

December 1st

Let us think about this warning that Jesus gave to his disciples:

"Beware that your hearts do not become drowsy from carousing and drunkenness and that day catch you by surprise. ... Be vigilant at all times and pray that you have the strength to escape the tribulations that are imminent and to stand before the Son of Man."

December 2nd

Jesus also said to the disciples, *"Beware that your hearts do not become drowsy from ... the anxieties of daily life."* Lord, give us the strength to cope with our anxieties and not be obsessed with them.

December 3rd

As we contemplate the story of the Centurion in Capernaum, Heavenly Father, give us the grace of faith.

December 4th

Jesus said, "For I say to you, many prophets and kings desired to hear what you hear, but did not hear it." Father, don't let us take your word for granted.

December 5th

"At that time: Jesus walked by the Sea of Galilee, went up on the mountain, and sat down there. Great crowds came to him, having with them the lame, the blind, the deformed, the mute, and many others." Let us try to imagine what it was like to be in that crowd.

December 6th

Jesus said, *"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."* Lord, don't let us forget this.

December 7th

"When he entered the house, the blind men approached him and Jesus said to them, 'Do you believe that I can do this?'" "Yes, Lord," they said to him. Then he touched their eyes and said, "Let it be done for you according to your faith." Lord Jesus, give us the grace of faith.

December 8th

"The angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the house of David, and the virgin's name was Mary." Let us join Mary in her prayer when the conversation with Gabriel was over. *"Mary said, 'Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word.'"*

December 9th

Let us remember when the word of God came to John the son of Zecharia. *"A voice of one crying out in the desert: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths. Every valley shall be filled and every mountain and hill shall be made low. The winding roads shall be made straight, and the rough ways made*

smooth, and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'"

December 10th

"And some men brought on a stretcher a man who was paralyzed; they were trying to bring him in and set him in his presence. But not finding a way to bring him in because of the crowd, they went up on the roof and lowered him on the stretcher through the tiles into the middle in front of Jesus. When Jesus saw their faith, he said, 'As for you, your sins are forgiven.'" Father, give us the grace of faith.

December 11th

"If a man has a hundred sheep and one of them goes astray, will he not leave the ninety-nine in the hills and go in search of the stray?" Father, give us the grace we need to let you find us.

December 12th

Zechariah 2:14, *"Sing and rejoice, O daughter Zion! See, I am coming to dwell among you, says the LORD."*

December 13th

"I am the LORD, your God, who grasp your right hand; It is I who say to you, 'Fear not, I will help you.'" Father, give us the grace to trust you completely.

December 14th

From Ps 1, *"Blessed the man who delights in the law of the LORD and meditates on his law day and night."*

December 15th

From Ps 80, *"Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved."*

December 16th

From Philippians 4, *"Brothers and sisters: Rejoice in the Lord always. I shall say it again: rejoice! Your kindness should be known to all. The Lord is near. Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God. Then the peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus."*

December 17th

The gospel acclamation for today, "O Wisdom of our God Most High, guiding creation with power and love: come to teach us the path of knowledge!"

December 18th

Joseph was faced with a serious dilemma. But an angel spoke to him in his sleep and when he woke up he did as he was commanded. Lord, give us the graces of faith and strength to do what you command.

December 19th

From Ps 71: *For you are my hope, O LORD; my trust, O God, from my youth. On you I depend from birth; from my mother's womb you are my strength. My mouth shall be filled with your praise, and I will sing your glory!*

December 20th

From Ps 24: *He shall receive a blessing from the LORD, a reward from God his saviour.*

Such is the race that seeks for him, that seeks the face of the God of Jacob.

Lord, give us the grace to want to seek your face.

December 21st

Let us share Elizabeth's joy when Mary visited her. *"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 22nd

And Mary's reply to Elizabeth. *"My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord; my spirit rejoices in God my saviour. for he has looked upon 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."*

December 23rd

As we approach the nativity, the letter to the Hebrews remind us of the purpose. *'First Christ says, "Sacrifices and offerings, holocausts and sin offerings, you neither desired nor delighted in. These are offered according to the law." Then he says,*

"Behold, I come to do your will." He takes away the first to establish the second. By this 'will,' we have been consecrated through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.'

December 24th

Let us share Zechariah's joy, *"Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; for he has come to his people and set them free. He has raised up for us a mighty Saviour."*

December 25th

Today's gospel acclamation, *'A holy day has dawned upon us. Come, you nations, and adore the Lord. For today a great light has come upon the earth.'*

December 26th

'When they hand you over, do not worry about how you are to speak or what you are to say. You will be given at that moment what you are to say. For it will not be you who speak but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you.' Father, give us the grace of complete trust in you.

December 27th

We remember St John today, *'Then the other disciple (john) also went in (to the empty tomb), the one who had arrived at the tomb first, and he saw and believed.'* Lord, may we share John's belief.

December 28th

From the letter of John. *'If we say, "We are without sin," we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we acknowledge our sins, he is*

faithful and just and will forgive our sins and cleanse us from every wrongdoing.' Let us acknowledge our sins and pray for forgive, in complete trust.

December 29th

Let us share Simeon's joy. "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

Let us imagine being in the scene with the boy Jesus. *'After three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions, and all who heard him were astounded at his understanding and his answers.'*

December 31st

Let us share in the awe expressed in John's Gospel. *'And the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us, and we saw his glory, the glory as of the Father's only-begotten Son, full of grace and truth.'*

Churches Together in Fordingbridge and District

Prayer Link

December 2018

This month's prayers are inspired by the Bible readings for the day.

Prepared by the
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