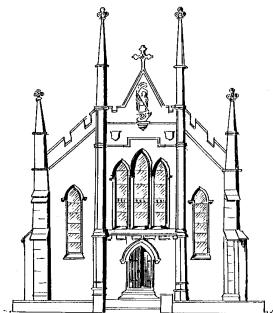


DAILY PRAYERS

3rd SUNDAY OF ADVENT



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

www.kendalcatholicchurch.uk

Sunday - Advent Week 3 (Year A)

Gaudate Sunday – Rejoice Sunday

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: Matthew 11:2-11

Today's prayer:

Lord Jesus, You know that our hearts long for the joy and gladness promised by life with You. Help us to remember that You are with us always, and that our hearts will rest only when they rest with You.

Holy Spirit, guide the choices we make throughout this week. Help us endure hardship. Remind us to be patient. Stifle our tendency to complain. Help us realize how much we owe the creator for all we have and all we are.

Father in Heaven, we offer thanks to You for sending St John the Baptist to prepare the way for the coming of the Saviour. Help us to heed the Baptist's message to repent and to renew our commitment to live in holiness.

Come Lord Jesus, come. So often we are impatient for Your coming, yet we are fearful of living our lives as one with You. Come and ease our anxiety. Come and reward our patience. Come and remove our sorrow. Our communities and our world eagerly await the day of Your birth. Come Lord Jesus and do not delay!

Monday - Advent Week 3

Collect:

Incline a merciful ear to our cry, we pray, O Lord,
and, casting light on the darkness of our hearts,
visit us with the grace of 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 21:23-27

Today's prayer:

Heavenly Father

as we enter this third week of Advent,
may our hearts be filled with joy and anticipation.

Illuminate our paths with Your light,
helping us to prepare for the coming of Christ, Your son, our Lord.
Let our faith grow stronger,
and may we share Your love with others in this holy season. Amen.

Tuesday - Advent Week 3

Collect:

O God, who through Your Only Begotten Son
have made us a new creation,
look kindly, we pray,
on the handiwork of Your mercy,
and at Your Son's coming
cleanse us from every stain of the old way 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 21:28-32

Today's prayer:

Heavenly Father,
in this sacred season of Advent,
we seek Your peace that surpasses all understanding.
Calm our hearts amidst the chaos,
and fill us with hope and joy
as we prepare for the coming of Christ, Your Son, our Lord,
May Your tranquillity guide our thoughts and actions,
leading us to share Your love with others.
Grant us the serenity to embrace this holy time.
Amen.

Wednesday – 17th December

From today our anticipation of Christ's impending birth intensifies

Collect:

O God, Creator and Redeemer of human nature,
who willed that Your Word should take flesh
in an ever-virgin womb,
look with favour on our prayers,
that Your Only Begotten Son,
having taken to Himself our humanity,
may be pleased to grant us a share in His divinity.
Who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Today's Gospel: Matthew 1:1-17

Today's prayer:

The days from 17th to 23rd December mark a special period in the Church's prayer. During these days at Evening Prayer, special antiphons — verses — are sung or recited before the Magnificat. These are known as the 'O Antiphons'. (24 December is Christmas Eve, and Evening Prayer that night marks the beginning of the Christmas celebration.) The exact origin of the 'O Antiphon's is unknown. Boethius (c. 480–524) refers to them, showing that they were already in use in his time. At the Benedictine abbey of Fleury, they were recited by the abbot and other senior members of the community in descending order of rank, after which gifts were distributed. By the eighth century, they had become part of Rome's liturgical celebrations. Together, this tells us that the O Antiphons belong to the very early tradition of the Church. Their importance is twofold: each antiphon proclaims a title of the Messiah, and each draws on Isaiah's prophecies of the One who is to come. Over the next seven days, we will use these antiphons for daily prayer and reflection as we prepare for the birth of the Messiah 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!

Thursday – 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 Mount Sinai: 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!

Friday – 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!

Saturday – 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!