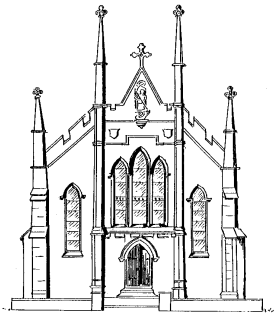


DAILY PRAYERS

ADVENT WEEK 3



HOLY TRINITY & ST GEORGE
CATHOLIC CHURCH
Serving Kendal and Sedbergh

www.kendalcatholicchurch.uk

Sunday - Advent Week 3 (Year B)

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:

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 verses that are read or sung before the Magnificat, they are known as the 'O Antiphons'. (The 24th of 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!

Monday – 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!

Tuesday – 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!

Wednesday – 20th December

Collect:

O God, eternal majesty, whose ineffable Word the immaculate Virgin received through the message of an Angel and so became the dwelling-place of divinity, filled with the light of the Holy Spirit, grant, we pray, that by her example we may in humility hold fast to your will. 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 1:26-38

Today's prayer:

O Clavis David:

O Key of David, O royal Power of Israel controlling at Your will the gate of Heaven: Come, break down the prison walls of death for those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death; and lead Your captive people into freedom.

Isaiah had prophesied:

I will place the Key of the House of David on His shoulder; when He opens, no one will shut, when He shuts, no one will open. (Isaiah 22:22), and His dominion is vast and forever peaceful, from David's throne, and over His kingdom, which He confirms and sustains by judgment and justice, both now and forever. (Isaiah 9:6).

Come, Lord Jesus, do not delay!

Thursday – 21st December

Collect:

Hear in kindness, O Lord, the prayers of Your people, that those who rejoice at the coming of Your Only Begotten Son in our flesh may, when at last He comes in glory, gain the reward of eternal 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: Luke 1:39-45

Today's prayer:

O Oriens:

O Radiant Dawn, splendour of eternal light, sun of justice: come, shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death.

Isaiah had prophesied:

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; upon those who dwelt in the land of gloom a light has shown. (Isaiah 9:1).

Come, Lord Jesus, do not delay!

Friday – 22nd December

Collect:

O God, who, seeing the human race fallen into death, willed to redeem it by the coming of Your Only Begotten Son, grant, we pray, that those who confess His Incarnation with humble fervor may merit His company as their Redeemer. Who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Today's Gospel reading: Luke 1:46-56

Today's prayer:

O Rex Gentium:

O King of all the nations, the only joy of every human heart; O Keystone of the mighty arch of man, come and save the creature You fashioned from the dust.

Isaiah had prophesied:

For a Child is born to us, a Son is given us; upon His shoulder dominion rests. They name Him Wonder-Counsellor, God-Hero, Father-Forever, Prince of Peace. (Isaiah 9:5), and He shall judge between the nations, and impose terms on many peoples. They shall beat their swords into ploughshare's and their spears into pruning hooks; one nation shall not raise the sword against another, nor shall they train for war again. (Isaiah 2:4).

Come, Lord Jesus, do not delay!

Saturday – 23rd December

Collect:

Almighty ever-living God, as we see how the Nativity of Your Son according to the flesh draws near, we pray that to us, Your unworthy servants, mercy may flow from Your Word, who chose to become flesh of the Virgin Mary and establish among us His dwelling, Jesus Christ our Lord. Who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Today's Gospel reading: Luke 1:57-66

Today's prayer:

O Emmanuel:

O Emmanuel, King and Lawgiver, desire of the nations, Saviour of all people, come and set us free, Lord our God.

Isaiah had prophesied:

The Lord Himself will give you this sign: the Virgin shall be with child, and bear a son, and shall name Him Emmanuel.

Emmanuel means God is with us.

Come, Lord Jesus, do not delay!

There were many devices used to teach the faith in the medieval church, here is one of them - an acrostic: If we start with the last title and take the first letter of each one – Emmanuel, Rex, Oriens, Clavis, Radix, Adonai, Sapientia – we come up the Latin words ERO CRAS meaning, "Tomorrow, I will be [there]!" Therefore, the Lord Jesus, whose coming we have prepared for throughout Advent and whom we have considered in the seven Messianic titles, now speaks to us: He says, "Tomorrow, I will be [there]!" So, the 'O Antiphons' not only bring an intensity to our Advent preparation, they also prepare and lead us into its truly joyful conclusion!