The Universal Prayer

Sunday 15th December 2024

**Third Sunday of Advent**

Celebrant: Sisters and brothers, this Sunday is infused

 with a spiritual hope, anticipating and preparing us

 for the Good News of Jesus who went about doing good.

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1. May Pope Francis, celebrating his 88th birthday on Tuesday

receive the blessings of health of body, wisdom of mind

and peace of heart.

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

1. May there be religious tolerance across our land, honour for individuals of all faiths, and respect for all places of worship, especially in the face of rising antisemitism.

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

1. May all weary hands may be strengthened,

all trembling knees be strengthened,

and all faint hearts receive courage.

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

1. May we, in these Advent days, be patient and not lose heart,

and never make complaints against each other.

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

1. May the people of Syria be released from turmoil and find the way to harmony and peace; and those of Lebanon be able to settle peacefully in safe houses.

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

1. May the distress which consumes the peoples of Palestine and Israel,

as well as Ukraine and Russia, be lifted through diplomacy and goodwill

and not by further war.

Lord, have mercy

**Lord, have mercy.**

1. May those who have died in Syria, across the Holy Lands, Ukraine and Russia experience that God is with them in eternal life.

We also remember

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Celebrant: Father, give us true joy and gladness

 as we welcome into our hearts

 the Great and Holy One, Jesus your Son,

 who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

#### **The Universal Prayer**

#### **Monday 16th December 2024**

# **Third Week of Advent**

Celebrant: Jesus Christ is that star of Jacob, foretold by the prophet,

 but now close at hand, present in this community.

1. May Christians recognize Christ

present in the community, in prayer, in the poor,

and in every human face.

Lord, have mercy.

1. May the world come to know

that Jesus Christ is a King greater than all others,

the King of the Universe.

Lord, have mercy.

1. May we who have been baptised into Christ

live our faith confidently with joy and hope.

Lord, have mercy.

1. May those who have no faith, come to experience the love of Jesus Christ

this Christmas.

Lord, have mercy.

1. May the sufferings of people across the Holy Land, Lebanon, Syria, Ukraine and Russia, be replaced by kindness, food, water, medicines and shelter through people of goodwill across the world.

Lord, have mercy.

Celebrant: Lord God, help us to walk in your paths with truth

 so that we may reach your heavenly home.

 Through Christ our Lord.

#### **The Universal Prayer**

#### **Tuesday 17th December 2024**

**Novena for Christmas**

# **Weekday of Advent**

Celebrant: Today we being our Novena in preparation

 for Christmas, a time of deeper prayer,

offered with hope.

1. May Pope Francis, celebrating his 88th birthday today, continue to be filled with the vigor of the Holy Spirit and be blest with good health as the Church joins in joyful prayer for him.

Lord, have mercy.

1. May that intentions close to the heart of Pope Francis – unity in the Church,

the plight of refugees, the oppression of the poor, the destruction of war,

and the dignity of all lives – be our prayer in this Eucharist.

Lord, have mercy.

1. May we recognize in faith that the prophecies of ancient times

come to their fulfillment in Jesus Christ, the Universal King.

Lord, have mercy.

1. May we give thanks for our ancestors, whose faith, culture, and traditions

have helped to shape who we are today.

Lord, have mercy.

1. May families which are divided or hurting at this time of the year,

be given the blessing of healing and peace.

Lord, have mercy.

1. May Christians who are prevented from celebrating Christmas in places where there is war or violence, denial of religious rights or being persecuted, be close to our hearts during this novena for Christmas.

Lord, have mercy.

Celebrant: Heavenly Shepherd, bring your justice to our world

so that all who are oppressed may be raised to a new time of peace and progress. Through Christ our Lord.

The Universal Prayer

Wednesday 18th December 2024

Novena for Christmas

**Weekday of Advent**

Celebrant: Sisters and brothers,

Jesus Christ is that virtuous Branch

who reigns as the true and wise King.

1. We pray for all who bear the name of Christian

that we may always practice honesty and integrity.

 Lord, have mercy.

1. We pray for those who live as refugees in foreign lands, that they may be able to return home, or resettle in a places of peace.

Lord, have mercy.

1. We pray for all women who are expecting a child, that they and their child may be kept safe, and come to rejoice at the time of birth.

Lord, have mercy.

4, We pray for all in relationships who face difficulties and doubts,

that guided by God, as was Joseph,

they may make wise decisions for the good of all.

 Lord, have mercy.

5 We pray for women everywhere, that they may be able to

exercise the right to vote, as we mark the 131st anniversary of

the voting rights of women in South Australia today.

Lord, have mercy.

6 We pray on this International Migrants Day for a greater understanding and

respect for people, who in the needs of their families, seek to migrate to safer and more secure lands.

Lord, have mercy.

Celebrant: Lord our God, let your justice flourish in our time,

 and the fullness of peace in every place.

Through Christ our Lord

The Universal Prayer

Thursday 19th December 2024

Novena for Christmas

**Weekday of Advent**

Celebrant: Dear friends, throughout human history

God prepared for the coming of his Son Jesus

by raising up men and women of holiness.

1. That the spirit of God who was upon Samson

from the time of his birth, may be upon every child today.

 Lord, have mercy.

1. That people of integrity may lead the nations to a time of peace,

not by force, but by trust, dialogue and respect.

Lord, have mercy.

1. That our doubts in God’s mercy and will for us

may be replaced by trust and confidence.

Lord, have mercy.

1. That women of more mature years who are expecting a child

may enjoy the blessing of the safe delivery of a healthy child.

Lord, have mercy.

1. That peace and stability may come to the Holy Land, Syria, Lebanon,

Ukraine and Russia,

Lord, have mercy.

1. That our parish preparations for Christmas may be blessed with a good spirit, harmony, thoughtfulness, faith and kindness.

Lord, have mercy..

Celebrant: Lord our God,

 our rock, our stronghold,

 you have been our hope from our youth.

 Keep us steadfast in your love.

 Through Christ our Lord.

**The Universal Prayer**

**Friday 20th December 2024**

**Novena for Christmas**

Celebrant: Dear friends, the Annunciation of the Lord

in fulfillment of the prophecy of Isaiah

marked the beginning of the era of Jesus.

1. That we may not try the patience of God, but live our days in God’s peace,

growing in trust and hope.

Lord, have mercy..

1. That all Christians may honour Mary as our sister in faith, as the first disciple of Jesus, as Mother of the Church.

Lord, have mercy.

1. That when we face the difficulties of life we may rely, not on our own strength, but on the power, presence and inspiration of the Holy Spirit

Lord, have mercy.

1. That every child conceived may be loved, protected, nourished, respected and brought to birth, especially in places of war, poverty and distress..

Lord, have mercy

1. That we may stand in solidarity with the Christians of the Holy Land and across the Middle East, who endure humiliation, harassment and difficulties every year as Christmas approaches.

Lord, have mercy.

Celebrant: God and King, the world belongs to you.

 Bring us into your presence full of integrity.

 Through Christ our Lord.

The Universal Prayer

Saturday 21st December 2024

Novena for Christmas

**Weekday of Advent**

## Celebrant: Mary’s act of charity to her cousin Elizabeth

 teaches us the true spirit of this time of the year.

1. We pray for the gift of the Holy Spirit, so that like Elizabeth we might recognize the presence of Christ in our daily lives.

Lord, have mercy.

1. We pray that the person of Mary may not be a stumbling block

to Christian unity, but rather, through study of the scriptures,

her relationship with Jesus and the Church may be better appreciated.

Lord, have mercy.

1. We pray for all who live in the land when Mary visited Elizabeth and where Jesus sanctified John in his mother’s womb, that real peace, justice and reconciliation will be theirs.

Lord, have mercy.

1. We pray for a deepening of genuine love for God

and for his Son, Jesus Christ.

Lord, have mercy.

1. We pray for those who give practical assistance to women who are expecting a child, that they may receive God’s reward for such unselfish love.

Lord, have mercy..

1. We pray on this 31st anniversary of the Native Title Bill, that indigenous Australian’s may receive justice and so re-establish their connection with the land, mountains, rivers, lakes and sea.

Lord, have mercy.

Celebrant: Lord Jesus,

 show us your face in the person of our neighbour,

 and especially in the poor and needy,

 so that by your grace we may serve you through them

 for you are Lord, for ever and ever.