

December 1st

The temptation to be complacent in our faith life is ever present. Holy Spirit, shake us out of our complacency, make us attentive to you in our everyday lives, always looking for an opportunity to do your will.

December 2nd

Holy Spirit, just as you filled Jesus with joy, fill our hearts with joy, praise and thanksgiving.

December 3rd

Lord Jesus, just as you had great compassion on the crowds that followed you without food, and fed them, fill us with compassion for those in need whoever they are, and let us turn that compassion into action as you did.

December 4th

Jesus said to his disciples: *"Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the Kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven. Everyone who listens to these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock."* Lord, help us realise that you want action, not words.

December 5th

As Jesus passed by, two blind men followed him, crying out, "Son of David, have pity on us!" Jesus cured them, but this passage emphasises the importance of faith. Lord, increase our faith.

December 6th

Jesus sent out these Twelve after instructing them thus, "Go to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. As you go, make this proclamation: 'The Kingdom of heaven is at hand.'" Lord, open our minds to opportunities to show you to people.

December 7th

John the Baptist came proclaiming repentance, i.e. a change of behaviour, a change in direction. Heavenly father, grant us the grace of true repentance.

December 8th

The angel Gabriel said to Mary, *"Hail, full of grace! The Lord is with you."* ... *"Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus."* ... *Mary said, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word."* Lord, give us the grace to be as accepting of you and as full of faith as Mary.

December 9th

In the parable of the lost sheep, Jesus greatly exaggerates the lengths a shepherd would go to to find one lost sheep, in order to illustrate how great God's love is for each of us. We thank you father for your immense love for us.

December 10th

Heavenly father, give us the grace to put aside all worldly honour standards such as success, wealth and power, and embrace your own more profound and rewarding criteria.

December 11th

Lord, give us the grace to be as selfless as John the Baptist who was more concerned that people recognise Jesus for who he is than his own position as a prophet.

December 12th

Luke chpt 1: *When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the infant leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth, filled with the Holy Spirit, cried out in a loud voice and said, "Most blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And how does this happen to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For at the moment the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the infant in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled."*

December 13th

John the Baptist implores us, *"Produce good fruits as evidence of your repentance."*

December 14th

From the letter of James: *Now be patient, brothers and sisters, until the Lord's coming. See how a farmer waits patiently for the precious fruit of the earth until it receives the autumn rain and the spring rain. You too must be patient; do not lose heart, because the Lord's coming is near. Do not make complaints against one another, brothers and sisters, so as not to be brought to judgement yourselves; see,*

the judge is standing at the gates. Lord, grant us patience.

December 15th

From Ps 25: *Your ways, O LORD, make known to me; teach me your paths, Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my saviour.* Father, give us the grace to always be attentive and to take notice when you are teaching us.

December 16th

The parable in Matt 21 about the 2 sons who did and didn't do their father's will makes clear that for Jesus, the important thing is what we do, not what fine words we utter. Jesus, give us the grace to actually do the Father's will.

December 17th

Today's gospel acclamation is the first of the seven great 'O' antiphons, prayers used during advent that date from the first centuries of the church. *O wisdom, you come forth from the mouth of the most high. You fill the universe and hold all things together in a strong yet gentle manner. O come to teach us the way of truth.*

December 18th

During advent the faith and willingness of Mary and Joseph to carry out the Father's will stands out above all else. Heavenly Father, grant us the same faith and will that you gave to Mary and Joseph.

December 19th

After this time (when Gabriel spoke to Zechariah and rendered him dumb) his wife Elizabeth conceived, and she went into seclusion for five months, saying, "So has the Lord done for me at a time when he has seen fit to take away my disgrace before others." Lord, Elizabeth should not have been disgraced by not being able to conceive. Lord, let us all speak out and give as much support as we can to those who suffer prejudice in our society and forgive us the times when we have acquiesced to prejudice.

December 20th

The angel said to Mary, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God. ... Mary said, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word." Father, give us the grace to likewise accept your will for us.

December 21st

In Paul's introduction to Romans he writes, *"For I am longing to see you, so that I may share with you some spiritual gift that will be a strength to you, or rather that we may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith, yours and mine."* Lord, may we likewise all be encouraged by each other's faith.

December 22nd

The Magnificat: *My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour, for he has looked*

with favour on his lowly servant. From this day all generations will call me blessed: the Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his Name. He has mercy on those who fear him in every generation. He has shown the strength of his arm, he has scattered the proud in their conceit. He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, and has lifted up the lowly. He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty. He has come to the help of his servant Israel for he has remembered his promise of mercy, the promise he made to our fathers, to Abraham and his children forever. Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen

December 23rd

St James wrote, *"So also faith of itself, if it does not have works, is dead."* Father, save us from complacency.

December 24th

Let us draw comfort from the last sentence of Zechariah's speech, *"In the tender compassion of our God the dawn from on high shall break upon us, to shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, and to guide our feet into the way of peace."*

December 25th

A holy day has dawned upon us. Come, you nations, and adore the Lord. For today a great light has come upon the earth. Amen

December 26th

St Stephen said "Behold, I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God." But they threw him out of the city, and stoned him. ... As they were stoning Stephen, he called out "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." Father, we give thanks for the example and courage of all martyrs.

December 27th

Ps 97: *Light dawns for the just; and gladness, for the upright of heart. Be glad in the LORD, you just, and give thanks to his holy name. Amen*

December 28th

Let us meditate on Paul's words to the Colossians: *Put on, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, bearing with one another and forgiving one another; as the Lord has forgiven you, so must you also do. And over all put on love. And let the peace of Christ control your hearts.*

December 29th

Pray with Simeon: *"Lord, now let your servant go in peace; your word has been fulfilled: my own eyes have seen the salvation which you prepared in the sight of every people, a light to reveal you to the nations and the glory of your people Israel."*

December 30th

Ps 97: *Give to the LORD, you families of nations, give to the LORD glory and praise; give to the LORD the glory due*

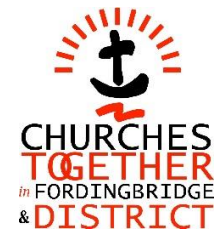
his name!

Father, let us be truly thankful.

December 31st

St John wrote, *"The Word of God became flesh and dwelt among us. To those who accepted him he gave power to become the children of God."*

Let us give thanks and praise to God.



Churches Together in Fordingbridge and District Prayer Link

December 2025

Inspired by the Bible readings for the day. Prepared by the Church of Our Lady of Sorrows and St Philip Benizi