



LICHFIELD
CATHEDRAL

ADVENT DEVOTIONAL CALENDAR 2020

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you read the Bible and pray*





ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS DEVOTIONAL CALENDAR – 2020



Prayer, Reading, Reflection, Action

Light your Advent candle each day as you read the Bible and pray.

<p>Advent I Sunday 29 November</p> <p><i>Read St. Mark 13:24-end</i></p> <p>The Advent message is: “stay awake”. Think about how we can use these next 26 days to be attuned to God using body, mind, and soul.</p>	<p>St Andrew Monday 30 November</p> <p><i>Read St. Matthew 4:18-22</i></p> <p>Reflect on Jesus’s call to his first followers. What does it mean to follow him today? How do we help offer Jesus’s call to others?</p>	<p>Tuesday 1 December</p> <p><i>Read St. Luke 10:21-24</i></p> <p>Jesus rejoices in our faith, loves our prayers and our attempts to follow him. Give thanks for the embrace of his love. Pray for all who need it today.</p>	<p>Wednesday 2 December</p> <p><i>Read St. Matthew 15:29-37</i></p> <p>When Jesus prayed his eyes were opened to human need: ask for alertness to the way we can feed and support the hungry, homeless, and vulnerable.</p>	<p>Thursday 3 December</p> <p><i>Read St. Matthew 7:21, 24-27</i></p> <p>What do we hope for? How grounded is our hope in God’s love rather than our wants? Pray for our foundations to be based securely in what Jesus promises.</p>	<p>Friday 4 December</p> <p><i>Read St. Matthew 9:27-31</i></p> <p>Ask for the gift of faith, especially at this time of confusion and sadness. Reach out to someone today.</p>	<p>Ambrose Saturday 5 December</p> <p><i>Read St. Matthew 9:35 – 10:1,6-8</i></p> <p>Jesus commissions his disciples to do his work. Ask for blessing and the gifts to share in his work. And do it.</p>
<p>Advent II Sunday 6 December</p> <p><i>Read St. Mark 1:1-8</i></p> <p>Stay alert for the news of God’s work in the here and now and the people who announce it. Ask to know the truth.</p>	<p>St Ambrose Monday 7 December</p> <p><i>Read St. Luke 5:17-26</i></p> <p>Jesus gives more than we can ask or conceive. Prepare to be given a fresh dose of wonder and pray to want it.</p>	<p>Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary Tuesday 8 December</p> <p><i>Read St. Luke 1:26-28</i></p> <p>Today pray for the people of Bethlehem, walled-in and isolated. Reflecting on Mary, how can we make her pattern of trust and surrender our own?</p>	<p>Wednesday 9 December</p> <p><i>Read St. Matthew 11:28-end</i></p> <p>Jesus gathers us and shields us asking us to know his tenderness and care for us. Bring our need to him today.</p>	<p>Thursday 10 December</p> <p><i>Read St. Matthew 11:11-15</i></p> <p>There are voices that point deep things out to us. Pray to be able to recognise them.</p>	<p>Friday 11 December</p> <p><i>Read St. Matthew 11:16-19</i></p> <p>Think of the times and occasions when you have really found belief baffling or deeply uncomfortable. What was learned?</p>	<p>Saturday 12 December</p> <p><i>Read St. Matthew 17:10-13</i></p> <p>Sometimes troubling people tell us difficult truths. Pray for the prophets of today and the grace to hear them.</p>
<p>Advent III Sunday 13 December</p> <p><i>Read St. Jahn 1:6-8, 19-28</i></p> <p>The mark of a true prophet is humility, which points away from self to God. How can we the Church draw attention to the “true light”.</p>	<p>St John of the Cross Monday 14 December</p> <p><i>Read St. Matthew 14: 18-23</i></p> <p>Jesus promises us intimate communion with him if we love him and make our home in him. What keeps us wanting this?</p>	<p>Tuesday 15 December</p> <p><i>Read St. Matthew 21:28-32</i></p> <p>How do we do good even when we don’t want to or find it burdensome? Can the examples of others help? Think about and give thanks for those examples.</p>	<p>Wednesday 16 December</p> <p><i>Read St. Luke 17:10b-23</i></p> <p>How do you test what you see and hear and know it might be from God? And how do you stay alert to God?</p>	<p>O Sapientia Thursday 17 December</p> <p><i>Read St. Matthew 1:-17</i></p> <p>As you read about all the generations who prepared the way for Jesus it includes outsiders, sinners, broken people: the slow emergence of God’s inclusive plan. Reflect on your life’s milestones.</p>	<p>Friday 18 December</p> <p><i>Read St. Matthew 1:18-24</i></p> <p>Reflect on Joseph’s role – the one who stands by and tries to make sense of his bewilderment. Pray for our willingness to accept and search for God’s will.</p>	<p>Saturday 19 December</p> <p><i>Read St. Luke 1:5-25</i></p> <p>Reflect on the part played by Zechariah and Elizabeth, humble believers whom God uses. What does God want from us in the here and now?</p>
<p>Advent IV Sunday 20 December</p> <p><i>Read St. Luke 1:26-38</i></p> <p>Mary’s life was intricately connected with the larger community. Her son’s life would enrich and complicate that connection. How can our faith response change our lives and affect others?</p>	<p>Monday 21 December</p> <p><i>Read St. Luke 1:39-45</i></p> <p>As you read about Elizabeth rejoicing about the children she and Mary are bearing – earth-shaking events are beginning, the Lord is coming among us. What praise can we offer this Christmas? What’s our song of gladness?</p>	<p>Tuesday 22 December</p> <p><i>Read St. Luke 1:46-56</i></p> <p>This is the Magnificat, Mary’s Song. The humble are exalted, the proud brought low. How do we share in her song?</p>	<p>Wednesday 23 December</p> <p><i>Read St. Luke 1: 56-66</i></p> <p>Reflect on this story: God is shaping a new future and this new-born child will be the herald. Pray for the new-born – for all the hope and promise they bring, for parents wondering about their children’s future.</p>	<p>Christmas Eve Thursday 24 December</p> <p><i>Read St. Luke 1:67-79</i></p> <p>As we begin the celebrations, reflect on what God is doing in the birth of Jesus: freeing, healing, shedding light, becoming present to us. Pray for a fresh sense of the lavish blessing God is giving the world in Jesus, ask for a deep sense of joy.</p>	<p>Christmas Day Friday 25 December</p> <p><i>Read St. John 1:1-14</i></p> <p>On this amazing day, we remember that Jesus born in humility is also The Word, the source of life, the light of all people. Because Jesus is both human and divine, we can bring him the entire scale of our experience – our need and our knowledge. “God is with us – Emmanuel”.</p>	<p>St Stephen’s Day Saturday 26 December</p> <p><i>Read Acts 7:51-end</i></p> <p>Reflect on the martyrdom of St. Stephen. Jesus gave us life through death – eternal life. We remember that the world hates and persecutes the light – anything that calls into question its values and opinions. God’s light searches and judges. Pray for all who stand up for God’s truth and suffer as a result.</p>



The Advent and Christmas Devotional Calendar 2020



How to use it

- Try and set aside 5-15 minutes every day.
- Buy or use a special candle to light each day as you read and pray through the suggestions on the calendar.
- Try and 'eat simply' – one day each week try going without so many calories or too much rich food, just have enough.
- Try to donate to a charity working with the homeless or the people of Bethlehem.
- Try to pray through what you see and notice going on around you in people, the media and nature.



Who is it for?

- For everyone who uses the Cathedral website.
- For all the Cathedral community.
- For people you want to send it to and invite to share in the daily devotional exercise.



What's the last week about?

The last week of Advent is special: at Evensong (evening prayer) a special antiphon is sung or said before and after the canticle of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Magnificat. Each begins with an 'O' and relates to some facet of Christ's nature and ancestry.

December 17	O Sapientia	Wisdom
December 18	O Adonai	Lord of Israel
December 19	O Radix Jesse	Root of Jesse (Jesse was the father of King David)
December 20	O Clavis David	Key of David
December 21	O Oriens	Morning Star rising in the East
December 22	O Rex Gentium	King of all nations
December 23	O Immanuel	Immanuel – 'God is with us'

As the week draws us to Christmas so the note of longing love intensifies.



Why make an effort this Advent?

- Because we live in difficult and unusual times.
- This is a simple prayer and bible-reading exercise to help us use the Advent Season as a time of preparation for the coming of Christ.
- It is designed to take us on a journey, looking back to John the Baptist and Mary the Mother of Jesus; looking out into the world today, into our own hearts and experience; outwards again to Jesus Christ as he encounters us in life today and in his promise to be with us always.
- Advent is the Church's mindful antidote to some of the diversion and consumerism of a modern Christmas. It prepares us to encounter Christ again in his joy and humility.