

BLESSED EDWARD OLDCORNE CATHOLIC COLLEGE



# ADVENT

# LITURGIES



A.M.D.G. - FOR THE GREATER GLORY OF GOD

# ADVENT CHAPEL LITURGIES

## WEEKLY THEMES

1. Let us be alert and ready.
2. Confidently we await the coming of our Lord.
3. O King of all Nations.
4. Keep some stillness today;  
be ready for his coming.





## COLLEGE PRAYER

God our Father,  
you filled Blessed Edward Oldcorne  
with the strength and courage  
to be a witness to Christ,  
and in doing so he became a martyr.  
Grant us a share in that same strength,  
that we may daily take up our cross and follow you.

Amen.



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THE ARCHDIOCESE *of* BIRMINGHAM

## BUILDING A HOUSE FOR THE LORD

*As we make this journey of prayer together, may the Lord bless us. May he bring peace to our homes. May his Holy Spirit move our minds and hearts to care tenderly for each other as we welcome among us our Saviour, Christ the Lord.*

## WALK WITH ME PRAYER

Lord God, our light, and our salvation,  
we praise you for your gifts of life and faith.

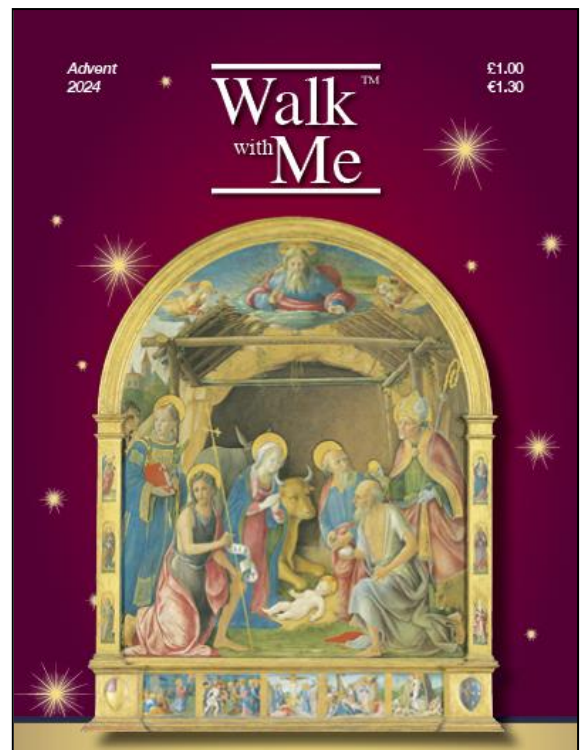
We thank you for the desire  
that you have planted in our hearts,  
our yearning to see your face.

Help us to meet you in prayer,  
to walk in your ways,  
and to speak to others of our joy  
and consolation in your presence.

Give us faithfulness in this present life  
so that we may come to know  
and praise your beauty,  
with all our brothers, and sisters,  
in the life to come.

We make this prayer through  
Christ our Lord.

Amen.



Our prayer is for the coming of the Saviour.

## LET US BE ALERT AND READY

### Mark 13:33

*Stay awake because you do not know when the master of the house is coming.*

Jesus compared our lives to a house, a building if you will, which is to be built on a sure and solid foundation. Jesus identified those who build their lives on the solid foundation as those who hear his word and put it into practice.

Those however who build their lives on a weak foundation, are those who although hearing his words do not put them into practice.

We are invited to root our lives on the firm foundation of Christ through prayer, reading his word, repenting of our sins and receiving the gift of the Eucharist.



*Father, on our Walk with Me Advent journey,  
teach me to build my life on the Rock which is Christ.  
Teach me also to be self controlled, alert and awake to the voice  
of the Spirit in my heart.*

# BEING READY FOR THE LORD FILLS US WITH JOYFUL ATTENTIVENESS TO THE GOODNESS OF EACH DAY

## Psalm 121

*I rejoiced when I heard them say: 'Let us go to God's house.'*

Waiting for things is a common human experience. We all know the frustration of waiting for a bus or train which is running late, or the anticipation of pending exam results; or a bridegroom waiting nervously for his bride to appear or the apprehension within a family expecting the imminent birth of a baby.

Waiting is always accompanied by a certain inner tension; we are on tenterhooks, on high alert.

The Holy Spirit is the one who heightens within us a sense of expectation and joy that the Lord is coming, that he is close and is eager to work in our lives.



*'I waited patiently for the Lord; he turned to me and heard my cry. He lifted me out of the slimy pit, and out of the mud and mire; he set my feet on a rock and gave me a firm place to stand.'*  
(Psalm 40)

## CONFIDENTLY WE AWAIT THE COMING OF OUR LORD

2 Peter 3:13

*We are waiting for the new heavens and new earth.*

One day St Francis of Assisi was doing some weeding and was asked by one of his brothers, 'Brother Francis what would you do if today, the end of the world was upon us?' St Francis replied, 'Brother, I would carry on gardening, just as I am.'

St Francis was ready to meet the Lord and did not fear either the end of the world or Jesus' return.

Advent is the season of 'comings'. We rejoice in Jesus' first coming, look forward to his second coming and prepare to receive him into our lives this Advent.

Since Jesus' Ascension into glory his return has been our focus of hope and for this we long and pray.



*'Christ is the Teacher who saves, who sanctifies and guides, who lives, who speaks, rouses, moves, forgives and goes with us day by day on the path of history, who will come again in glory.'*

*(Pope John Paul II)*

# BE IMITATORS OF GOD, BUILD A HOUSE OF LOVE FOR ALL.

Matthew 11:28

*Come to me, all you who labour and I will give you rest.*

The human heart is deep and sometimes hard to understand.

St Augustine wisely observed:

'The hairs on your head are far easier to count than your feelings and the movements of your heart.'

The prophet Jeremiah echoed this: 'The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it?' (Jeremiah 17:9)

Despite this, all our hearts share common expectations, hopes and aspirations. We all want to be loved, forgiven and accepted. We all seek security, affection, and a sense of belonging. This is the house we are to build for one another. Jesus is the key. He is coming.

We await him with joy for he is the master builder.



*'Where there is no love, put love - and you will find love.'*  
(St John of the Cross)



# IF WE RECOGNISE THE LORD TODAY, WE WILL KNOW HIM WHEN HE COMES.

Isaiah 61:10

*I exalt for joy in the Lord.*

St Francis of Assisi once said: 'Study always to have joy; for it benefits not the servant of God to show before his brother or another, sadness or a troubled face.'

Joy is a gift and a fruit of the Holy Spirit (Galatians 5:22) which God gives to those who ask for it.

John the Baptist leapt with joy in his mother's womb in Jesus' presence. And his joy was full and complete when he later recognised him as the Messiah, the Lamb of God (John 1:29). We too will leap with joy as we take hold of the truth that Jesus is the Saviour, the Holy One of Israel, our Redeemer and Lord, the promised Messiah. He is coming!



*Father in heaven, teach me to count my joys and my blessings and rejoice in your goodness in sending Jesus your Son.  
Lord God, put a new song of gladness and joy into my heart and lead me to salvation.*

## O KING OF ALL NATIONS

*Let us speak about the Saviour and about the Christ child.*

Luke 1:46

*My spirit exalts in God my Saviour.*

These last few days before Christmas are to say the least, fraught, frantic, and frenetic. It is busy at work, busy at home. There are presents to buy, food to prepare and, last minute shopping is on the horizon! The suggestion that we take time out of our already packed schedule to gather our thoughts, be still and pray on the true meaning of Christmas, seems no more than a pious aspiration.

However, we know, deep in our hearts, that we can find time to be quiet, to retreat and still our racing minds. Christmas invites us into this silence and within it we become sensitive to the still quiet voice of God. Let us encourage each other to do so.



*'While gentle silence enveloped all things, and night in its swift course was now half gone, your all-powerful word leaped from heaven, from the royal throne into the midst of the land that was doomed.*

*(Wisdom 18: 14-15)*

## KEEP SOME STILLNESS TODAY; BE READY FOR HIS COMING.

Luke 1: 78

*The tender mercy of our God who, from on high, will bring the rising Sun to visit us.*

'The ox knows its owner, and the ass its master's crib; but Israel does not know, and my people do not understand.' (Isaiah 1: 3)

The Church Fathers understood this passage as pointing to the new people of God, consisting of Jew and Gentile alike who were without reason or knowledge of God.

The child in the crib opened their eyes, so that they recognised the voice of the Master, the voice of the Lord.

During Jesus' life many leaders failed to recognise God's coming: Herod, the teachers of the law, the Scribes, and the Pharisees. However, the humble of the earth, the shepherds, the Magi, Mary and Joseph, recognised him and bowed down and worshipped.



*Lord Jesus, on this holy eve of your birth I ask for the grace to be open, humble, and receptive to discovering, as St Francis discovered, the Lord of Lords, the King of Kings, and your promised Messiah in the crib.*



THE SEASONS OF

# ADVENT & CHRISTMAS

## CYCLE OF PRAYER

*Please pray for the following intentions:*

Openness to the Word of God,  
Migrants and Refugees,  
and Expectant Mothers.

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