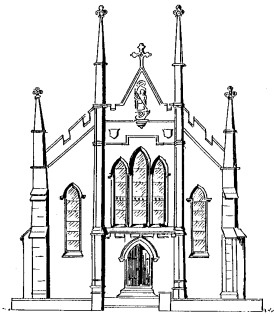


DAILY PRAYERS ADVENT WEEK 4



HOLY TRINITY & ST GEORGE
CATHOLIC CHURCH
Serving Kendal and Sedbergh

www.kendalcatholicchurch.uk

Sunday - Advent Week 4 (Year B)

Christmas Eve

Collect:

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.
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 Virgo Virginum:

O Virgin of Virgins, how shall this be? For neither before you was there any like you, nor shall there be after.
Daughters of Jerusalem, why do you marvel at me? The thing you behold is a divine mystery.

St Luke (1:34-5) tells us:

Mary said to the angel "How can this be, since I have no relations with a man?"

And the angel said to her in reply, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore, the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God.

Come, Lord Jesus, do not delay!

Monday – The Nativity of the Lord

Collect:

Grant, we pray, almighty God,
that, as we are bathed in the new radiance of Your incarnate Word,
the light of faith, which illumines our minds,
may also shine through in our deeds.
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: Luke 2:15-20

Today's prayer:

O Child, who willed to have for Your crib a manger; O Creator of the universe, who stripped Yourself of divine glory; O Redeemer, who offered Your vulnerable body in sacrifice for the salvation of humanity! May the radiance of Your birth light up the night of the world. May the power of Your message of love thwart the proud snares of the evil one. May the gift of Your life make us understand ever more clearly the worth of the life of each human being. Too much blood is still being shed on the earth! Too much violence and too many conflicts trouble the peaceful coexistence of nations! You come to bring us peace. You are our peace! You alone can make of us “a people purified” and belonging to You for ever, a people “zealous for good deeds” (Titus 2:14). For to us a Child is born, to us a Son is given! What an unfathomable mystery is hidden in the humility of this Child! We would like to touch Him; we would like to embrace Him. You, Mary, who keep watch over your all-powerful Son, grant us your eyes to contemplate Him with faith; grant us your heart to worship Him with love. In His simplicity, the Child of Bethlehem teaches us to rediscover the real meaning of our existence; He teaches us “to live sober, upright and godly lives in this world” (Titus 2:12). O Holy Night, so long awaited, which has united God and man for ever! You rekindle our hope. You fill us with ecstatic wonder. You assure us of the triumph of love over hatred, of life over death. For this reason we remain absorbed in prayer. In the luminous silence of Your Nativity, You, Emmanuel, continue to speak to us. And we are ready to listen to You. Amen!

Pope St John Paul II

**O come let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord!**

Tuesday – St Stephen

Proto-Martyr

patron saint of altar servers, deacons, bricklayers and coffin makers!

Collect:

Grant, Lord, we pray,
that we may imitate what we worship,
and so learn to love even our enemies,
for we celebrate the heavenly birthday
of a man who knew how to pray even for his persecutors.
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 10:17-22

Today's prayer:

The gates of heaven opened for St Stephen,
the first of the martyrs -
in heaven he wears the crown of victory.

Lord,
today we celebrate the entrance
of Saint Stephen into eternal glory.
He died praying for those who killed him.
Help us to imitate his goodness
and to love our enemies.
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.

St Stephen, Pray for us

As St Stephen is the patron saint of altar servers – we thank God today for each of our altar servers. We ask Him to continue to bless them and encourage them in the work and witness they give to Him as good servers of the community at the altar. Happy feast day!

Wednesday – St John the Divine

Apostle and Evangelist

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 marvellously 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:

Most Beloved Disciple,
you whose head rested upon the breast of Our Saviour at the Last Supper,
you to whom Christ entrusted his own Blessed Mother from the Cross,
intercede for us in heaven, that we too may know the loving embrace of God.
Through your prayers,
may the Word be made flesh in our lives
and may all those whose lives we touch be brought closer to the Living and True God.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who, with the Father and the Holy Spirit reigns,
One God, now and for ever. Amen.

St John apostle and evangelist, Pray for us

Thursday – The Holy Innocents

Martyrs

Patron saints of babies and the pro-life movement

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: Matthew 2:13-18

Today's prayer:

We remember today, O God,
the slaughter of the Holy Innocents of Bethlehem by King Herod.
Receive, we pray, into the arms of Your mercy
all innocent victims;
and by Your great might frustrate the designs of evil tyrants
and establish Your rule of justice, love and peace.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

All Holy Innocents, Pray for us

Friday – St Thomas Becket

Martyr

patron saint of pastoral 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, One God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Today's Gospel reading: Matthew 16:24-27

Today's prayer:

Father, You confirm the true faith with the crown of martyrdom. May the prayers of St Thomas Becket give us the courage to proclaim our faith by the witness of our lives. Through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

St Thomas Becket, Pray for us

Saturday – 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:

O Jesus, You said, "Ask and you shall receive, seek and you shall find, knock and it shall be opened," through the intercession of Mary, Your Most Holy Mother, I knock, I seek, I ask that my prayer be granted.
(Make your request...)

O Jesus, You said, "All that you ask of the Father in My Name, He will grant you," through the intercession of Mary Your Most Holy Mother, I humbly and urgently ask Your Father in Your Name that my prayer will be granted.
(Make your request...)

O Jesus, You said, "Heaven and Earth shall pass away but My word shall not pass away," through the intercession of Mary Your Most Holy Mother, I feel confident that my prayer will be granted.
(Make your request...)

Divine Infant Jesus, I know You love me and would never leave me. I thank You for Your close Presence in my life. Miraculous Infant, I believe in Your promise of peace, blessings, and freedom from want. I place every need and care in Your hands. Lord Jesus, may I always trust in Your generous mercy and love. I want to honour and praise You, now and forever. Amen.