

# The Christmas Story

W/C 13<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER



## Sunday Gospel: Luke 3: 10-18



When all the people asked him, 'What must we do, then?' he answered, 'Anyone who has two tunics must share with the one who has none, and anyone with something to eat must do the same.'

There were tax collectors, too, who came for baptism, and these said to him, 'Master, what must we do?'

He said to them, 'Exact no more than the appointed rate.' Some soldiers asked him in their turn, 'What about us? What must we do?'

He said to them, 'No intimidation! No extortion! Be content with your pay!'

A feeling of expectancy had grown among the people, who were beginning to wonder whether John might be the Christ, so John declared before them all, 'I baptise you with water, but someone is coming, who is more powerful than me, and I am not fit to undo the strap of his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fan is in his hand, to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go out.' And he proclaimed the good news to the people with many other exhortations too."

Pause for thought: There is a lot of anticipation in this reading. What are you hoping for and is there anything you need to prepare yourself for Christmas



# Monday 13<sup>th</sup> December

Yesterday we lit the third candle that symbolizes *joy*.

Lord Jesus,

Master of both the light and the darkness, send your Holy Spirit upon our preparations for Christmas.

We who have so much to do and seek quiet spaces to hear your voice each day.

We who are anxious over many things look forward to your coming among us.

We who are blessed in so many ways long for the complete *joy* of your kingdom.

We whose hearts are heavy seek the *joy* of your presence.

We are your people, walking in darkness, yet seeking the light.

To you we say, "Come Lord Jesus!" Amen.



Try to bring some joy into someone else's life.



# Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> December



Advent week 3: Joy (2 mins)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gfK8h2TMXFO>

Holy God of Joy,  
During this season of Advent,  
we open ourselves to receive your joy  
and love. Remind us of what we are  
thankful for, and the joy you bring to our lives.  
We thank you for each smile, each laugh, each moment of warmth and  
each flicker of light. We pray that this joy will bring us closer to Christ. Amen.

# Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> December

Christmas is the happiest time of the year for so many but the loneliest for so many too.

We pray for all those for who Christmas is a difficult time.

Let this not be a time for them to compare themselves to what others have, but to know that you are with them in their hurt. Heal their wounds and fill the loneliness.

We pray this through Jesus Christ.  
Amen.



Reach out to someone for who Christmas is not a happy time.



# Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> December

**The nativity story told entirely out of paper (2 mins)**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=892ubtt5A4Q>



O God, our loving Father, help us  
Rightly to remember the birth of Jesus,  
That we may share in the song of the  
Angels, the gladness of the shepherds  
And the worship of the wise men.  
Close the door of hate and open the  
door of love all over the world.  
Deliver us from evil by the blessing  
That Christ brings, and teach us  
To be merry with clear hearts.

May the Christmas morning make us happy  
To be your children and the Christmas

Evening bring us to our beds with

Grateful thoughts, forgiving, and  
Forgiven, for Jesus's sake.  
Amen.

Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> September



# ANGELS CAROL

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# JOHN RUTTER

Listen to the Angels  
Carol, performed by  
Upton Hall Chamber  
Choir



Get involved in carol singing if possible to lift people's spirits

# Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> December



Dear God,

On Christmas we remember the great mystery of the incarnation, that you loved the world so much that you sent your Son to be one of us, born not in a palace or even a comfortable home, but in the place where they kept animals, in the muck and smell.

This humble beginning tells us that you are not a God of power, not a God of show and pretence, but a quiet God who enters history with no ceremony. There were a few visitors: the lowly ones, the shepherds, the wise men and their gifts. They can stand in for all of us, the human race.



Gathered around the manger, with our hopes and fears, with our heartfelt prayers for peace: peace in our hearts, in our homes, in the places on earth destroyed by war and violence.

As we kneel before the God of the universe held tightly in the arms of Mary, his mother and ours, we pray for our fragile world, that in this vulnerable child we will find our joy, our light in the darkness, our dignity as human beings, our common cause, our hope.

Amen.



# Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> December

Silent Night Sand art video (3 mins)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JjE6EYS1z8U>



Dear Lord,

We thank you for all the things we can feel joy and peaceful for at this time.  
Thank you for our loved ones and for the joy of the holidays, giving us time to relax.  
Please keep us safe over Christmas so that we may return safe and hopeful for the  
new year.

Amen.

Write some Christmas cards for people you love.



# Friday 17<sup>th</sup> December

## An Examen for the end of term

Be silent and be with God. Take a deep breath and relax.

Looking back on this term where have you found joy and happiness. Be thankful for these times.

What hasn't gone well this term? What do you need to do to put things right? Say sorry? Change something?

How will you return in the new year? What promises do you make?



Take a little bit of time for prayer in the days leading up to Christmas to give thanks for all the gifts you already have in your life.