



CHRISTMAS NOVENA - 19 DECEMBER

Introduction:

Dear friends, on this Fourth day of the Novena in preparation for Christmas, we ponder on God's inscrutable plan in the lives of an elderly couple Zechariah and Elizabeth and their son John, the precursor of Jesus, the one who was to make straight the path for a Messiah who would usher in a new creation transformed by his reign of love and peace.

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: **Lk 1: 39 – 45** (*Why should I be honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord?*)

Reflection: Zechariah and Elizabeth were very much people of tradition, yet they were able to turn aside from the practiced and the usual, to follow the promptings of God. As we bring our life before God, we ask that we may recognise where our habits have dulled our awareness of God's prompting. May we be more open to God's surprises and his timely interventions.

O Advent Antiphons: *O Leader of the House of Israel, giver of the Law to Moses on Sinai: come to rescue us with your mighty power!*

Intercessions:

Response: **Come Lord, do not delay!**

'John' in Hebrew means 'God's grace' John is graced by God and is also an instrument of God's grace. May our lives too, be a blessing to someone in some way.

John leaped for joy in the womb of Elizabeth as she met your expectant mother: Let the world welcome your coming with joy.

God our Father, John the Baptist recognised Jesus as the Lamb of God; through us, let the world recognise your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.

John the Baptist lived what he preached in his life: Give us the courage to stand for the truth and to live our convictions.

We pray for all the modern-day prophets who are the voice of the conscience in our corrupt world.

Concluding Prayer:

Lord, You, whose glory is complete, came to us in perfect humility as a helpless child in the womb. Your love for us and Your humility is unsurpassed and brings it us to our knees in prayer and worship. **Amen.**

Concluding Hymn: (Optional)

Commission for Liturgy,
Archdiocese of Bombay
www.liturgycentrebandra.org

