

JUBILEE 2025: PILGRIMS OF HOPE



ADVENT 2023 LITURGICAL HANDBOOK



NATIONAL FACILITATING TEAM FOR JUBILEE 2025
CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS OF INDIA (CCBI)
CCBI Centre, Hutchins Road 2nd Cross Bangalore – 560 084

Advent 2023: Liturgical Handbook

Prepared by

Fr. Ritchie Vincent

Archdiocese of Madras-Mylapore

Fr. Yesu Karunanidhi

Archdiocese of Madurai

Coordinator, Jubilee 2025

Endorsed by

Fr. Moncy Nellikunnel SDB

Executive Secretary, CCBI Commission for Liturgy

E-Published by

Rev. Dr. Stephen Alathara

Deputy Secretary General

Conference of Catholic Bishops of India

CCBI Centre, Hutchins Road 2nd Cross, Karnataka, India

Email: ccbisecretariat@gmail.com

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Feast of Presentation of Mary

Desk for Jubilee

Cell: +91 948 948 21 21

Email: indiaforjubilee2025@gmail.com

URL: www.indiaforjubilee2025.blogspot.com

A Blessing for the Advent Wreath & Candles

Heavenly Father, as we gather around this Advent wreath, we thank you for the season of anticipation and preparation. May the light of these candles remind us of the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ, who is the Light of the world. We bless these candles, each representing a different aspect of the Advent journey: hope, peace, joy, and love. May their light shine brightly in our hearts and homes, dispelling the darkness and guiding us to the true meaning of Christmas.

Lord, as we light the first candle of hope, may it ignite within us a sense of expectation and trust in your promises. May this flame be a beacon of hope in our lives and in the world. Lord, as we light the second candle of peace, asking for your peace to reign in our hearts, homes, and in all the corners of the earth. May the world find rest in the Prince of Peace, Jesus Christ. Lord, as we light the third candle of joy, let the joy of your salvation fill our hearts. May the Good News of Christ's birth bring joy to all people, and may we share that joy with those around us. Finally, as we light the fourth candle of love, help us to love one another as you have loved us. May the love that came down at Christmas transform our lives and the lives of those we encounter.

Bless this Advent wreath, ✠ Lord, and may it be a symbol of our faith and readiness for the coming of our Saviour. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

<p style="text-align: center;">Hymn for the Blessing and the Lighting of the Advent Candles on each Sunday</p>

1 O come, divine Messiah; the world in silence waits the day
When hope shall sing its triumph And sadness flee away.

Refrain:

Dear Saviour, haste! Come, come to earth.

Dispel the night and show your face,
and bid us hail the dawn of grace.

O come, divine Messiah; the world in silence waits the day
when hope shall sing its triumph, and sadness flee away.

2 O Christ, whom nations sigh for,
Whom priest and prophet long foretold,
Come, break the captive's fetters,
Redeem the long-lost fold. [***Refrain***]

3 You come in peace and meekness
And lowly will your cradle be;
All clothed in human weakness
Shall we your Godhead see. [***Refrain***]

First Sunday of Advent: Hope as Illuminated in Divine Revelation

Introduction: Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, Welcome to the Holy Sacrifice of Mass on this First Sunday of Advent. Today, as we begin the liturgical year, we are reminded of the theme of Christian hope, which is illuminated in the document *Dei Verbum*. Through divine revelation, God has revealed Himself and His plan of salvation to us. He has shown us the way to eternal life through His Son, Jesus Christ, who is the mediator and fullness of all revelation. In this season of Advent, we are called to reflect on this message of hope and prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ. Let us enter into this celebration with joyful anticipation, as we renew our faith and hope in the promises of God.

On this Sunday, the Catholic Church in India observes *Communio Sunday*, whereby we pray for the mission in our country and show our solidarity to the missionaries. We celebrate this day by remembering our baptismal call to bring the Gospel to all. The collection taken today for the Communio supports the work and witness of the mission dioceses in our country, as it provides for priests, religious and lay leaders who offer the Lord's mercy and concrete help to the most vulnerable communities in the missions. Thank you for your generosity.

Advent Wreath Prayer: Dear Jesus, you are the hope in our messy world. This Advent, help us slow down, listen to your voice, and focus on what's really important. We place our hope in you as we prepare our hearts to celebrate your birth on Christmas. Amen.

Introduction to the Readings: As we gather to listen to the readings of the First Sunday of Advent, we are invited to reflect on the theme of Christian hope, which is illuminated in *Dei Verbum*. In the Old Testament readings, we encounter prophecies about the Messiah and the Messianic age, especially from the Book of Isaiah. These prophecies remind us of the hope we have in the coming of Christ, who brings salvation and redemption. In the New Testament readings, we hear exhortations and proclamations that encourage us to hold fast to our faith and to eagerly await the glorious manifestation of the Lord Jesus Christ. Through these readings, we are reminded of the importance of hope in our Christian journey and the need to prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ.

Prayers of the Faithful:

Priest: Dear brothers and sisters, as we gather in prayer and reflection during this sacred season of Advent, we come together as a community of believers, lifting our hearts in prayer, as we say: *Lord Hear our Prayer (or) Maranatha (3) Come Lord Jesus Come!*

For the Church: May she continue to proclaim the message of hope found in the Scriptures and inspire all believers to deepen their faith and trust in God. We pray to the Lord.

For world leaders: May they govern with wisdom and justice, seeking the common good and working towards peace and reconciliation. We pray to the Lord.

For those who are suffering: May they find comfort and strength in the hope of Christ's coming, and may they experience healing and restoration. We pray to the Lord.

For families: May they be filled with hope and love, and may they be a witness to the world of the joy that comes from living in communion with God. We pray to the Lord.

For those who support Communio through their prayers, financial aids, and volunteer efforts: that their generosity may bear abundant fruit in the spread of God's Kingdom.

For ourselves: May we be open to the grace of God and the guidance of the Holy Spirit, as we prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ. We pray to the Lord.

Priest: Lord, hear our prayers and grant them according to Your will. We place our hope in You, knowing that You are faithful and that You will fulfill Your promises. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Second Sunday of Advent:
Peace as Celebrated in Glorifying God**

Introduction: Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, Welcome to the Holy Sacrifice of Mass on this Second Sunday of Advent. As we venture further into this season of joyful anticipation and hopeful expectation, today's Holy Mass invites us to delve into the theme of peace as celebrated in glorifying God, echoing the teachings of *Sacrosanctum Concilium*, the Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy. The Liturgy, as the voice of the Holy Spirit and the Church, calls us to actively participate in the divine dialogue with our Lord Jesus, preparing our hearts for His coming both in history and in glory. Through the sacred actions of the Liturgy, we draw from the pure and inexhaustible source of living water, finding the peace that comes from communion with God and unity with one another. As we engage in this sacred celebration, let us open our hearts to the profound peace offered by the Liturgy and allow it to shape our lives as heralds of the Gospel in the world.

Advent Wreath Prayer: Dear Jesus, you entered our world on Christmas as the Prince of Peace. This Advent, as we strive to become the-best-version-of-ourselves, fill us with a deep and abiding peace. Help us share that peace with everyone we encounter, especially those who need it most. Amen.

Introduction to the Readings: In the sacred readings of this Second Sunday of Advent, the timeless message of John the Baptist resonates with the themes of repentance, readiness, and the peace found in glorifying God through the Liturgy. As *Sacrosanctum Concilium* teaches us, the Liturgy is the voice of the Holy Spirit, a source of ‘living water’ where communion with God brings true peace. Today, we encounter Isaiah’s prophecy heralding John’s arrival, echoing the Liturgy’s cosmic scope and its transformative power. The psalm underscores the Lord’s kindness and justice, aspects intertwined with the peace we seek through active participation in the Liturgy. The second reading urges growth in holiness, aligning with the call *Sacrosanctum Concilium* to let the Liturgy shape our lives entirely. As we immerse ourselves in these readings, let the Advent spirit of repentance and readiness guide us to find true peace, drawing inspiration from *Sacrosanctum Concilium*.

Prayers of the Faithful:

Priest: Beloved brothers and sisters, as we unite our hearts in prayer on this Second Sunday of Advent, let us be mindful of the transformative power of the Liturgy, a source of peace and communion with God. Grounded in the themes of repentance, readiness, and the universal embrace of peace, let our intercessions reflect the spirit of this sacred season, drawing inspiration from *Sacrosanctum Concilium*, as we say: **Lord**

Hear our Prayer (or) Maranatha (3) Come Lord Jesus Come!

For the Church: May our participation in the Liturgy, as emphasized by *Sacrosanctum Concilium*, strengthen our unity as the Body of Christ. May we, inspired by the themes of repentance and readiness, be a beacon of peace in the world. We pray to the Lord.

For World Leaders: We pray for leaders across the globe, that they may be guided by the principles of justice and kindness highlighted in today's readings. May the peace found in glorifying God influence their decisions, fostering harmony and cooperation among nations. We pray to the Lord.

For Holiness: As we reflect on the call to holiness in the second reading, may the Liturgy empower us to grow in virtue and sanctity. Let our hearts be receptive to the transformative grace present in the sacred rituals, shaping us into faithful disciples. We pray to the Lord.

For Those Seeking Repentance: In the spirit of John the Baptist, may those burdened by sin find solace in the message of repentance and the peace offered by the Liturgy. May they experience the mercy of God and the support of the faith community. We pray to the Lord.

For Embrace of Peace: Drawing inspiration from our Liturgy, we pray for a collective acknowledgment of the imperative for peace. May the spirit of reflection and willingness to come together resonate within our local communities, nurturing harmony and collaboration among our diverse neighborhoods and residents. We pray to the Lord.

Priest: Heavenly Father, as we raise these prayers, may the peace we find in glorifying You through the Liturgy extend to every corner of our lives and the world. Grant us the grace to be vigilant heralds of your love and mercy. We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Third Sunday of Advent: Joy of being the Church

Introduction: Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, as we gather today for the Holy sacrifice of Mass on this *Gaudete* Sunday, the Third Sunday of Advent; we are invited to rejoice in anticipation of the imminent arrival of our Saviour. The readings chosen for this day echo the theme of joy, reminding us of the profound joy that stems from our identity as the Church, as elucidated in the teachings of *Lumen Gentium*. The Church, as the people of God, finds its deepest joy in understanding its communal identity, actively participating in the mission of spreading the Gospel, and fostering communion with Christ and fellow believers. As we delve into the Word of God today, let us draw inspiration from these themes, recognizing the joy that comes from being part of the body of Christ.

Today as a visible expression of our joy, the altar is decorated with flowers and the priest wears the Rose Chasuble. It is also a rich tradition for children to bring the images of Baby Jesus to church so that they may be blessed by the Priest and later venerated at the Home Crib.

Advent Wreath Prayer: Dear Jesus, help us focus on you during this busy season. May we stay aware of the joy you bring into our lives. We want to find you in the everyday

moments and come with hearts of gratitude to your manger on Christmas. Amen.

Introduction to the Readings: As we delve into the sacred readings for this *Gaudete* Sunday, the Word of God invites us to rejoice with anticipation for the nearness of our salvation. In the first reading, we witness the foreshadowing of the Messiah, the anointed one who brings hope and redemption. The psalm echoes the joyous song of Mary, the Magnificat, proclaiming rejoicing in God. The second reading encourages us to rejoice, pray, and give thanks, emphasizing the active participation and gratitude that characterize the life of the Church. In the gospel, John the Baptist, the precursor to Christ, humbly declares that he is not the Messiah but heralds the coming of the Saviour. Let us attentively listen to these readings, allowing them to inspire and deepen our sense of joy as we eagerly await the coming of the Lord.

Prayers of the Faithful:

Priest: Beloved brothers and sisters, as we continue our celebration on this *Gaudete* Sunday, the Third Sunday of Advent, our hearts are filled with joy and anticipation for the coming of our Saviour. United in faith and inspired by the Word of God, let us now lift our voices in prayer, offering our intentions to the Lord who brings us hope and salvation. In these prayers of the faithful, let us express our shared joy as the Church and seek God's guidance and blessings for

ourselves, our community, and the entire world, as we say:
***Lord Hear our Prayer (or) Maranatha (3) Come Lord Jesus
Come!***

For the Church: May the joy of our communal identity and the mission entrusted to us be a source of inspiration, as we actively participate in spreading the Good News. Let us pray to the Lord.

For the world: May the message of hope and salvation, proclaimed in today's readings, reach the hearts of all people, bringing joy and peace to those who are in need. Let us pray to the Lord.

For those who lack joy: We pray for those burdened by sorrow, despair, or loneliness, that the joy of Christ's imminent presence may console and uplift their spirits. Let us pray to the Lord.

For unity in the Faith Community: Inspired by the diversity of gifts within our faith community, may we celebrate and appreciate the unique contributions of each member, fostering a spirit of unity and joy. Let us pray to the Lord.

For a spirit of gratitude: As we rejoice in the hope of salvation, may our hearts be filled with gratitude for the many blessings bestowed upon us, and may we express our

thanksgiving through lives of faith and love. Let us pray to the Lord.

Priest: Heavenly Father, as we offer these prayers, may our hearts be attuned to the joy that comes from being part of Your Church, eagerly anticipating the arrival of our Savior. We make these prayers through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Fourth Sunday of Advent: Love Extended to the World

Introduction: Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, As we gather on this sacred occasion of the Fourth Sunday of Advent, our hearts are filled with anticipation and love, echoing the theme of ‘Love extended to the world’ as articulated in *Gaudium et Spes*. Today’s readings invite us to reflect on the Ark of the Covenant, the promises made to David, and the Annunciation to Mary - the new Ark of the Covenant. In the light of the teachings of *Gaudium et Spes*, we are called to interpret the signs of the times, respond to the questions of our age, and extend love to the world. Let us enter this Eucharistic celebration with open hearts, seeking inspiration from the Word of God to actively engage with the challenges of our world and to spread the love that emanates from Christ.

Advent Wreath Prayer: Dear Jesus, may the light of your love always shine in our hearts. As Christmas draws closer, we marvel at your great love for us. Let your love transform every aspect of our lives and touch everyone we encounter. Our hearts are open to you, Jesus. Amen.

Introduction to the Readings: As we approach the culmination of our Advent journey, the readings for this Fourth Sunday of Advent draw our attention to the profound connection between the Ark of the Covenant and the Annunciation to Mary. In the first reading, David’s desire to

build a home for the Ark is met with God's promise to establish the house of David forever. The psalm resounds with the assurances given to David, echoing themes of eternal love and fidelity. The second reading praises God, emphasizing the magnificence of His plan. Finally, in the gospel, the Archangel Gabriel appears to Mary, heralding the extraordinary news of her role as the mother of our Lord Jesus Christ. As we immerse ourselves in these readings, let us contemplate the significance of these sacred moments and consider how they resonate with the theme of extending love to the world according to the teachings of *Gaudium et Spes*.

Prayers of the Faithful:

Priest: Dear brothers and sisters, as we stand at the threshold of Christmas, our hearts filled with the anticipation of the Saviour's birth, let us join together in prayer. Inspired by the themes of love, hope, and joy that have echoed through our Advent journey, the prayers of the faithful are our collective expression of trust and supplication. In the spirit of *Gaudium et Spes*, which calls us to extend love to the world, let our prayers today reflect our commitment to be instruments of God's love in our families, communities, and the world. United in faith, let us lift our intentions to the Lord, seeking His guidance, mercy, and grace, as we say: ***Lord Hear our Prayer.***

For the Church: May the Church, inspired by the promises made to David and the example of Mary, actively interpret the

signs of the times and extend God's love to the world through compassionate service and witness. Let us pray to the Lord.

For world leaders: May those in positions of authority be guided by the Spirit of the Lord as they navigate the challenges of our times, working towards justice, peace, and the well-being of all people. Let us pray to the Lord.

For expectant mothers: In the spirit of the Annunciation, we pray for the well-being of all expectant mothers, that they may be filled with love and hope as they anticipate the arrival of their children. Let us pray to the Lord.

For families: Inspired by the covenant promises, may families be strengthened in love and unity, becoming beacons of God's enduring faithfulness and joy. Let us pray to the Lord.

For the grace of discernment: In the footsteps of Mary, may we be granted the grace to discern God's will in our lives and respond with openness and trust, extending love to the world in all that we do. Let us pray to the Lord.

Priest: Gracious and loving God, as we offer these prayers, may our hearts be attuned to the theme of love extended to the world, and may our actions reflect the transformative power of Christ's love in our lives. We make these prayers through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Christmas Mass:

Christ alive in us Yesterday, Today, and Forever

Introduction: Beloved in Christ, as we gather on this sacred occasion of Christmas, we come together under the profound theme, ‘Christ alive in us yesterday, today, and forever.’ The Second Vatican Council, a beacon of renewal in the Catholic Church, guides our reflections today. Through its pivotal documents like *Lumen Gentium*, *Gaudium et Spes*, *Sacrosanctum Concilium*, and *Dei Verbum*, we are invited to explore the enduring presence of Christ in our lives, a presence that transcends time and resonates throughout history. Today’s liturgy unfolds as a tapestry woven with the threads of prophetic promises and the fulfilment of Gods covenant. Let us approach this Christmas Mass with hearts open to the timeless message of hope and joy. May we, like the Virgin Mary, rejoice in the goodness of the Lord, singing praises that echo through the ages. As we partake in the sacred Word and the Eucharistic feast, may we be ever mindful that Christ is truly alive in us, yesterday, today, and forever.

Introduction to the Readings - Vigil Mass: Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, as we gather for this Christmas Vigil Mass, our hearts are attuned to the theme that resonates through the ages: ‘Christ alive in us yesterday, today, and forever.’ The readings chosen for this Vigil, inspired by the timeless narratives of salvation, beckon us to journey through

the tapestry of God’s redemptive love. In the first reading from Isaiah, we encounter the anticipation of a divine union, echoing the joyful celebration between God and His people. The Responsorial Psalm becomes our anthem, proclaiming the everlasting goodness of the Lord that we are privileged to sing throughout eternity. The second reading from Acts transports us through the corridors of history, reminding us of the promised Saviour, Jesus, who fulfils God’s covenant with His people. The Gospel narrative, from Matthew, unveils the miraculous birth of the one who will save his people from their sins. As we immerse ourselves in these sacred texts, let us open our hearts to the profound truth that Christ is alive in us, a reality that transcends time and space. The Christmas Vigil becomes a sacred journey through salvation history, a pilgrimage that unites us with the faithful of old and propels us forward with renewed hope.

Introduction to the Readings - Mass during the Night: As we turn our hearts to the sacred Scriptures on this holy night, the readings chosen for our Christmas Mass during the Night echo the profound theme that has shaped our reflection – ‘Christ alive in us yesterday, today, and forever.’ In the words of Isaiah, we hear the promise of a child born to us, carrying upon His shoulder dominion and bearing names that signify His divine nature. The psalmist's exuberant proclamation invites us to recognize and rejoice in the birth of our Saviour, Christ the Lord. Turning to the words of Titus, we are reminded of the transformative grace of God that has appeared,

calling us to reject godless ways and live justly and devoutly. Finally, the Gospel of Luke unfolds the timeless narrative of the Saviour's birth in the city of David. As we delve into these sacred texts, let us be attuned to the message they convey - the enduring presence of Christ in our lives and the timeless relevance of His teachings.

Introduction to the Readings - Mass at Dawn: Beloved in Christ, in the dawning light of this Christmas morn, our hearts are lifted by the prophetic words of Isaiah, resonating across the ages – “See, the LORD proclaims to the ends of the earth: say to daughter Zion, your saviour comes!” In the psalm, we respond with exultant praise, declaring, “A light will shine on us this day: the Lord is born for us.” St. Paul, in his letter to Titus, unveils the profound truth that through Christ, we are saved, renewed, and made heirs of eternal life. Finally, the Gospel according to Luke invites us to join the shepherds on that holy night, to journey to Bethlehem and witness the fulfilment of God's promise. As we delve into these sacred texts, let us reflect on the timeless reality encapsulated in our theme – ‘Christ alive in us yesterday, today, and forever.’ The readings beckon us to recognize the Saviour who came in history, walks with us in the present, and promises to abide with us for all eternity.

Introduction to the Readings - Mass during the Day: As we delve into the sacred readings chosen for this Christmas Mass during the Day, we embark on a journey through the Scriptures

that beautifully echoes the theme, ‘Christ alive in us yesterday, today, and forever.’ The prophet Isaiah heralds the arrival of the bearer of good news, announcing the reign of God, setting the stage for the salvation that has come to Zion. The psalmist joyfully declares the saving power of God, reaching the ends of the earth. In the Letter to the Hebrews, we are reminded of God’s communication to us through the Son, the radiant imprint of His being, who upholds the universe by His mighty word. Finally, the Gospel of John paints a poetic and profound picture of the Word becoming flesh, dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. As we listen to these readings, let us be attuned to the echoes of Christ’s presence in every word, recognizing the beauty of the Incarnation that binds us to the eternal Word. May the Scriptures ignite a deeper understanding of the profound reality that Christ is not a distant figure of the past but a living and transformative presence in our lives today.

Prayers of the Faithful:

Priest: With hearts full of faith and gratitude, let us lift our prayers to the God who is alive in us yesterday, today, and forever. Inspired by the readings of this Christmas Mass and guided by the spirit of Vatican II, let us offer our petitions for the needs of the Church, the world, and all God’s people.

For the Church: that she may continue to be a beacon of Christ's light in the world, proclaiming the timeless message of hope and salvation, we pray to the Lord.

For world leaders: that they may be guided by the principles of justice, peace, and solidarity, working towards a world where all can experience the goodness of the Lord, we pray to the Lord.

For families: especially those experiencing difficulties or separation during this season, that the love and unity of the Holy Family may inspire and strengthen them, we pray to the Lord.

For the poor: the marginalized, and the oppressed, that the joy of Christmas may bring them comfort and that the Church may be a source of support and compassion, we pray to the Lord.

For all of us gathered here: that as we celebrate the birth of our Saviour, we may be renewed in our commitment to living out the Gospel and being witnesses to Christ's presence in our lives, we pray to the Lord.

Priest: Heavenly Father, hear these prayers we offer with open hearts, and grant us the grace to be ever aware of your Son, Jesus Christ, alive in us yesterday, today, and forever. We make these prayers through Christ our Lord. Amen.

JUBILEE HYMN

Like a flame, my hope is burning,
may my song arise to you:
Source of life that has no ending,
on life's path, I trust in you.

Ev'ry nation, tongue, and people
find a light within your Word.
Scattered fragile sons and daughters
find a home in your dear Son.

God, so tender and so patient,
dawn of hope, you care for all.
Heav'n and earth are recreated
by the Spirit of Life set free.

Raise your eyes, the wind is blowing,
for our God is born in time.
Son made man for you and many
who will find the way in him.

THE JUBILEE PRAYER

Father in heaven, may the faith you have given us in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother, and the flame of charity enkindled in our hearts by the Holy Spirit, reawaken in us the blessed hope for the coming of your Kingdom.

May your grace transform us into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel. May those seeds transform from within both humanity and the whole cosmos in the sure expectation of a new heaven and a new earth, when, with the powers of Evil vanquished, your glory will shine eternally.

May the grace of the Jubilee reawaken in us, Pilgrims of Hope, a yearning for the treasures of heaven. May that same grace spread the joy and peace of our Redeemer throughout the earth. To you our God, eternally blessed, be glory and praise for ever. Amen



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PEREGRINANTES
IN SPEM

26 Nov 2023 - 24 Nov 2024

The Year of Learning from
the Documents of the
Second Vatican Council and
Praying with the Church.