



22 DECEMBER
CHRISTMAS NOVENA



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

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

REFLECTION: The question of John to Jesus reflects a common human experience; seeking confirmation and reassurance in the face of challenges or unanswered prayers. Jesus answered John, but not with a declaration but a picture of a world in which God's spirit is powerfully at work—the blind see, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. This challenges us to look for signs of God's presence and work in our own lives.

O ADVENT ANTIPHONS: *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*

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 our 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: God Almighty, we thank you for prayers answered, paths guided, provisions met in ways unanticipated. Your faithfulness is a source of comfort and strength, may we be ever grateful for the reassurance that comes from knowing that you are with us every step of the way. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.

CONCLUDING HYMN: Optional

