



17 DECEMBER

CHRISTMAS NOVENA

INTRODUCTION: Dear Friends, we are on the second day of the Novena in preparation for Christmas. Today, we shall ponder on the inner attitude of St Joseph, the foster father of Jesus Christ; which were one of total openness and docility to God's plan for their lives, even at the cost of their own personal projects.

SCRIPTURE: Mt 1: 18– 21 (*Joseph accepts Jesus as his Son*)

REFLECTION:

Despite the societal norms and potential shame associated with Mary's pregnancy, Joseph listens to the angel, accepts Mary as his wife, and names the child Jesus, emphasizing his role as the legal father and protector of the Messiah. Joseph's willingness to align himself with God's plan, despite the unconventional circumstances, reflects a profound trust and attunement to the divine, exemplifying a model of faith-filled discernment for believers.

O ADVENT ANTIPHONS:

O Key of David, opening the gates of God's eternal Kingdom: come and free the prisoners of darkness!

INTERCESSIONS: Response: Come and be born in our hearts!

The prophets of old foretold your birth among us; the Angels announced the tidings of good news at your birth; come and dwell in the now of our daily lives. **R/-**

You came to bring us wholeness of life, heal and restore the entire creation into its glory. **R/-**

By the mystery of your incarnation we are made your brothers and sisters; do not let us become estranged from you and from each other. **R/-**

You were born the Prince of peace; grant the gift of your peace this Christmas, to every nation, race and ethnic group that lives in conflict and violence. **R/-**

Lord, let the poor and the victimized experience anew, your reign of justice and equity that you bring. **R/-**

CONCLUDING PRAYER: All-powerful God, increase our strength of will for doing good that Christ may find an eager welcome at his coming and call us to his side in the kingdom of heaven, where he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever Amen.

CONCLUDING HYMN: (Optional)

