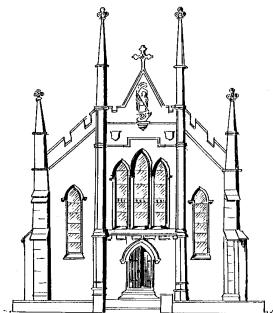


DAILY PRAYERS

1st SUNDAY OF ADVENT



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

www.kendalcatholicchurch.uk

Sunday - Advent Week 1 (Year A)

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: Mt 24:37-44

Today's prayer:

O God, by Your holy prophets
You promised that Your only Son
would come in the flesh for us
and be born of a virgin.
In these last days
You have fulfilled Your Word.
When He who came to redeem the world
comes to be our judge,
let us not be put to shame.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

On Sundays throughout Year A we follow St Matthew's Gospel. Little is known about St Matthew, except that he was the son of Alpheus, and he was likely born in Galilee. He worked as a tax collector, which was a hated profession during the time of Christ. According to his Gospel, Matthew was working at a collection booth in Capernaum when Christ came to him and asked, "Follow me." With this simple call, Matthew became a disciple of Christ. From Matthew we know of the many doings of Christ and the message Christ spread of salvation for all people who come to God through Him. The Gospel account of Matthew tells the same story as that found in the other three Gospels, so scholars are certain of its authenticity. Many years following the death of Christ, around 41 and 50 AD, Matthew wrote his gospel account. He wrote the book in Aramaic in the hope that his account would convince his fellow people that Jesus was the Messiah and that His kingdom had been fulfilled in a spiritual way. It was an important message at a time when almost everyone was expecting the return of a militant messiah brandishing a sword.

St Matthew, Pray for us

Monday - Advent Week 1

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

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:

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

St Ralph Sherwin was born at Rodsley, Derbyshire. He was educated at Eton college. In 1568, he was nominated by Sir William Petre to one of the eight fellowships which he had founded at Exeter College, Oxford. A talented classical scholar, Sherwin obtained his Bachelor of Arts in 1571 and Master of Arts on 2 July 1574, and the following year converted to Roman Catholicism. He soon made for the English College at Douai, where he was ordained a priest by the Bishop of Cambrai on 23 March 1577. On 2 August 1577, he left for Rome, where he stayed at the English College, Rome for nearly three years. On 18 April 1580, Sherwin and thirteen companions left Rome for England as missionaries. He got into England in early August and started his successful ministry in different parts of the country but not for long in 1580 for the crime of priesthood. Queen Elizabeth, I offered to make him a bishop if he would renounce the Catholic Church, but he refused. He endured torture, including the rack, before being charged with high treason for promoting Catholicism and sentenced to death.

Tuesday - Advent Week 1

Collect:

Look with favour, Lord God, on our petitions,
and in our trials grant us Your compassionate help,
that, consoled by the presence of Your Son,
whose coming we now await,
we may be tainted no longer
by the corruption of former ways.

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 10:21-24

Today's prayer:

God of hope, we cling to You,
for Your renew the face of the Earth.
Through the gift of Your Son,
our Lord Jesus,
we follow You on the path of dawn.
Enlightened by Your love and wisdom,
help us to lead each other
and all creatures
back to Your open arms. Amen.

Wednesday – St Francis Xavier

Pastor

patron saint of Catholic missions

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

St Francis Xavier was a Spanish Jesuit who lived as a Catholic missionary in the 1500s. He was one of the first seven members of the Jesuit order and travelled extensively, particularly in India, Southeast Asia, and Japan, to share his faith.

Thursday - Advent Week 1

St John Damascene

patron saint of pharmacists, icon painters, and theology students

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:

St John Damascene,
you sensed God calling you out of the world
to a place where you could enter into deep communion with Him.
In that holy monastery,
you were formed in virtue and holy learning.

God then used you in remarkable ways
for the good of the Church and His glory.

Pray for me,
that I will embrace the deeper conversion I need
so as to be better equipped to serve God as He wills.

Saint John Damascene, pray for us

St John Damascene (c. 675–749) was a Syrian monk, priest, and theologian famed for defending the veneration of icons during the Iconoclast controversy. Living at Mar Saba near Jerusalem, he wrote the Exposition of the Orthodox Faith and composed influential hymns. He died on 4 December 749.

Friday - Advent Week 1

Collect:

Stir up Your power, we pray, O Lord, and come,
that with You to protect us,
we may find rescue
from the pressing dangers of our sins,
and with You to set us free,
we may be found worthy of salvation.
Who live and reign with God the Father
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
One God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Today's Gospel reading: Matthew 9:27-31

Today's prayer:

Christ, come into our world of darkness
Light up our lives with Your coming.
Fulfil all our longings with the joy of Your birth
Strengthen our resolve to work for change in our world
And to share the hope of Your birth that each Advent brings.
Amen.

Saturday – St Nicholas of Myra

Bishop - *patron saint of Children, coopers, travellers, sailors, fishermen, merchants, toymakers, broadcasters, the falsely accused, repentant thieves, brewers, pharmacists, archers, pawnbrokers and unmarried people*

Collect:

We humbly implore your mercy, Lord:
protect us in all dangers
through the prayers of the Bishop Saint Nicholas,
that the way of salvation may lie open before us.
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 9:35-10:1,5a,6-8

Today's prayer:

O good St. Nicholas,
you who are the joy of the children,
put in my heart the spirit of childhood,
which the gospel speaks, and teach me to seed happiness around me.
You, whose feast prepares us for Christmas,
open my faith to the mystery of God made man.
You good bishop and shepherd,
help me to find my place in the Church
and inspire the Church to be faithful to the Gospel.
O good Saint Nicholas, patron of children, sailors and the helpless,
watch over those who pray to Jesus, your Lord and theirs,
as well as over those who humble themselves before you.
Bring us all in reverence to the Holy Child of Bethlehem,
when true joy and peace are found. Amen.

St Nicholas, Pray for us

St Nicholas of Myra (c. 270–343), bishop and wonder-worker, was known for secret generosity, defending the faith at Nicaea (325), and protecting the vulnerable. His feast, 6 December, celebrates a life of charity that inspired centuries of Christian devotion.