore Your Son
Who is called Wonderful God,
Prince of Peace.
May her prayer,
the gift of a mother's love,
be Your people's joy through all ages.
May her response,
born of a humble heart,
draw Your Spirit to rest on Your people.
Grant this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Angel of the Lord declared to Mary: And she conceived of the Holy Spirit.
Hail Mary...

Behold the handmaid of the Lord: Be it done unto me according to Thy word.
Hail Mary...

And the Word was made Flesh: And dwelt among us.
Hail Mary...

Pray for us, O Holy Mother of God,
that we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let us pray: Pour forth, we beseech You, O Lord, Your grace into our hearts; that
we, to whom the incarnation of Christ, Your Son, was made known by the message
of an angel, may by His Passion and Cross be brought to the glory of His
Resurrection, through the same Christ Our Lord. Amen.