



CHRISTMAS NOVENA – 23 DECEMBER

Introduction:

On this Eight day of Christmas Novena, let us intensify our yearning for his coming into our hearts and our world. As part of the same body, we pray for our brothers and sisters who would celebrate this Christmas homeless, displaced, exiled, away from the warmth of families, friends and loved ones due to war, violence or environmental crisis.

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 2: 8-13 (*Angel's message to the shepherds*)

Reflection: The lowly shepherds, who were and on the fringes of society, first received the news of the Saviour's birth. This speaks of the inclusiveness of the gospel message, regardless of the social status. The message "*do not be afraid*" holds profound significance in a world marked by conflicts, wars, and uncertainty, it encourages a mindset of courage and faith. It reminds us that, there is a source of strength beyond ourselves. May the birth of our Saviour fill us with new and everlasting hope.

O Advent Antiphons: *O Emmanuel, our King and Lawgiver, the Expected of the nations and the Saviour of them all, O come and save us, O Lord, our God.*

Intercessions:

Response: **Come Lord Jesus; come as the desire of our hearts!**

Let us love the Church which continues to proclaim to all ages the reality of your coming.

May all of us who are called to be Christians, be known by our love and service to each other.

May your coming into our lives bring us new vigour and vitality to our faith and our ministry towards the needy of our world.

Prince of peace, may your birth bring harmony and lasting peace to all the conflicting and warring communities and Nations.

Lord, as you come close to each of us; open our hearts to receive and let you reign in us.

Concluding Prayer:

Gracious God, in the midst of our tumultuous world, we humbly come before you, seeking your reign of peace and harmony. May Your divine presence permeate our hearts, communities, and nations, bringing an end to strife and fostering unity. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Concluding Hymn: (Optional)

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