



## 23 DECEMBER CHRISTMAS NOVENA

**INTRODUCTION:** On this Eight day of Christmas Novena, let us intensify our yearning for his coming into our hearts and our 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:** The lowly shepherds, who were and on the fringes of society, first received the news of the Saviour's birth. This emphasizes the inclusiveness of the gospel message, regardless of the social status. The message "*do not be afraid*" holds profound significance in a world marked by conflicts, wars, and uncertainty, it encourages a mindset of courage and faith. It reminds us that, there is a source of strength beyond ourselves. May the birth of our Saviour fill us with new and everlasting hope.

**O ADVENT ANTIPHONS:** *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.*

**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 conflicting and warring communities and Nations. **R/-**

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

**CONCLUDING PRAYER:** Gracious God, in the midst of our tumultuous world, we humbly come before you, seeking Your reign of peace and harmony. May Your divine presence permeate our hearts, communities, and nations, bringing an end to strife and fostering unity. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**CONCLUDING HYMN:** Optional

