



CHRISTMAS NOVENA – 21 DECEMBER

Introduction:

Dear friends, on this sixth day of the Novena in preparation for Christmas, we reflect on the royal descent of Jesus as the Son of King David.

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: Acts 13: 22-25 (*Jesus Son of David*)

Reflection: God promised David, that his throne would be established forever. This made the people long for David's greater son - the one who would rule forever. The gospels record Jesus been called the, "Son of David." Repeatedly and Jesus never denied that he was the Son of David. In fact, on Palm Sunday he received the praise and worship of the people. The Son of David was, therefore, a messianic title. Jesus called this to the attention of the religious rulers but they never recognised the promised Messiah in Jesus. Who is Jesus to us now?

O Advent Antiphons: *O Key of David, and Sceptre of the House of Israel, who opens and no man shuts, who shuts and no man opens: Come and bring forth the captive from his prison, he who sits in darkness and in the shadow of death. Amen.*

Intercessions:

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

David was considered the least of his family, but God, examined the heart and recognised him as a man of integrity; let us set our hearts on the Lord as we await his coming.

Lord Jesus, Son of God and Son of David, you come to us born as man; may the welcome we give you make us children of God.

Lord God, you made us and sustain us with your love; help us to recognise and receive Jesus your incarnate Son amidst us.

May the birth of the prince of peace move the hearts of all who govern and rule towards deep and lasting peace.

Lord you entered our world and shared our human condition; bring health to the sick and give the dying a share in your glory.

Concluding Prayer:

God almighty, we thank you for our heritage, for our family history and the gift of faith pass down to us. Make us faithful and loyal to the teachings of the Church. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord.
AMEN

Concluding Hymn: (Optional)

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