



## CHRISTMAS NOVENA - 16 DECEMBER

**Introduction:** Dear Friends, today we begin the Novena in preparation for Christmas. Advent invites us to reflect not only on the birth of Jesus more than 2000 years ago, but more importantly, on his coming here and now, into our daily lives. May our advent journey lead us to a deep personal encounter with our Divine Saviour.

**Response after each Prophecy:** (All) *Our Lord and King is drawing near, O come, let us adore Him.*

**Leader:** Rejoice, O you daughter of Sion and exult fully, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, the Lord and Master comes, and there shall be a brilliant light in that day, and the mountains shall drop down sweetness, and hills flow with milk and honey, for in that day the Great Prophet will come, and He Himself will renew Jerusalem.

**Leader:** Behold, the God-man of the house of David will come to sit upon the royal throne, and you will see Him and your heart will rejoice.

**Leader:** Behold, the Lord our Protector will come to save us, Israel's holy One, wearing the crown of royalty on His noble brow and He will exercise His rule from sea to shining sea and from the waters of the river to the ends of the earth.

**Leader:** Behold, the Lord and King will appear, and He will not deceive; but if He should delay, wait for Him to come; He will surely come and will not tarry.

**Leader:** The Lord will come down like rain upon the fleece of Gideon; justice will thrive and an abundance of true peace; all the kings of the lands of the earth will adore Him, and every nation will serve Him.

**Leader:** A Child will be born to us, and He will be called God the almighty; He will sit upon the royal throne of David His father, and He will hold sway, the sign of His power on His shoulder.

**Leader:** Bethlehem, city of the Most High God, from you will come forth the King of Israel, and He will proceed forth from His eternity; and He will be greatly praised in the midst of the entire universe; and there will be peace in our land when He will have come. (*On the Eve of Christmas add :)*



**Leader:** Tomorrow the wickedness of the whole world will be destroyed, and over us will reign the Saviour of the world.

**Scripture: John 1: 1-9** (*The Word became flesh*)

**REFLECTION:** John 1:1-9 invites us to embrace the message of hope and anticipation. The eternal Word, who was present at the dawn of creation, is the Light that pierces through the darkness of our world, offering salvation and hope of eternal life. Advent candles, progressively lit during this season, symbolize the increasing light of Christ breaking into a world darkened by sin and longing for redemption.

**INTERCESSIONS:** Jesus Christ is the joy and happiness of all who look forward to his coming. Let us call upon him and say:

**RESPONSE: Come Lord, and do not delay!**

In joy, we wait for your coming, come bring us the fullness of joy and peace our world longs for; **we pray to the Lord.**

Before time began, you shared life with the Father, come now and share the light and life you came to give us; **we pray to the Lord.**

You created the world and all who live in it, come to redeem the work of your hands; **we pray to the Lord.**

You did not hesitate to become one with us and be subject to death, come to free us from the clutches of death; **we pray to the Lord.**

You desire that all people live in love in your kingdom. Come to establish unity and love among people of all races and nations; especially among the warring Nations; **we pray to the Lord.**

**CONCLUDING PRAYER:** Hasten, we beseech You, O Lord; do not delay; grant us the help of supernatural virtue, so that Your coming will be a consolation to those who hope in Your mercy. You who live and reign with God the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, world without end. Amen.

**CONCLUDING HYMN:** (Optional)

