The Universal Prayer

Sunday 1st December 2024

**First Sunday of Advent | Year C**

Celebrant: Sisters and brothers,

as we begin this time of Advent,

waiting for the return of Jesus at the end of time,

and preparing for the festival of Christmas,

we respond to Jesus’ invitation to ‘stay awake’ in prayer.

1. That Pope Francis will lead us into this new year in the life of the Church, with simplicity of heart, showing us how to live with integrity.

Lord, have mercy**.**

**Lord, have mercy.**

1. That all Christians will *live decently as in the daylight,* with

*no drunkenness, wrangling or jealousy,*

and in the face of temptation, *let our armour be the Lord Jesus Christ.*

Lord, have mercy**.**

**Lord, have mercy.**

1. That we will continue to hold in prayer Christians around the world who

are persecuted for their faith to the point of even death itself,

and for those whose freedom of religion is severely restricted.

Lord, have mercy**.**

**Lord, have mercy.**

1. That in the lands of Jesus his justice will overcome the violence of war,

his healing restore the injured, his freedom release hostages and prisoners

to their families, and his peace renew every heart.

Lord, have mercy**.**

**Lord, have mercy.**

1. That on this World AIDS Day, the right to health of all living with HIV/AIDS will be honoured, especially in those places where inadequate care, prejudice and indifference fails them.

Lord, have mercy**.**

**Lord, have mercy.**

1. That

Lord, have mercy**.**

**Lord, have mercy.**

1. That all who have died of HIV/AIDS will receive God’s unconditional love in eternal life.

We also pray for

Lord, have mercy**.**

**Lord, have mercy.**

Celebrant: Eternal Father,

give us the grace to ‘stay awake’

so that we will meet Jesus, your Son,

in the worship we offer,

in the Scriptures which we read,

in the person of the poor and needy,

and in those who show us kindness

and forgiveness,

for he lives and reigns forever and ever.

The Universal Prayer

Monday 2nd December 2024

First Week of Advent

Celebrant: As we enter into this first week of Advent

we look with hope to the fulfillment of God’s promise

that peoples of all nations will adore him.

1. May the Church be an instrument for peace, so that during these weeks of Advent she can show the love of Christ to all people.

Lord, have mercy.

1. May Catholics mark this Season of Advent with a devout reception of the Sacrament of Penance and so rejoice in the mercy of Jesus Christ.

Lord, have mercy.

1. May Jerusalem become once again the city of peace and in the Holy Lands

where Jesus walked, become once again places where holiness flourishes in people’s lives.

Lord, have mercy.

1. May this International Day for the Abolition of Slavery be taken seriously

by governments and the community, so that all people can live decently

in the freedom of the children of God.

Lord, have mercy.

1. May the faith of the Roman centurion in Jesus teach us that God gives grace wherever he wills, so that there is no distinction between male and female, cultures and languages, but all are united in God’s love.

Lord, have mercy.

Celebrant: Lord God, we rejoice in this your house of prayer,

and we pray for the peace of Jerusalem.

Through Christ our Lord

**The Universal Prayer**

**Tuesday 3rd December 2024**

**St Francis Xavier**

**First Week of Advent**

Celebrant: Today we honour the great missionary

St Francis Xavier, whose zeal for Christ brought him into Asia where he proclaimed the Good News.

1. May Pope Francis, who has once again set the Church firmly on a missionary path, along with our Archbishop Patrick and all the faithful,

live as missionaries of Jesus.

Lord, have mercy.

1. May the Archdiocese of Adelaide, especially the Adelaide Parish, rejoice in the memory of St Francis Xavier, along with the students and staff of Xavier College at Gawler and St Francis Xavier School at Wyn Vale.

Lord, have mercy.

1. May missionaries around the world find in St Francis Xavier an inspiration of commitment to the gospel of Jesus Christ, and of energetic care of the people they are called to serve.

Lord, have mercy.

1. May the nations of Indian, Pakistan and Outer Mongolia, who honour St Francis Xavier as patron, and of Malaysia, Sri Lanka and Japan where he preached the gospel, and China where he desired to go, receive the message of Jesus and discover the Divine beauty Jesus.

Lord, have mercy.

1. May this International Day of Disabled Persons affirm the commitment of governments to give them the support they need, and all of us treat them with profound respect and kindness.

Lord, have mercy.

1. May peace and justice come to the peoples of the Holy Land and Lebanon, to Ukraine and Russia, Haiti and Myanmar.

Lord, have mercy.

Celebrant: Heavenly Shepherd, guide us through life’s difficulties,

and make us apostles of the compassion and mercy of Jesus.

Through Christ our Lord.

#### **The Universal Prayer**

#### **Wednesday 4th December 2024**

**St John Damascene** St Barbara

# **First Week of Advent**

Celebrant: The vision of Isaiah and the feeding of the 5,000

point to the Eucharist where we are fed on the Body and Blood of Christ.

1. May the Church be open to the Spirit as it seeks to provide

the Eucharist for her people around the world.

Lord, have mercy.

2. May the Eucharist move Christians to share their daily bread with the hungry, especially as many families are under so much pressure today.

Lord, have mercy..

3. May we learn from Jesus and the apostles never to waste food.

Lord, have mercy.

4. May we resist the temptation to over indulge at this time of the year,

but seek rather to find opportunities to support works of charity in the Church and community.

Lord, hear us.

5. May St John Damascene, born in Damascus in Syria, intercede for his native country, so devastated by war, and for Jerusalem, where he died, that the whole of those Holy Lands will be a places of peace once again.

Lord, have mercy

6 May St Barbara, patron of builders and miners, and protector against lightening, fires, sudden death and fever, win these graces for us all.

Lord, have mercy.

Celebrant: Lord our Shepherd,

guide us in the right path,

refresh our spirits,

and let us know your goodness and kindness

through Christ our Lord.

**The Universal Prayer**

**Thursday 5th December 2024**

# **First Week of Advent**

Celebrant: My friends, Jesus teaches us that our faith has to be seen in acts of love and justice, and not simply in words.

1. That there may be harmony between our words and actions

so that in all things we witness to Christ.

Lord, have mercy.

2 That we may build our lives on the sure and everlasting rock

which is Jesus Christ.

Lord, have mercy.

3 That in every place on our planet where there is violence and

war, peace will prevail and the people live in safe houses.

Lord, have mercy.

4 That we hold up to God all who are suffering persecution and discrimination because of their Christian faith.

Lord, have mercy.

5 That this World Soil Day will encourage nations to embrace its theme:

Measure, Monitor, Manage, so that where droughts, floods, fires and wars

have brought destruction, all will work to restore its fruitfulness.

Lord, have mercy.

Celebrant: Lord our God, in all our needs we put our trust in you,

for you hear every prayer. Strengthen the weak

and befriend the lonely. Through Christ our Lord.

**The Universal Prayer**

**Friday 6th December 2024**

**St Nicholas**

**First Week of Advent**

Celebrant: With the two blind men, we cry out to Jesus,

‘Take pity on us, Son of David.’

1. May Jesus have pity of those who feel discrimination and judgement from people in the Church, that we will all learn the virtue of charity.

Lord, have mercy

2. May Jesus take pity on those in public office who use their position for their own advantage.

Lord, have mercy.

3. May Jesus have pity on those who exploit their workers

and on those who cheat their employers.

Lord, have mercy.

4. May Jesus have pity on those who struggle with family tensions

or depression at this time of the year.

Lord, have mercy.

5 May St Nicholas be honoured today by all who have been placed under his patronage: children, brides, unmarried women, pawn brokers, perfume makers, travelers, maritime pilots, sailors and the nation of Russia.

Lord, have mercy.

6. May children who are suffering the terrible effects of war across the Holy Land and Lebanon, Ukraine and Russia and Myanmar, as well as hunger in Sudan and South Sudan, Yemen and Bangladesh be our prayerful concern today.

Lord, have mercy.

Celebrant: Heavenly Shepherd, guide us through life’s difficulties

so that at all times we experience your goodness and kindness.

Through Christ our Lord.

#### **The Universal Prayer**

#### **Saturday 7th December**

**St Ambrose**

# **First Week of Advent**

Celebrant: Dear friends, Jesus, out of compassion for the needs of people appointed the Twelve as his co-workers,

sharing with them his power to heal and teach.

1. That the Church may look at the struggles people face each day

with eyes of compassion, and so seek to lighten their load,

and not overburden them with unnecessary demands.

Lord, have mercy.

1. That the Lord will send labourers into the harvest so that there are priests, deacons, religious and lay faithful to serve the people, break open the word for them, and lead them to the Sacraments.

Lord, have mercy.

1. That the people of Jerusalem and across the Holy Land may not have cause to weep any more, but through the action of the Holy Spirit in people’s hearts, come to a true peace which is the gift of God.

Lord, have mercy.

1. That St Ambrose, chosen by the people of Milan to be their bishop.

even before he was baptized as a Christian, watch over the poor who must beg for food and shelter who have been placed under his care.

Lord, have mercy.

1. That St Ambrose, patron of beekeepers, will stand close to them in their work, so vital for good harvests of fruit, vegetables, flowers, grain and honey for the nutritional needs of all.

Lord, have mercy.

1. That on this International Civil Aviation Day we pray for all responsible for building, maintaining and flying our aircrafts, along with crews, baggage handlers, airport workers and passengers that they will all be safe from harm.

Lord, have mercy.

Celebrant: God and King, heal the broken-hearted, bind up the wounds of those hurt, raise the lowly and give them peace.

Through Christ our Lord.