

## Celebrating Advent at Home

*For this short family celebration a Christmas Crib scene is needed. Begin with an empty stable. On the first week add an angel; the second week add Joseph; the third week add Mary; the fourth week add the manger; on Christmas Day add the baby Jesus. At the beginning of the time a candle may be lit; the Bible verse is read, then the weekly prayer; in conclusion the Lord's Prayer may be said, followed by a seasonal blessing or the Grace.*

### Week 1 : The Angel

*Reading:* God sent the angel Gabriel to the town of Nazareth in Galilee with a message for a virgin named Mary. (Luke 1.26)

*Prayer:* Lord God, you sent the angel Gabriel as a messenger to bring good news to Mary about the coming of your son. May your holy angels protect and guide us and all those we love. **Amen.**

### Week 2 : Joseph

*Reading:* An angel came to Joseph in a dream and said: 'Joseph, the baby that Mary will have is from the Holy Spirit. Go ahead and marry her'. (Matthew 1.20)

*Prayer:* Lord God, you chose Joseph to be a human father and husband, and to care for Mary and Jesus: look after all who have family responsibilities. May all children grow up in a caring family.

**Amen.**

### Week 3 : Mary

*Reading:* The angel told Mary, 'Don't be afraid! God is pleased with you, and you will have a son. His name will be Jesus. (Luke 1.30)

*Prayer:* Lord God, we thank you for Mary, who accepted the job of being the mother of Jesus. Help us to show trust and obedience like hers, today and very day. **Amen.**

### Week 4 : The Manger

*Reading:* Mary was engaged to Joseph and travelled with him to Bethlehem. She was soon going to have a baby. (Luke 2.5)

*Prayer:* Lord God, when they went to Bethlehem, Joseph and Mary had to stay in a stable, because there was no other room. Help all those who are seeking shelter and rest; may they find hospitality and help in their time of need. **Amen.**

### Christmas : The Baby

*Reading:* The angel said to the shepherds: 'You will know who he is, because you will find him dressed in baby clothes and lying on a bed of hay.' (Luke 2.12)

*Prayer:* Lord God, today we rejoice that Jesus is born, and we join in the praise of the angels: 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace on earth among those whom he favours'. **Amen.**

# Daily readings for Advent & Christmas

## 2011

The Incarnation of Jesus is the fundamental event that has created the Christian faith. The incarnation is at once disturbing and comforting, miraculous and ordinary, unique and yet repeated endlessly. The point of uniqueness, of disturbance, of miracle ... is God entering the world he has created in the form of a tiny human baby – the creator become the creature.

The Church Year begins, then, with thinking about God coming, about how God comes, and when God comes, and when God will come. The word 'Advent' comes from the Latin *adventus*, which means 'coming'. Although it is the first season of the Church Year, Advent has only come about because of the celebration of the birth of Christ – the Nativity. Advent begins four Sundays before Christmas Day, so begins on a slightly different date each year. This also means that the length of the season also varies a little from year



Notes: The weekday readings are from the *Daily Eucharistic Lectionary*; the Sunday readings are from Year B of the *Common Worship Lectionary*. The prayers and devotions in this booklet are by Colin Lunt. The version of Psalm 24 is from *Common Worship: Services and Prayers for the Church of England*. © The Archbishops' Council 2000. Illustrations are from *Clip Art for Sundays and Solemnities* / Julie Lonneman. (Chicago : Liturgy Training Publications, 2003) • CPL • Advent daily 2011.lwp • 2011/11/02

children of God, who were born not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. (John 1.12-13)

**Monday 26 December**  
**Stephen, Deacon, First Martyr**

*2 Chronicles 24.20-22 or Acts 7.51-60 • Psalm 119.161-168 • Acts 7.51-60 or Galatians 2.16b-20 • Matthew 10.17-22*  
[Stephen] knelt down and cried out in a loud voice “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” (Acts 7.60)

**Tuesday 27 December**  
**John, Apostle and Evangelist**

*Exodus 33.7-11a • Psalm 117 • 1 John 1 • John 21.19b-25*

We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life. (1 John 1.1)

**Wednesday 28 December**  
**The Holy Innocents**

*Jeremiah 31.15-17 • Psalm 124 • 1 Corinthians 1.26-29 • Matthew 2.13-18*  
A voice is heard in Ramah, lamentation and bitter weeping. (Jeremiah 31.15)

**Thursday 29 December**  
*1 John 2.3-11 • Psalm 96.1-4 • Luke 2.22-35*

When anyone obeys what Jesus has said, God’s love comes to perfection in him. This is the proof that we are in God. (1 John 2.5)

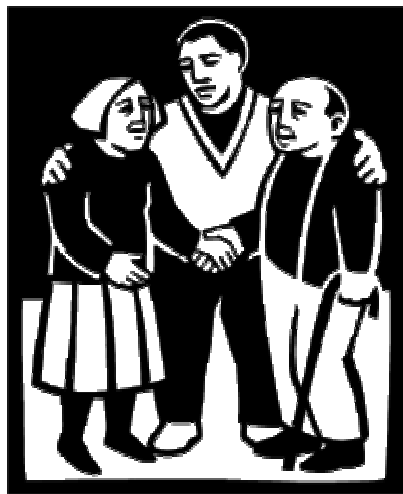
**Friday 30 December**  
*1 John 2.12-17 • Psalm 96.7-10 • Luke 2.36-40*

When they had done everything the Law of the Lord required, they went back to Nazareth. And as the child grew to maturity, he was filled with wisdom; and God’s favour was with him. (Luke 2.39-40)

**Saturday 31 December**  
*1 John 2.18-21 • Psalm 96.1,11-13 • John 1.1-18*

You have been anointed by the Holy One, and have all received knowledge. (1 John 2.20)

## The Second Sunday of Christmas



**Prayer**  
God our Father, whose only Son, in obedience to your will, emptied himself to be born among us, and was given the name Jesus: may we ever acknowledge the name that is above every name: and all the world confess Jesus Christ as Lord.

# Daily Prayer in Advent and Christmastide

## THE PREPARATION

V/ O Lord, open our lips  
R/ **and our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

*In Advent:*

V/ Our Sovereign and Saviour draws near.  
R/ **Come, let us worship.**

*In Christmastide:*

V/ Alleluia. The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us.  
R/ **Come, let us worship. Alleluia.**

*In Epiphanytide:*

V/ God in Christ has revealed his glory  
R/ **Come, let us worship.**

*Followed by the Gloria*

R/ **Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit : as it was in the beginning, is now and shall be for ever. Amen.**

## THE OPENING CANTICLE

- 1 The earth is the Lord’s and all that fills it, \* the compass of the world and all who dwell therein.
- 2 For he has founded it upon the seas \* and set it firm upon the rivers of the deep.
- 3 ‘Who shall ascend the hill of the Lord, \* or who can rise up in his holy place?’
- 4 ‘Those who have clean hands and a pure heart, \* who have not lifted up their soul to an idol, nor sworn an oath to a lie;
- 5 ‘They shall receive a blessing from the Lord, \* a just reward from the God of their salvation.’
- 6 Such is the company of those who seek him, \* of those who seek your face, O God of Jacob.

May the mountains bring forth peace for the people, and the hills, justice. (Psalm 72.3-4)

*Antiphon for The Magnificat :*

O Wisdom, you came forth from the mouth of the Most High, and reaching from beginning to end, you ordered all things mightily and sweetly: \* come, and teach us the way of prudence.

## The Fourth Week of Advent



### Prayer

God our Father, as we draw near to the joyous celebration of the birth of your only Son, we offer our thanks for the obedience of Mary, a source of blessing for all mankind.

### Readings

**Sunday 18 December**

**The Fourth Sunday of Advent**

*2 Samuel 7.1-11 • Canticle: Magnificat (Luke 1.46-55) or Psalm 89.1-4,19-26 [or 89.1-8] • Romans 16.25-27 • Luke 1.26-38*  
“Then Mary said, “Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.” (Luke 1.38)

*Antiphon for The Magnificat :*

O Adonai and Ruler of the house of Israel, you appeared to Moses in the fire of the burning bush. and on Mount Sinai gave him your law: \* come, and with an outstretched arm redeem us.

**Monday 19 December**

*Judges 13.2-7, 24-end • Psalm 71.3-8 • Luke 1.5-25*

*Antiphon for The Magnificat :*

O Root of Jesse, you stand for an ensign to humankind; before you kings shall keep silence, and to you all nations shall have recourse: \* come and save us; do not delay.

**Tuesday 20 December**

*Isaiah 7.10-14 • Psalm 24.1-6 • Luke 1.26-38*

The angel said to her: “Mary, do not be afraid; you have won God’s favour.” (Luke 1.30)

*Antiphon for The Magnificat :*

O Key of David and Sceptre of the house of Israel; you open and no one closes; you close and no one opens: \* come, and deliver from the chains of prison those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death.

**Wednesday 21 December**

*Zephaniah 3.14-18 • Psalm 33.1-4, 11-12, 20-21 • Luke 1.39-45*

- 2 From this day all generations will call me blessed; \* the Almighty has done great things for me and holy is his name.
- 3 He has mercy on those who fear him, \* from generation to generation.
- 4 He has shown strength with his arm \* and has scattered the proud in their conceit,
- 5 Casting down the mighty from their thrones \* and lifting up the lowly.
- 6 He has filled the hungry with good things \* and sent the rich away empty.
- 7 He has come to the aid of his servant Israel, \* to remember his promise of mercy,
- 8 The promise made to our ancestors, \* to Abraham and his children for ever.

*Luke 1.46-55*

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son,  
and to the Holy Spirit :**  
**as it was in the beginning, is now  
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

### THE PRAYERS

*A time of silent prayer, extemporary prayer, and/or the following may be used.*

#### ADVENT INTERCESSION

Heavenly Father, as we look forward to the coming of your Son to save us, grant that we may be free from anxiety and be filled with hope and expectation, for in you we put our trust.

In the darkness of this world, the light of Christ shines out: may that light shine with greater and greater radiance until all darkness is banished and every evil vanquished.

We thank you for the great and unwarranted love you have shown us in the coming of Jesus Christ among us in the humility of humanity. Through him, complete in us your work of healing and wholeness.

## The Second Week of Advent



### Prayer

Gracious and heavenly Father, Lord of time and eternity, as we thank you for your merciful patience with us, and look for the fulfilment of your promises, quicken our hearts to hear your call, in Jesus Christ our Lord.

### Readings

#### Sunday 4 December

##### The Second Sunday of Advent

*Isaiah 40.1-11 • Psalm 85.[1-2,]8-13 • 2 Peter 3.8-15a • Mark 1.1-8*

‘As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, “See I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way”.’ (Mark 1.2)

#### Monday 5 December

*Isaiah 35 • Psalm 85.7-13 • Luke 5.17-26*  
Strengthen all weary hands, steady all trembling knees and say to the

faint-hearted, “Be strong! Do not be afraid. Here is your God, vengeance is coming, divine retribution; he is coming to save you.” (Isaiah 35.3-4)

#### Tuesday 6 December

*Isaiah 40.1-11 • Psalm 96.1,10-13 •*

*Matthew 18.12-14*

With justice he will rule the world, he will judge the peoples with his truth. (Psalm 96.13)

#### Wednesday 7 December

*Isaiah 40.25-31 • Psalm 103.8-13 •*

*Matthew 11.28-30*

Jesus said, “Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. (Matthew 11.28)

#### Thursday 8 December

*Isaiah 41.13-20 • Psalm 145.1,8-13 •*

*Matthew 11.11-15*

The oppressed and the needy search for water and there is none, their tongue is parched with thirst. I, the Lord will answer them. (Isaiah 41.17)

#### Friday 9 December

*Isaiah 48.17-19 • Psalm 1 •*

*Matthew 11.16-19*

It was towards John that all the prophecies of the prophets and of the law were leading. (Matthew 11.13)

#### Saturday 10 December

*Ecclesiasticus 48.1-4,9-11 or 2 Kings 2.9-12*

*• Psalm 80.1-4,18-19 • Matthew 17.10-13*

God of hosts, bring us back, let your face shine on us and we shall be safe. (Psalm 80.19)

As the wise men from far away sought out the infant king, so may all the nations of the world draw near, bow down and worship Jesus, Redeemer of us all.

The birth of Jesus brought joy to the world. We pray for all who are born among us, that each new human life will find nurture and care in a loving family, and bring joy to human hearts.

At the birth of our Redeemer the angels proclaimed peace to the world. We pray for peace among the nations, reconciliation where there is division, and the desire to work together for the well-being of all.

Jesus came to bring life and health to others. We pray for ourselves and all the church that through us you may reach out to restore what is broken, to bring healing where there is bitterness and hurt, and to bring hope where there is despair.

### THE COLLECT

*The Collect of the day is said – see dated weeks below – or the following.*

*In Advent:*

Almighty God,  
who has prepared for us a heavenly dwelling place,  
grant us your aid in this present life,  
and graciously bestow on us the gift of eternal blessedness  
in the life that is to come;  
through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ.

R/ **Amen.**

*In Christmastide:*

Gracious Lord,  
who has sent your Son among us to bring both life and peace,  
rescue us from our earthly ways,  
and free us to travel with Christ  
on the way that leads to heavenly glory;  
through Jesus Christ our Saviour.

R/ **Amen.**

### THE LORD’S PRAYER

As our Saviour taught us so we pray:

R/ **Our Father ...**

## THE CONCLUSION

### THE BLESSING

*In Advent:*

May the Lord, when he comes,  
find us watching and waiting.

R/ **Amen.**

*In Christmastide:*

May God, who has called us out of darkness into his marvellous light,  
bless us and fill us with peace.

R/ **Amen.**

*In Epiphanytide:*

May Christ our Lord, enlighten and empower us  
with the good news of salvation.

R/ **Amen.**

### ENDING

Let us bless the Lord.

R/ **Thanks be to God.**

## The First Week of Advent



### Prayer

O God, creator of heaven and earth,  
awaken us to your presence, increase our  
hope and expectation, and make up all  
that is lacking in us, that we may be ready  
for the coming of your Son our Saviour  
Jesus Christ..

### Readings

#### Sunday 27 November The First Sunday of Advent

*Isaiah 64.1-9 • Psalm 80.1-8 [18-20] • 1  
Corinthians 1.3-9 • Mark 13.24-37*

‘O that you would tear open the heavens  
and come down, so that the mountains  
would quake at your presence.’  
(Isaiah 64.1)

#### Monday 28 November

*Isaiah .2.1-5 • Psalm 122 •  
Matthew 8.5-11*

For love of the house of the Lord I will ask  
for your good. (Psalm 122.9)

#### Tuesday 29 November

*Day of Intercession and Thanksgiving for  
the Missionary Work of the Church*

*Isaiah 11.1-10 • Psalm 72.1-4, 18-19 •  
Luke 10.21-24*

On him the spirit of the Lord rests, a  
spirit of wisdom and insight, a spirit of  
counsel and power, a spirit of knowledge  
and of fear of the Lord. (Isaiah 11.1-2)

#### Wednesday 30 November

##### Andrew the Apostle

*Isaiah 52.7-10 • Psalm 19.1-6 • Romans  
10-12-18 • Matthew 4.18-22*

Their voice has gone out to all the earth,  
and their words to the ends of the world.  
(Romans 10.18)

#### Thursday 1 December

*Isaiah 26.1-6 • Psalm 118.18-27a •  
Matthew 7.21,24-27*

It is not anyone who says to me, “Lord,  
Lord”, who will enter the kingdom of  
heaven, but the person who does the will  
of my Father in heaven. (Matthew 7.21)

#### Friday 2 December

*Isaiah 29.17-24 • Psalm 27.1-4,16-17 •  
Matthew 9.27-31*

The lowly will find ever more joy in the  
Lord and the poorest of people will  
delight in the Holy One of Israel.  
(Isaiah 29.19)

#### Saturday 3 December

*Isaiah 30.19-21,23-26 • Psalm 146.4-9 •  
Matthew 9.35—10.1,6-8*

The Lord protects the stranger, he  
sustains the orphan and widow.  
(Psalm 146.9)

Grant open minds and receptive hearts to those who remain ignorant of your matchless love: enlighten them by your Holy Spirit.

Have mercy on all who experience pain, purify those who repent and feel remorse, ease the suffering of those who are anxious or depressed, and bring them all the assurance of our love.

We thank you for the great hope of salvation you have put within us. Help us to be part of the plan you have for our fragile planet, and guide us to walk in the way of Christ until we come to the brightness of his heavenly glory.

Christ our King, Lord over all, descends to share the life we know. Stir up all your people to long for his kingdom of justice and peace.

### CHRISTMASTIDE INTERCESSION

Loving Father, we rejoice with the angels and all creation in the coming of your Son, our Saviour, and pray that all who reflect on his coming may know both joy and peace.

As we give thanks for the birth of the holy child, we pray for all children and especially for babies born in difficult circumstances; may every child know protection and tender care.

Your Son came at the time you had ordained: may all those who are looking for a saviour recognise his coming.

The birth of your Son brought heaven close to earth: we pray that earthly kingdoms may be established in a common humanity, and live together in peace.

In Christ you raise up humanity to your divinity. Strengthen us in holiness that we may be made worthy of the kingdom of your glory.

Bless all families, reconcile those who are divided, and comfort those who mourn. Bring us all to share in the great banquet in the heavenly home you have prepared for those who love you.

### EPIPHANY INTERCESSION

Lord God, you have made salvation known to us through the birth and life of Jesus. As he has revealed to us the things of heaven, so may our minds be set on heavenly things even while we are placed among the things of earth.

## The Third Week of Advent



### Prayer

Loving God, defender of the poor and healer of the broken-hearted, grant that your faithful people may rejoice in the salvation you bring, and hold fast to all that is good; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

### Readings

#### Sunday 11 December

#### The Third Sunday of Advent

*Isaiah 61.1-4,8-11 • Psalm 126 or Magnificat (Canticle) • 1*

*Thessalonians 5.16-24 • John 1.6-8,19-28*

[The priests and Levites said to John] “Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?” He said, “I am the voice crying out in the wilderness, ‘Make straight the way of the Lord.’” (John 1.22-23)

#### Monday 12 December

*Numbers 24.2-7,15-17 • Psalm 25.3-8 • Matthew 21.23-27*

Lord, make me know your ways. Lord, teach me your paths. (Psalm 25.4)

#### Tuesday 13 December

*Zephaniah 3.1-2,9-13 • Psalm 34.1-6,21-22 • Matthew 21.28-32*

At that time I will change the speech of the peoples to a pure speech that all of them may call on the name of the Lord and serve him with one accord. (Zephaniah 3.9)

#### Wednesday 14 December

*Isaiah 45.6b-8, 18, 21b-25 • Psalm 85.7-13 • Luke 7.18b-23*

Justice shall march before him and peace shall follow his steps. (Psalm 85.13)

#### Thursday 15 December

*Isaiah 54.1-10 • Psalm 30.1-5, 11-12 • Luke 7.24-30*

‘Of all the children born to women, there is no one greater than John: yet the least in the kingdom of God is greater than him.’ (Luke 7.28)

#### Friday 16 December

*Isaiah 56.1-3a, 6-8 • Psalm 67 • John 5.33-36*

‘Have a care for justice, act with integrity, for soon my salvation will come.’ (Isaiah 56.1)

#### Saturday 17 December

*Genesis 49.2, 8-10 • Psalm 72.1-5, 18-19 • Matthew 1.1-17*

- 7 Lift up your heads, O gates; be lifted up, you everlasting doors; \*  
and the King of glory shall come in.
- 8 ‘Who is the King of glory?’ \*  
‘The Lord, strong and mighty, the Lord who is mighty in battle.’
- 9 Lift up your heads, O gates; be lifted up, you everlasting doors; \*  
and the King of glory shall come in.
- 10 ‘Who is this King of glory?’ \*  
‘The Lord of hosts, he is the King of glory.’

*Psalms 24*

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son,  
and to the Holy Spirit :**  
**as it was in the beginning, is now  
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

## THE WORD OF GOD

### PSALMODY AND READING(S)

*See below for psalms and readings for the day, pages 9 to 15.*

### ANTIPHONS ON THE MAGNIFICAT

*Advent 1:* Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favour with God; \*  
you will conceive and give birth to a Son. Alleluia.

*Advent 2:* Blessed are you, Mary, for your great faith; \*  
all that the Lord promised you will come to pass. Alleluia.

*Advent 3:* A virgin shall conceive; \*  
she shall bring forth a Son, Emmanuel, God-with-us. Alleluia.

*Advent 4:* from 17-24 December see dated sections below.

*Christmastide:* He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation: \*  
for in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell. Alleluia.

*Epiphany:* Behold, my servant whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul  
delights: \* the anointed one on whom my Spirit rests.

### CANTICLE : MAGNIFICAT (THE SONG OF MARY)

- 1 My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,  
my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour; \*  
he has looked with favour on his lowly servant.

“Blessed is she who believed that there  
would be a fulfilment of what was spoken  
to her by the Lord”. (Luke 1.45)

*Antiphon for The Magnificat :*

O Rising Dawn, Radiance of Eternal Light  
and Sun of Justice: \* come, and enlighten  
those who sit in darkness and in the  
shadow of death.

### Thursday 22 December

*1 Samuel 1.24-28 • Psalm 113 •*

*Luke 1.46-56*

Mary said, “My soul magnifies the Lord,  
and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,  
for he has looked with favour on the  
lowliness of his servant.” (Luke 1.46-48)

*Antiphon for The Magnificat :*

O King of the Nations and the desire of  
all, you are the cornerstone that binds  
two into one: \* come, and save the  
human race, which you fashioned out of  
clay.

### Friday 23 December

*Malachi 3.1-4, 4.5-6 • Psalm 25.3-9 •*

*Luke 1.57-66*

“The Lord you are seeking will suddenly  
enter his Temple; and the angel of the  
covenant whom you are longing for, yes,  
he is coming”, says the Lord of hosts.  
(Malachi 3.1)

*Antiphon for The Magnificat :*

O Emmanuel, our King and Lawgiver, the  
Expected One of the nations, and their  
Saviour: \* come, and save us, O Lord our  
God.

### Saturday 24 December

**Christmas Eve**

*2 Samuel 7.1-5, 8-11, 16 • Psalm 89.2,  
19-27 • Acts 13.16-26 • Luke 1.67-79*

“Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he  
has looked with favour on his people and  
redeemed them.” (Luke 1.68)

## Christmas



### Prayer

God Most high, who has stooped so low  
to save humanity by the birth of your  
dear Son through the child-bearing of the  
Blessed Virgin Mary, grant us the joy of  
his presence in our hearts, who is alive  
and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit;  
one God, to the ages of ages.

### Readings

#### Sunday 25 December Christmas Day

*Isaiah 52.7-10 • Psalm 98 • Hebrews 1.1-4  
[5-12] • John 1.1-14*

But to all who received him, who believed  
in his name, he gave power to become

to year. However, there are always four Sundays in Advent, and this gives it shape and structure as a season of preparation for Christmas.

Coming close to Christmas, approaching Christmas spiritually, means thinking prayerfully about how Christmas came about and using resources to prepare for our celebration. There has been a long lead up to the birth of Jesus, not just the nine months we note in the Church's calendar – The Annunciation on 25 March – but the centuries of looking forward, hoping, waiting, and grappling with puzzling prophecies and intimations. In the days of Advent there is time to explore these texts and ideas. Advent's four Sundays provide a ready-made set of stages or steps to guide our exploration. The cry of the last prophet of the Old Testament, John the Baptist: 'Prepare the way of the Lord' (Mark 1.3), is a unifying theme. The *way* was being prepared throughout the history of God's people – in the time of the great patriarchs, through the visionary prophets, in the annunciation to Mary, in the birth of John the Baptist, and in the events surrounding the birth of the Jesus Christ.

But alongside all these steps and stages, the birth itself is discreet, almost hidden, and certainly didn't stand out for most people at the time. Every birth is unique and special, but at the same time there are so many of them. The United Nations has recently marked the birth of the seven billionth person to share this planet at the same time, and the number keeps growing, accelerating. That God should come among us in such an ordinary way, as well as a special way, is amazing. May the prayers and readings in this little booklet help us prepare spiritually in our celebration of the profound mystery and wonder of the Incarnation.

**Daily Prayer** – A short service for daily prayer, to be used either alone or in groups, is included in this leaflet.

**Readings** – The readings listed in this leaflet are the regular readings used daily in many Christian churches for this season. The Sunday readings this year ('Year B' in the three-year Sunday cycle begins on the First Sunday of Advent) focus particularly on the gospel according to Mark.

### **Sunday 1 January** **The Second Sunday of Christmas**

*Isaiah 61.10–62.3 • Psalm 148 [or 148.7-14] • Galatians 4.4-7 • Luke 2.15-21*  
The shepherds went back glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, just as they had been told. (Luke 2.20)

### **Monday 2 January** **The Most Holy Name of Jesus** *(transferred)*

*Numbers 6.22-27 • Psalm 8 • Galatians 4.4-7 • Luke 2.15-21*  
And he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb. (Luke 2.21)

### **Tuesday 3 January** *1 John 2.29–3.6 • Psalm 98.2-7 • John 1.29-34*

You must see what great love the Father has lavished on us by letting us be called God's children – which is what we are! (1 John 3.1)

### **Wednesday 4 January** *1 John 3.7-10 • Psalm 98.1, 8-16 • John 1.35-42*

It was to undo all that the devil has done that the Son of God appeared. (1 John 3.8)

### **Thursday 5 January** *1 John 3.11-21 • Psalm 100 • John 1.43-51* "You will see heaven open and the angels of God ascending and descending over the Son of man." (John 1.51)

## **The Epiphany**



### **Prayer**

O God, who guided the wise men from the nations into the presence of the holy child, Jesus, grant that we may ever worship and adore Jesus as our Saviour, Lord, and King.

### **Friday 6 January** **The Epiphany**

*Isaiah 60.1-6 • Psalm 72. [1-9,] 10-15 • Ephesians 3.1-12 • Matthew 2.1-12*  
The sight of the star filled them with delight, and going into the house they saw the child with his mother Mary, and falling to their knees they did him homage. (Matthew 2.10-11)