

ADVENT II

A short series on some of the prayers used during Advent. Today: the Collect for the Wednesday in the Second Week of Advent:

Almighty God, who command us to prepare the way for Christ the Lord, grant in your kindness, we pray, that no infirmity may weary us as we long for the comforting presence of our heavenly physician. Who lives and reigns...

Omnipotens Deus, qui nos praecipis iter Christo Domino praeparare, concede propitius, ut nullis infirmitatibus fatigemur, qui caelestis medicus consolantem praesentiam sustinemus. Per Dominum...

Background Here, as last week, is a prayer from an old source introduced into wider usage in 1970. It comes originally from the *Veronese Sacramentary*, a collection of prayers for Mass compiled in the 550s AD.

Some key words **1) iter/the way 'Iter'** means *way, route, journey, march, and path*. From it come our words *itinerant* and *itinerary*, and in mediaeval Latin it also meant *legal circuit* (as in *circuit judge*). We know 'Prepare the way of the Lord' from Isaiah 40:3, and from its quotation in Luke 1:76. But what kind of way is it? A motorway or a B-Road? An *iter* surely tends to the more significant side of those possibilities. We have been commanded by God to make it ready, so we had better make sure we know what we're doing. There is no passivity in our Advent waiting.

2) Medicus/Physician 'Christ the Physician', *Christus Medicus*, is a common image in writings up to and beyond the era when this prayer was composed. In one of his sermons, St Augustine says: 'If the heavenly doctor in charge of us, said to you, "Do you want to be cured?" wouldn't you say, "O yes! I do!" Or perhaps you wouldn't say it, because you think you are perfectly well, and that means your illness is worse than ever.' (*Sermon 80:3*) Christ ministers to us in our infirmity. This requires us to admit that we need a doctor's help.

Reflection This prayer begins by giving us work to do: to prepare the way of the Lord. It then acknowledges that that work is going to be hard, to the point that we will certainly need the attentions of our *Caelestis Medicus*, our heavenly physician. The prayer doesn't deny that we have our weaknesses, and in fact compels us to admit to them, in order to be able to perform the task ahead of us. But we don't admit to those weaknesses just so that we can fall into despair about them: we do so in order to find healing.

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

A Fourth Sunday of Advent 23/24 December

Saturday Vigil Masses 5.00pm Holy Rood; 6.30pm Our Lady of the Rosary
 Sunday Masses 9.15am Our Lady of the Rosary; 11.15am Holy Rood

B Christmas 24/25 December

Christmas Eve Vigil Mass 5.30pm Our Lady of the Rosary with *Nativity Play*
 First Mass of Christmas 9.30pm Holy Rood

Christmas Day Mass 9.15am Our Lady of the Rosary
 Mass 11.15am Holy Rood

NB To fulfil your **Sunday** obligation **and** your **Christmas** obligation, you should go to one Mass in section A and one Mass in section B.

Next Sunday's Readings: Third Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 61:1-2, 10-11; Luke 1:46-50, 53-54. R. Is 61:10; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24; John 1:6-8, 19-28



St Edmund Campion Deanery, Old Berkshire
 Thames Isis Pastoral Area

Hinksey Catholic Parish

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SUNDAY 10 December	SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT (YEAR B) DIVINE OFFICE Wk 2 Saturday Vigil Sung Mass 5pm Holy Rood <i>Divine Worship</i> Confessions 6.10pm Our Lady of the Rosary Mass 6.30pm Our Lady of the Rosary <i>Pro populo</i> Mass 7.30pm Holy Rood (<i>in Portuguese</i>) Sunday Sung Mass 9.15am Our Lady of the Rosary <i>Pro populo</i> Sung Mass 11.15am Holy Rood <i>Rosario Calatayud RIP (Anniv)</i> <i>& Pamela Moffat RIP</i>
Monday 11 December	St Damasus, Pope, Confessor No Mass
Tuesday 12 December	Our Lady of Guadalupe Mass 9.30am Our Lady of the Rosary <i>Patrick Moriarty RIP</i> Confirmation Meeting 6.00pm Presbytery Adoration 8.00pm Our Lady of the Rosary
Wednesday 13 December	St Lucy, Virgin, Martyr Mass 9.00am Holy Rood <i>Children of the Parish</i> Funeral Service 12.30pm Our Lady of the Rosary <i>Anthony Boreham RIP</i>
Thursday 14 December	St John of the Cross, Confessor, Doctor Mass 6.30pm Holy Rood (<i>Divine Worship</i>) followed by Holy Hour with Confessions 7.00-8.00pm
Friday 15 December	FERIA (<i>Friday of the Second Week of Advent</i>) Mass 8.30am St Thomas More Mass 12.30pm Holy Rood (<i>Latin, 1962</i>)
Saturday 16 December	FERIA (<i>Saturday of the Second Week of Advent</i>) Mass 9.00am Holy Rood <i>Grace of a Good Advent</i> followed by <i>Rosary</i> ; Confessions 9.30-10.00am Christmas Concert 3.00pm Holy Rood Children's Christmas Workshop 3.00pm Rosary Room
SUNDAY 17 December	THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (YEAR B) DIVINE OFFICE Wk 3 GAUDETE SUNDAY Saturday Vigil Sung Mass 5pm Holy Rood <i>Divine Worship</i> Confessions 6.10pm Our Lady of the Rosary Mass 6.30pm Our Lady of the Rosary <i>Pro populo</i> Mass 7.30pm Holy Rood (<i>in Portuguese</i>) Sunday Sung Mass 9.15am Our Lady of the Rosary <i>Members of the Hynes Family, living and departed</i> Sung Mass 11.15am Holy Rood <i>Pro populo</i>

Our Lady of the Rosary, Botley, OX2 9BD ✕ **Holy Rood**, Abingdon Road, OX1 4LD
St Thomas More, Grace Dieu, Boars Hill, OX1 5DN

PENITENTIAL SERVICES ✕ There are Penitential Services, with the opportunity for individual Reconciliation, on 14th December at Didcot, 7pm, and 21st December at Abingdon, 7pm.

YOUTH EVENT | There will be an Epiphany Mass at 5pm on **Saturday 6th January** at St Edmund's and Our Lady in Abingdon, followed by a talk by Heather Abel about her pilgrimage along the Camino to Santiago de Compostela from 6 -7:30pm.

WORLD YOUTH DAY 2019 | Our Diocese is sending a group of 18-30s to World Youth Day, Panama in January 2019 (21st-27th). Anyone who would like to go should express their interest by emailing youth@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk no later than **15th January**. The cost is in the region of £1800, and support will be given for those needing sponsorship and fundraising.

PARISH COLLECTION TOTALS
Week ending 3 December 2017
Main collection plate: £576.23
Standing orders: £600
Next week: Christmas Flower collection
Parish giving info: Cheques should be made payable to: **PRCDTR North Hinksey Our Lady** Bank transfers to account number **00883337**, sort code **309304**. For Gift aid, please complete the gift aid declaration found at the back of the church and return it to the office.

ROTAS THIS WEEK
Counting Tuesday 12 December
Alan and Maria

NEWSLETTER | Please send all notices for next week's Newsletter to the **Parish Office** by **Thursday 10 am** email hinksey@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

CHILDREN'S DIARY
Children's activities take place during the 9.15am Mass at Our Lady of the Rosary.
TODAY: children's Advent Mass with St Nicholas.
Next Sunday: Christingles
Saturday 16 December: Children's workshop, Rosary room, 3-4pm. Fr Daniel will be available for confessions.
Christmas Eve: Nativity Play 5.30pm
Christmas Day no children's liturgy.
For more information, contact Blanka mccarthybb22@hotmail.com

CHRISTMAS GIFTS OF FAITH | Will you make an extra especial gift of faith this Christmas in support of the suffering church? £10 will get 10 ACN child's bibles, £25 will provide Christmas parcels for displaced children, £35 will provide a hot meal at Christmas for a needy family. For more information please see the leaflet in church or go to www.acnuk.org/giftsoffait .

DAY BY DAY Advent copies are available at the back of the church (£1)

A FEW IDEAS TO PREPARE FOR CHRISTMAS? And to make the most of this Advent: Sign up for Advent reflections from Bishop Robert Barron directly to our inbox each week adventreflections.com; or Pray more Advent Retreat at praymoreretreat.com; or learn about the Bible and the Virgin Mary on stpaulcenter.com/streaming

CAFOD WORLD GIFTS | A fun and meaningful way to give gifts to the people you love, and make a difference to some of the poorest communities around the world. Each gift comes with a Christmas gift card and you can choose to send a goat, build a business or help a refugee child. You can order gifts at cafod.org.uk/worldgifts

IN OUR PRAYERS
THE SICK AND THOSE IN NEED |
Andres Barranco, Anderson Barranco, Sean Hodgkins, Vanessa Clark, John Finch, Maurice McAvoy, Peggy Duhig, Anne Lansberry, Ted Renshaw, Catherine Harker, Brian Hodgkins, Mary Hodgkins, Moira Fryer
THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED |
May Robinson, Anthony Boreham.

HOLY FATHER'S INTENTIONS |
The Elderly : That the elderly, sustained by families and Christian communities, may apply their wisdom and experience to spreading the faith and forming the new generations.

CHRISTMAS CHURCH CLEANING: HOLY ROOD | The plan at the moment is to meet at church in the afternoon on Saturday 23 December—as many volunteers as possible! There will be tea and biscuits

NEW BOOK ON MARY | The book is called *The Radiance of Her Face: A Triptych in Honor of Mary Immaculate*, by Dom Xavier Perrin of Quarr Abbey. In it, Abbot Xavier paints a fresh and vivid portrait of the Blessed Virgin's share in God's redeeming work. Available from Amazon and other bookstores. It would make an ideal Christmas gift.

A 2017 CHRISTMAS GIFT FROM BISHOP PHILIP | Bishop Philip wishes to give a gift to everyone who comes to Christmas Mass – not only to the regularly practising but to all the Christmas attendees. A generous donor has provided our Bishop with 40,000 copies of Matthew Kelly's best-selling book, *Rediscover Jesus*, for distribution to all the faithful of our Diocese of Portsmouth.

A GOOD DEED THIS ADVENT! Have you considered giving blood as one of the good deeds for this year's Advent. There is a shortage of blood donors during this time. Please visit blood.co.uk . Thank you.

ORDINARIATE | Mass, Saturdays at 5pm (for the Sunday obligation); 6.30pm on Thursdays, both at Holy Rood. Masses using the Ordinarate Missal, which anyone is welcome to attend, are indicated by *Divine Worship* in the newsletter. Music at Mass will be Gregorian Chant until next term. If you are interested in singing chant, come and see,

ADVENT CONFESSIONS | You ought to go to Confession during Advent. In this parish, you can on Saturday mornings between 9.30 and 10.00am, on Thursday evenings between 7.00 and 8.00pm, before or after any Mass, or at another time as arranged. There are also other churches available, and Penitential services with the opportunity for individual confessions later this month in different parts of the Pastoral Area. We will have time for children and adults later in Advent. You know what you have to do...

NEW TO THE PARISH? Please fill out a Contact Details form, available at the back of church, and return to Fr Daniel or the Parish Office, so that we can make sure you're in the database in order to let you have information about our forthcoming events.

YOUTH GROUP | see Youth Diary opposite:
WOMEN'S READING GROUP | A group of women from the Parish meets once a month on a Monday evening, 8.30-9.30pm to read and discuss together AMORIS LÆTITIA. If you would like to join, please contact maria.rosa.antognazza@kcl.ac.uk.
MEN'S GROUP | As advertised.

CONFIRMATION CLASSES | Meeting on **Tuesday 12 December** at the **Presbytery** at **6.00pm** for **parents and candidates**. If you have not received an email about this, please let me know. FrD