

## RESOURCES FOR ADVENT



### ADVENT INTERCESSIONS

*We present our petitions to the Lord, who looks on us, with kindness, as his people, his children.*

**As we celebrate/begin Advent we pray that we stay awake and aware, for Christ comes to us in unexpected ways. May Advent be a time of grace and new beginnings.**

*(pause)*

**Lord, hear us.**

**We pray for our world, a world waiting for God, that the light of Christ may break through darkness. We remember the people through whom Christ comes to us each day, especially our family and parish.**

*(pause)*

**Lord, hear us.**

**We pray for a spirit of solidarity and courage as we continue to face together the dangers of the coronavirus and as we remember all who suffer in this dangerous time.**

*(pause)*

**Lord, hear us.**

**We pray for peace –peace in our world, peace in our homes, peace in our hearts.**

*(pause)*

**Lord, hear us.**

**We pray for all who are sick or distressed in any way, mind, body or spirit. We remember all who are in need through poverty, hunger or homelessness. May we be generous and supportive in our response to need.**

*(pause)*

Lord, hear us.

**We pray for our children, for all children, remembering those who live without love, for those who suffer through poverty, hunger and violence.**

*(pause)*

Lord, hear us.

**We pray for our sisters and brothers who have died, especially those from the Coronavirus. May all our faithful departed enjoy eternal peace and rest.**

*(pause)*

Lord, hear us.

*O God of all ages, rouse us from sleep, deliver us from our heedless ways and form us into a watchful people, that, at the coming of your Son, he may find us doing what is right, mindful of all you command. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.*

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## JESSE TREE



Creator God,  
Bless this tree  
That tells the story of your care for us  
And fill us with joyful hope  
As we wait for the coming of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

God of all ages,  
You have promised to be with your Church  
Until the end of time.  
May we experience the joy of your presence in our midst  
For you live and reign for ever and ever. Amen

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## **BLESSING OF THE ADVENT WREATH**

We ask you, God, our creator, to bless  
This Advent wreath.  
May it remind us that Jesus is in our midst  
And that we are surrounded by his love and care.

Bless these candles on our wreath.  
May they remind us that Jesus is the  
Light of the World

Bless these evergreens on our wreath.  
May they remind us that Jesus' love for us  
Is everlasting and that nothing we do will  
Ever take it away.

May this wreath remind us to prepare well  
For Christmas, each and every day of the  
Advent Season.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.



### **Lighting of the First Advent Candle**

As we light our First Advent Candle this week  
May we open our hearts to the light of Christ.  
May His light increase in brightness,  
Through our love and efforts this Advent.  
Amen.

### **Lighting of the Second Candle**

Father, all powerful Lord of Light,  
May our Advent be a time of preparation.  
Help us reflect on the power of light  
to dispel darkness in our world and in our lives.  
Touch our hearts with the warmth of your love.

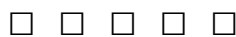
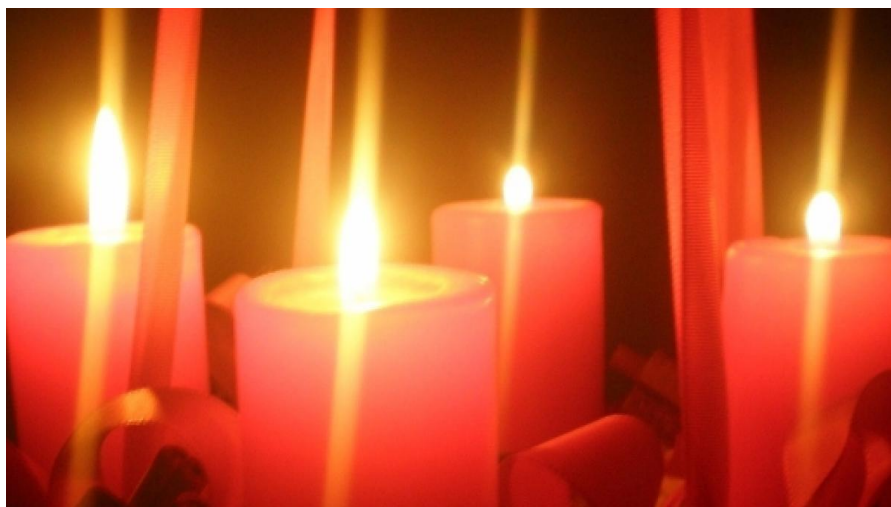
May the increasing light of these candles  
brighten our minds and hearts to be  
steadfast in faith, joyful in hope and untiring in love,  
so that we are ready again to receive in true peace,  
Jesus, the Light of the World, our Lord and Saviour.  
Amen.

### **Lighting of the Third Candle**

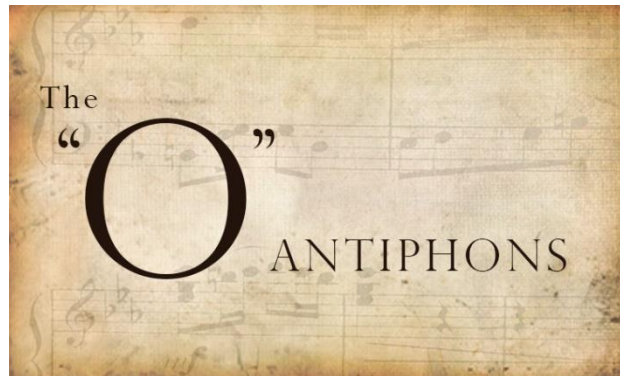
Lord God,  
may we, your people,  
who look forward to the feast of Christmas  
experience the joy of salvation  
and celebrate that feast with love and thanksgiving.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

### **Lighting of the Fourth Candle**

Father, all-powerful God,  
your eternal Word took flesh on our earth  
when the Virgin Mary placed her life at the service of  
your plan.  
Lift our minds in watchful hope  
to hear the announcing of his glory  
and open our minds to receive the Spirit  
who prepares us for this coming.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.



## O ANTIPHONS



A feature of the Liturgy of the Hours in Advent is the singing of the Magnificat antiphon on the seven evenings before the Vigil of Christmas. They were popular especially during the Middle Ages in the Monastic Office. Intoning the antiphon was the special privilege of office holders in the community, the chant had a special distinction, and the great bell of the monastery was tolled throughout. The ritual and the meanings created the atmosphere of expectation for the Christmas feast. These antiphons are still in the Liturgy of the Hours today. They are also used in the daily Lectionary as the versicle for the Gospel Acclamation. An Advent Prayer Service can be built around the singing of the antiphons, using appropriate readings and prayers.

<b>O Sapientia</b>	<b>O Wisdom</b>
<b>O Adonai</b>	<b>O Lord</b>
<b>O Radix Jesse</b>	<b>O Root of Jesse</b>
<b>O Clavis David</b>	<b>O Key of David</b>
<b>O Oriens</b>	<b>O Rising Sun</b>
<b>O Rex</b>	<b>O King</b>
<b>O Emmanuel</b>	<b>O Emmanuel</b>

The antiphons are mosaics of scripture texts expressing a longing for salvation and liberation and express our longing for Christ's coming, praying for our salvation.

**17 December: O WISDOM**, you come forth from the Most High. You will the universe and hold all things together in a strong yet gentle manner. O come to teach us the way of truth.

**18 December: O ADONAI** and leader of Israel, you appeared to Moses in a burning bush and you gave him the law on Sinai. O come and save us with your mighty power.

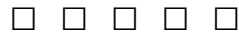
**19 December: O STOCK OF JESSE**, you stand as a signal for the nations; kings fall silent before you whom the peoples acclaim. O come to deliver us and do not delay.

**20 December: O KEY OF DAVID** and sceptre of Israel, what you open no one else can close again; what you close no one can open. O come to lead the captive from prison; free those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death.

**21 December: O RISING SUN**, you are the splendour of eternal light and the sun of justice. O come and enlighten those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death.

**22 December: O KING** whom all the peoples desire, you are the cornerstone which makes all one. O come and save us whom you made from clay.

**23 December: O EMMANUEL**, you are our king and judge, the one whom the peoples await and their Saviour. O come and save us, Lord, our God.



## Maranatha

**Maranatha: Come, O Lord**

**Maranatha: Our Lord has come**



## ADVENT COMPANIONS

**Isaiah, John the Baptist, Mary**

### **Isaiah –our first Advent companion**

“The Advent liturgy is not solely, nor even principally, a preparation for Christmas, the commemoration of the birth of Jesus. It is marked more by expectation of the *parousia*, the second coming of Christ. And this is as it should be for we live in the age of his advent, the Messianic time. We cannot look forward to his first coming but, looking back to it, we can then turn our eyes to the time when the kingdom of God will be perfected. In this way we can still realistically share the expectation of Israel. It is not, then, surprising that Isaiah figures prominently in the readings, a prophetic book that is redolent with promise and hope.”

-Wilfrid Harrington, O.P.



## **O Comfort My People**

O comfort my people and calm all their fear,  
and tell them the time of salvation draws near.  
O tell them I come to remove all their shame.  
then they will for ever give praise to my name.

Proclaim to the cities of Juda my word;  
that 'gentle yet strong is the hand of the Lord.  
I rescue the captives, my people defend  
and bring them to justice and joy without end.

'All mountains and hills shall become as a plain  
for vanished are mourning and hunger and pain  
and never again shall these war against you.  
Behold I come quickly, to make all things new.'

Isaiah 40 – Mount Melleray

## **John the Baptist - our second Advent companion**

“St John the Baptist is very prominent in Advent. He is an ideal companion, at once austere and joyful. His own life was penitential in the extreme, but there was no note of sadness in it. As the herald and forerunner of the Lord, he rejoiced to hear the voice of the Bridegroom. He is the one to stir us out of our complacency: ‘Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand’, was his cry.”

-Vincent Ryan, OSB



## **On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry**

On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry  
announces that the Lord is nigh;  
awake and hearken, for he brings  
glad tidings of the King of kings.

Then cleansed be ev'ry heart from sin;  
make straight the way for God within,  
and let each heart prepare a home  
where such a mighty guest may come.

For you are our salvation, Lord,  
our refuge, and our great reward:

without your grace we waste away,  
like flow'rs that wither and decay.

To heal the sick stretch out your hand,  
and bid the fallen sinner stand;  
shine forth, and let you light restore  
earth's own true loveliness once more.

To God the Son all glory be  
whose advent set your people free;  
whom with the Father we adore  
and Holy Spirit evermore.

### **Mary - our third Advent companion**

“As we now celebrate it, Advent is in two parts each with its dominant characteristic. Up to 16 December the main note is eschatological: there is a strong emphasis on penance and on being ready when Christ comes in glory. From 17 December the mood changes and the season becomes largely a preparation for Christmas. In the first part of the season the main figure is John the Baptist. He proclaimed the coming of the kingdom whose final manifestation we still await. Mary is the dominant personage of the second part ...

-Christopher O'Donnell, O.Carm



### **Behold A Virgin Bearing Him**

Behold a virgin bearing him,  
Who comes to save us from our sin;  
The prophets cry: prepare his way,  
Make straight his paths to Christmas day.

Behold our hope and life and light,  
The promise of the holy night;  
We lift our prayer and bend our knee  
To his great love and majesty.

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## O Come, O Come Emmanuel

*Rejoice, rejoice, O Israel,  
to you shall come Emmanuel.*

The Advent carol, *O Come, O Come Emmanuel* is known by most congregations. It is a translation of a 12<sup>th</sup> century Latin hymn, *Veni, veni Emmanuel*, which is a metrical version of the O Antiphons, which brings us back to the 8<sup>th</sup>/9<sup>th</sup> century. These were the verses, taken from the Old Testament, calling on the Lord to come among us, as we sing the Magnificat at Evening Prayer.

*O Come, O Come Emmanuel* appeared first in a hymnal of 1851 and in its present form in *Hymns Ancient and Modern* in 1861. The tune we use is a 15<sup>th</sup> century French melody.

The translation is by John Mason Neale, Anglican priest and scholar. Born in London in 1818, he studied at Cambridge and was ordained priest in 1842. Ill-health prevented him serving in parish life. He spent three years in Madeira, with his wife, and there wrote a history of the Eastern Church. He was a gifted scholar, with a knowledge of 20 languages. He translated the liturgies of the Eastern Church and the hymns of the Breviary and translated or composed many others, including *Good King Wenceslaus*. In 1846, he became warden of Sackville College, a charitable institution for the elderly and poor in East Grinstead, Sussex. This was the only ecclesiastical position he held until his early death at 48 years of age in 1866. He founded the Sisterhood of St Margaret at East Grinstead, an order dedicated to the care of the sick, and as chaplain, brought a High Church understanding to the liturgy. He had a special devotion to the Blessed Sacrament and is credited with being the first to restore Reservation of the Blessed Sacrament in the Anglican Communion.

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**St Nicholas : 6<sup>th</sup> December**  
**St Lucy : 13<sup>th</sup> December**

### **Santa Claus**

Children, unmarried girls, pawnbrokers, sailors, perfumiers and many more claim St Nicholas as patron. He was a 4<sup>th</sup> century bishop of Myra, in south-western Turkey. Legends have made up for the little we know of him. He gave three bags of gold to three girls as their marriage dowry and saved them from the streets. He restored to life three young boys who had been murdered. He saved three sailors off the coast of Turkey. In the 11<sup>th</sup> century, when Myra was taken by the Moslems, his relics were brought to Bari in Italy and his shrine glowed with perfume. As someone who rewarded good children with presents, he became children's best friend, with a new name.

### **Santa Lucia**

Sung by so many, including Enrico Caruso and Elvis Presley, and heard around Christmas almost as a carol, Santa Lucia, a traditional Neapolitan song comes from the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. Its original lyrics celebrate the Borgo Santa Lucia in the Bay of Naples, where the boatmen and passengers are invited to enjoy the beauty and calm of the evening. In Scandinavia at the feast

of St Lucy, 13 December, at the darkest time of the year, with some changes in lyrics, it became a song for a festival of light, fitting neatly into the preparation for Christmas. Lucia or Lucy died at Syracuse in Sicily in the persecution of the emperor Diocletian in 304 and was widely venerated from earliest times.

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## SERVICE OF NINE LESSONS WITH CAROLS

The Service of Nine Lessons with Carols was first drawn up by Edward Benson when Bishop of Truro for use in that cathedral. Later, in 1918 it was simplified and adapted for King's College, Cambridge by Dean Eric Milner-White. The scripture readings are:

<b>Genesis 3:8-15</b>	<b>The Fall</b>
<b>Genesis 22:1-19</b> <b>or 22:15-18</b>	<b>The Promise to Abraham</b>
<b>Isaiah 9:2, 6-7</b>	<b>The Prophecy of the Messiah's birth</b>
<b>Isaiah 11:1-9</b>	<b>The Prophecy of the Messiah's Kingdom of Peace</b>
<b>or Micah 5:2-4</b>	<b>The Messiah will be born in Bethlehem</b>
<b>Luke 1:26-38</b>	<b>The Annunciation to Mary</b>
<b>or Isaiah 60:1-6, 19</b>	<b>The Coming of the Glory of the Lord</b>
<b>Matthew 1:18-23</b>	<b>The Birth of Emmanuel</b>
<b>or Luke 2:1-7</b>	<b>The Birth of Jesus</b>
<b>Luke 2:8-16</b>	<b>The Shepherds go to the Manger</b>
<b>Matthew 2:1-11</b>	<b>The Magi are led by the star to Jesus</b>
<b>John 1:1-14</b>	<b>The Incarnation of the Word of God</b>

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## SONGS FOR ADVENT

**O Come, O Come Emmanuel –*Veritas Hymnal, Hosanna, Laudate, In Caelo***

**Wait for the Lord (Taizé) - *Gather, Laudate, In Caelo***

**Save us O Lord –*Glory and Praise, Laudate***

**O Come Divine Messiah –*Laudate***

**Bread of Life, Hope of the World –*Gather, Laudate***

**O Comfort My People –*Veritas Hymnal, Hosanna, Laudate, In Caelo***

**Promised Land –*Alleluia Amen, Hosanna, Laudate***

**Come to Set Us Free –*Hosanna, Gather, Laudate***

**On Jordan's Bank –*Gather, Laudate***

**Let Us Go Rejoicing –*Gather, Laudate***

**Behold a Virgin Bearing Him –*Veritas Hymnal / Feasts & Seasons 1***

**Come, O Long-Expected Jesus –*Feasts & Seasons 1***

**Christ Circle Round Us – *Feasts & Seasons 2***



*Some want to keep the Gospel so disembodied that it  
doesn't get involved at all in the world it must save.*

*Christ is now in history.*

*Christ is in the womb of the people.*

*Christ is now bringing about the new heaven and the new earth.*

**Archbishop Oscar Romero**



*Prepared by the National Centre for Liturgy, Pontifical University, St Patrick's College, Maynooth, Co. Kildare.*