



CHRISTMAS NOVENA - 17 DECEMBER

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.

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.



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

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

Reflection: Despite his personal anguish and hurt associated with Mary's pregnancy, Joseph listens to the angel, accepts Mary as his wife, and names the child Jesus, signifying 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 all believers.

Intercessions:

Response: 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.

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

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.

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.

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

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)

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