

## SUNDAY MASS

### ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

To you, I lift up my soul, O my God. In you, I have trusted; let me not be put to shame. Nor let my enemies exult over me; and let none who hope in you be put to shame.

**FIRST READING:** Jeremiah 33:14-16.

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM:** Psalm 25.

### RESPONSE:

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

- O Lord, make me know your ways.  
Teach me your paths.  
Guide me in your truth, and teach me;  
for you are the God of my salvation. **R**
- Good and upright is the Lord;  
he shows the way to sinners.  
He guides the humble in right judgement;  
to the humble he teaches his way. **R**
- All the Lord's paths are mercy and  
faithfulness,  
for those who keep his covenant and commands.  
The Lord's secret is for those who fear him;  
to them he reveals his covenant. **R**

**SECOND READING:** 1 Thessalonians 3:12-4:2.

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

*Alleluia, alleluia! Show us your merciful love, O Lord, and grant us your salvation. Alleluia.*

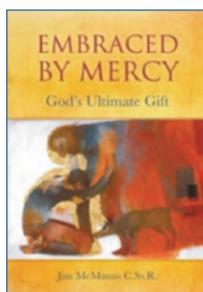
**GOSPEL:** Luke 21:25-28, 34-36.

### COMMUNION ANTIPHON:

*The Lord will bestow his bounty, and our earth shall yield its increase.*

Books from Redemptorist Pastoral Publications

Fr McManus enables us to absorb more gratefully the amazing good news that 'God's mercy is from age to age' (Luke 1: 50). Step by step, we will be guided along the road of divine mercy, receiving afresh Jesus' revelation of the Father's mercy, in the parable of the Prodigal Son, and hearing again St Paul's personal testimony of how he received God's mercy. We experience that very same mercy as we open our hearts to worship God in our daily prayers and as we celebrate the sacraments of the Church.



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## THE WEEK AHEAD

# Live the Word

### Mon 29 Nov Liturgy of the Day

Isaiah 2:1-5; Psalm 122; Matthew 8:5-11  
Many people were drawn to Jesus. What about us? Are we drawn to the goodness and love Jesus brought into the world? During this Advent, let our hearts be drawn by the force of his great love.

### Tue 30 Nov ST ANDREW, A

Romans 10:9-18; Psalm 19; Matthew 4:18-22  
Imagine if we could change all our complaints to gratitude, our bitterness to compassion, our envy to affirmation, our indifference to love, and our fear to trust? Reflect on these possibilities today.

### Wed 1 Dec (Bl. Clementine Anuarite, VM)

Isaiah 25:6-10; Psalm 23; Matthew 15:29-37  
"Advent is the time we are given to welcome the Lord who comes to encounter us, and also to verify our longing for God, to look forward and prepare ourselves for Christ's return." – Pope Francis

### Thu 2 Dec Liturgy of the Day

Isaiah 26:1-6; Psalm 118; Matthew 7:21.24-27  
Despite the insistent commercials and adverts that attempt to convince us to buy and spend extravagantly, try not to let these seasonal pressures draw your attention away from God's greatest gift, the birth of Jesus.

### Fri 3 Dec St Francis Xavier, Pr

Isaiah 29:17-24; Psalm 27; Matthew 9:27-31  
During Advent we get a series of readings from Isaiah which stitch together a portrait of the Messiah, like a quilt. Why not find these readings in your Bible and prayerfully read all of them in one sitting.

### Sat 4 Dec (St John Damascene, PrD)

Isaiah 30:19-21.23-26; Psalm 147; Matt. 9:35–10:1.5-8  
God often speaks through ordinary people to gift us with guidance. Sometimes what we hear may not seem like it will make a difference, but take the message to heart. This Advent let us listen for our teachers.

### Sun 5 Dec 2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Baruch 5:1-9; Psalm 126; Luke 3:1-6  
As we prepare our hearts for the coming of the Christ-child this Advent, what attachments and habits can we prune in order to live more fully dependent on God?

(KEY: **SOLEMNITY**; **FEAST**; **Memorial**; (Optional **Memorial**)  
A=Apostle; V=Virgin; M=Martyr; Pr= Priest; D=Doctor

# Catholic Link

## THE "O" ANTIPHONS

1st Sunday in Advent • Year C  
Divine Office: Week 1 • 28 November 2021



## O come, O come, Emmanuel

The Annunciation by Leonardo Da Vinci (1472-1475)

The seven "O" antiphons are probably the oldest Advent prayers on record in the Church's tradition. Rooted in Scripture and passing through the first centuries in various forms, they were collected together in the 8th Century as the Advent antiphons for Mary's Magnificat in the Divine Office. Our familiarity with them is probably best experienced through the popular Advent hymn, "O come, o come, Emmanuel", where each of the hymn's verses echoes one of these antiphons. During Advent season this year, *Catholic Link* will touch on four of them. May this enhance our Advent spirit of prayer as we all, after a turbulent year, yearn for salvation, healing and peace.

Emmanuel, as the Gospel writers remind us, means "God-with-us". Consider Deuteronomy 4:7 – "What other nation is so great as to have their gods near them the way the Lord our God is near us whenever we pray to him?" Centuries later the Prophet Isaiah (7:14) introduces the name: "Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son and shall name him Emmanuel." Matthew's Gospel celebrates the fulfilment of the prophecy: "All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: "Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel, which means, 'God is with us'" (Matthew 1:20-23).

From this rich biblical tradition, we get the following "O" antiphon: "O God Among Us, come. Great King, who gives the Law to gather nations

nigh; O Lord our God, Redeemer, to save your children, come!"

Throughout the ages, especially during time of crisis and great suffering, people have struggled to find God present with them in all that they are going through. Many writers from the Jewish Holocaust during World War II express such anguish, like Elie Wiesel in his book "Night" when, watching a young boy being tortured to death, he heard a voice: "Where is God in this?" And he heard a reply: "I am there, suffering with that boy." In our own time of Covid pandemic which has already taken the lives of millions of people, religious blogs, journals, articles, YouTube videos and sermons from pulpits have all tried to address the question of God's presence to His people during this crisis. Pope Francis said right at the start of it that he had asked God to come and save His people.

"O come, O come, Emmanuel" is that prayer. It expresses a deep yearning for God from a heart of suffering. The wonderful thing about this prayer is that it also contains the answer! We are asking the "One-who-is-already-with-us" (Emmanuel) to keep coming to us, to keep accompanying us through our trials, to keep gracing us with His presence. "Come, save your children. Come!"

And so, we pray: Lord God, fill our hearts with joy and our minds with perception of your presence so that our actions will be pleasing to you. May your peace, which surpasses all understanding, guard our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus, through your Holy Spirit. Amen.