



CHRISTMAS NOVENA

22 DECEMBER

INTRODUCTION: Dear friends, on this seventh day of the Novena in preparation for Christmas, we ask ourselves: Am I longing for Jesus to come more deeply into my life or is my deep-seated longing for someone or something else?

SCRIPTURE: Lk 7: 18-23 (Are you the one who is to come or are we to expect another?)

REFLECTION: Jesus sends John an answer, but it is not a declaration. It is a picture of a world in which God's spirit is powerfully at work. This image is to encourage John, to give him heart in prison. I picture what Jesus describes. Jesus wants to give me heart by pointing my attention to where the Spirit is at work. I review my current concerns with God, asking for light and hope.

INTERCESSIONS:

Response: Come Lord Jesus, come as the desire of our hearts!

As we proclaim your saving power to others; let us not grow weary or lose hold of your salvation. **R/-**

Lord, help us to set our hearts where we will find true fulfilment and not betrayal. **R/-**

Strengthen and sustain our faith in the midst of uncertainty and doubt; vindicate the hope which we place in you. **R/-**

Lord, upon the technological advancement and complexities of human thoughts and desires; let your coming shed its own light. **R/-**

Lord God, teach us to use our gifts for others and to fulfil the purpose you have for each of your children. **R/-**

CONCLUDING PRAYER: O come, desire of nations, bind in one the hearts of all humankind; bid now our sad divisions cease, and be yourself our King of peace. Amen

