



Autumn 2021 – Week 14

Morning Prayers



Dates of Interest this week – 13th to 17th December

- 12th December – 3rd Sunday of Advent (Gaudete Sunday)
- 13th December – St Lucy
- 14th December – St John of the Cross
- 13th December – International Day for Universal Health Coverage
- 18th December – International Migrants Day
- 19th December – 4th Sunday of Advent

Chaplaincy on Social Media

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

["Prayerful Pause" on YouTube](#)

["RC Chaplaincy" on Twitter](#)

["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, 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 – 13th to 17th December

Theme for the week – Advent & Christmas

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)

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)

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

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

Though proud men ruled the world,
enthroned in pomp and power,
the plan of God unfurled
in a fragile villiage flower,
an unsophisticated girl,
who dared to say "Yes"
to God's strange will.
Those rich men did not know,
wrapped in cocoons of gold,
that where the raw winds blow,
God's message was being told
to poor men watching through the night,
bedazzled by mysterious light.
And those with earthbound eyes
could never understand
that God accounted wise
men from a distant land,
who searched the heavens for signs of grace
and chased a star to see God's face.
The great ones have their day
and strut this worldly stage,
while God prepares a play
fit for a different age
when wooden cross and stable birth
empower the meek to rule the earth.

(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

