

Monday 8 December

Today is the feast of the Immaculate Conception in which we celebrate the belief that Mary was free from sin from the moment of her conception. Mary was conceived and born without original sin, a gift from God to prepare her to become the mother of Christ. This is why we refer to Mary as “Full of Grace”. She is the perfect example of God’s redeeming grace.

Let us pray:

Help us to strive to win God’s grace just as Mary was granted it. Let this season of Advent be a time when we can prepare ourselves for the coming of Christ just as Mary was prepared through her immaculate conception.

Hail Mary full of grace.....

Tuesday 9 December

The season of Advent is a time of preparation for the coming of Christ. Christ came to earth to save us from sin because it is sin that separates us from Him. To allow us to welcome Him as truly as possible at Christmas we should take some time to reflect on what in our lives holds us back from Him, in what ways do we do not show the love of Christ in our lives. The sacrament of reconciliation allows us to seek forgiveness for turning our back on his love; we are reconciled with God’s love and celebrate the joy of moving forward with His healing grace.

Let us pray;

Help me Lord to prepare for your coming this season of Advent through examining my life, recognising where I have gone wrong and asking for your forgiveness to move forward with the joy of the newborn Christ.

Our Father....

Wednesday 10 December

Today we remember Thomas Merton, one of the most influential Catholic authors of the twentieth century. Born in France in 1915, he converted to Catholicism and became a Trappist monk on 10 December 1941. His spiritual development forced him into the political arena as he became vocal in his support of the non-violent civil rights movement and later promoting east west dialogue through his interest in Asian religions.

Let us pray:

Give me the strength, Lord, to promote social equality in my everyday life, to recognise and respect that all men are equal in Your eyes. Grant me the courage to speak out against injustice. Help me grow in my understanding of faith and cultures different from my own. Guide me through prayer to seek Your will and be a true witness to your love.

Amen

Thursday 11 December

As we await the birth of the Prince of Peace, Help me Lord to allow true peace into my heart this advent season. You have shown me that peace can only exist where all men are treated as equal brothers and sisters in Christ. Guide me through Prayer to see where I can bring peace in my own relationships with family and friends. Open my heart to the needs of victims of social and political injustice. Guide our leaders to work towards a world where all men can live with dignity and harmony and hope.

Let us pray:

Our Father

Amen.

Friday 12 December

Today is the feast of Our lady of Guadalupe, the patron saint of unborn children. It is a celebration of the appearance of Mary to Juan Diego, an Aztec convert to Christianity and a commemoration of the shrine built on the site. The image is of a pregnant Mary with head bowed and hands joined in prayer.

Let us Pray:

Grant us the strength Lord to accept your calling in our lives just as Mary accepted her role as the mother of Christ. Help us see in the image of Mary the precious and joyous gift that life is. Teach us to cherish the unborn child. Help me uphold the dignity of human life and show respect for life at every stage. Guide our leaders to work towards a society where every life is valued and supported, through illness and into old age.

Hail Mary....