



23rd DECEMBER CHRISTMAS NOVENA

INTRODUCTION: On this Eight day of Christmas Novena, let us intensify our yearning for his coming into our needy world. As part of the same body, we pray for our brothers and sisters who would celebrate this Christmas homeless, displaced, exiled away from the warmth of families, friends and loved ones due to war, violence or environmental crisis.

SCRIPTURE: Lk 2: 8-13 (*Angel's message to the shepherds*)

REFLECTION:

Angels always have something funny to say. Imagine you're being startled by a heavenly messenger, and then he says to you, "stop being afraid" These poor shepherds were "terribly frightened," terror stricken, seized with fear so the angel calms them down so they can hear the true meaning of Christmas. The shepherd's lives were changed forever on that night. And unless the Christmas story changes our lives too we have missed its real meaning and purpose.

INTERCESSIONS:

RESPONSE: Come Lord Jesus; come as the desire of our hearts!

Let us love the church which continues to proclaim to all ages the reality of your coming. **R/-**

May all of us who are called to be Christians, be known by our love and service to each other. **R/-**

May your coming into our lives bring us new vigour and vitality to our faith and our ministry towards the needy of our world. **R/-**

Prince of peace, may your birth bring harmony and lasting peace to all the troubled and conflicting Nations. **R/-**

Lord, as you come close to each of us; open our hearts to receive and love you. **R/-**

CONCLUDING PRAYER: O Emmanuel, our King and Lawgiver, the Expected of the nations and the Saviour of them all, O come and save us, O Lord, our God.

CONCLUDING HYMN: Optional

