



# Autumn 2023 – Week 15

## Morning Prayers



### Dates of Interest this week – 18<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> December

- 17<sup>th</sup> December – 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent ([info](#))
- 18<sup>th</sup> December – International Migrants Day ([info](#))
- 20<sup>th</sup> December – International Human Solidarity Day ([info](#))
- 24<sup>th</sup> December – 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent ([info](#))
- 25<sup>th</sup> Dec – Christmas Day ([info](#))
- 26<sup>th</sup> Dec – St Stephen ([info](#))
- 27<sup>th</sup> Dec – St John ([info](#))
- 28<sup>th</sup> Dec – The Holy Innocents ([info](#))
- 29<sup>th</sup> Dec – St Thomas Becket ([info](#))
- 31<sup>st</sup> Dec – The Holy Family ([info](#))
- 7<sup>th</sup> January – The Epiphany ([info](#))
- 8<sup>th</sup> January – The Baptism of Jesus ([info](#))

### Chaplaincy on Social Media

["From a School Chaplain" on Facebook](#)

["RC Chaplaincy" on Twitter](#)

["Prayerful Pause" on YouTube](#)

["RCChaplaincy" on Instagram](#)

Each morning an act of worship should be made. This can be led by yourself or a pupil and can be made up of prayers from this booklet, [www.richardchalloner.com/chaplaincy](http://www.richardchalloner.com/chaplaincy), or both.

[Guidance on best practice for Morning Prayer can be found here.](#)

[A selection of Catholic Prayers to use in Morning Prayer can be found here.](#)

## Prayers for Morning Worship – 18<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> December

### Theme for the week – Advent & Christmas

#### **Question for Day 1:**

What part can I play in bringing the true meaning of Christmas to people in my life?

#### **Bible Quote for Day 1:**

"The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone." Isaiah 9:2

#### **Prayer for Day 1:**

If you ever visit the Imperial War Museum, you will see as you enter the World War 1 section, a collection of letters and diaries. They all recount a very unusual Christmas. Both sides of the war were fighting in the trenches. If anyone were brave enough to lift their head above the trenches they would be shot. This had gone on for months and now Christmas had arrived. Then the sound of carols was heard. The German soldiers were singing. The Allies joined in. The men eventually trusted each other, came out of the trenches, played football together, chatted and shared photographs. The power of Christmas was greater than the power of war.

(Unknown Source)

#### **Question for Day 2:**

How can I receive the same joy that the angels had when they gave the news of Jesus' birth?

#### **Bible Quote for Day 2:**

"And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth." John 1:14

#### **Prayer for Day 2:**

There were shepherds living out in the fields near Bethlehem, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone around them and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all people. Today in the town of David a saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you. You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger". Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying "Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to men on whom his favour rests".

(Luke 2: 8 – 14)

**Question for Day 3:**

How can I develop my own prayer for peace in my heart and for everyone I know?

**Bible Quote for Day 3:**

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." Isaiah 9:6

**Prayer for Day 3:**

Sweet child of Bethlehem, grant that we may share with all our hearts in this profound mystery of Christmas. Pour into the hearts of men the peace which they sometimes seek so desperately and which you alone can give them. Help them to know one another better and to live as brothers, children of the same Father. Awaken in their hearts love and gratitude for your infinite goodness. Join them together in your love and give us all your heavenly peace.

Pope John XXIII

**Question for Day 4:**

When is the best time in the day for me to create a time to reflect on God's unconditional love for me that He came down to earth to live like me?

**Bible Quote for Day 4:**

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life." John 3:16

**Prayer for Day 4**

The new born king arrived at twelve o'clock midnight precisely (Middle Eastern Time), a rather feeble 4lbs 5oz (but what would you expect from an undernourished peasant girl?)  
No district nurse was present;  
there was no delivery bed, no injections,  
no gas and air, no shiny sterile instruments,  
no hints on correct breathing,  
no attendant doctors;  
only soiled straw and cobwebs,  
and staring animals and a farmyard smell  
and awkward Josephs shaking hand,  
holding a shivery lamp for the innkeepers wife  
who was busy with her rough, well-meaning fingers. So the new king entered his kingdom  
to the prickling of hay and the tight warmth  
of the long swathing bandage.  
There was no dignity about it,  
except the dignity that attends every human birth; no mystery except the normal mystery  
of a new life; no wonder except the wonder of excited shepherds with half mad stories of angelic  
visions. For God stooped low, and will stoop lower,  
even to the oozy bottom of the human ocean,  
to raise the sunken treasure of lost souls.

Peter Dainty



## **Bishop Richard Challoner**

During his lifetime and after his death, he was considered not only as a model of every virtue but as a saint. We are asked to pray that our Blessed Lord, through the Pope, may reward him further, by raising him to the altars of the Church as a Saint.

### **Prayer for the Beatification of Bishop Richard Challoner**

O God who made your servant Richard,  
a true and faithful pastor of your little flock in England,  
raise him, we beseech you, to the altars of thy Church,  
that we, who have been taught by his word and example  
may invoke his name in heaven,  
for the return of our country to belief in the Gospel,  
and to the unity of all Christians in the one Church of Jesus Christ.  
We ask this through the same Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Bishop Richard Challoner

Pray for us

