

ADVENT DAY BY DAY

Welcome to week 3 of Advent Day by Day -a short daily Scripture reflection for the 25 days from 1st to 25th December. Here again are some tips for using this weekly format. It might be helpful to read instructions for steps 1, 2 and 3 through once, before starting this daily reflection:

STEP 1: SELECT THE SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THE DAY

Focus just on the verse given for the day, don't be tempted to read them all in one go. You might find it helpful to highlight the day's verse before starting your reflection for that day, and then cross it out when you move on to the next day.

THEME FOR WEEK 3: Our joy in Christ's presence already with us, unknown to us.	
DAY 13	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Lord is near to all who call on him, who call on him in truth. <i>Ps 145:18</i>• Shout for joy... The Lord your God is in your midst... He will exult with joy over you.. he will renew you by his love <i>Zephaniah 3</i>
DAY 14	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rejoice in the Lord and be glad, you righteous; sing, all you who are upright in heart! <i>Psalms 32.11</i>• My soul glorifies the Lord; my spirit rejoices in God my saviour. <i>Luke 1:46</i>
DAY 15	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Lord loves righteousness and justice, the earth is full of the steadfast love of the Lord <i>Psalms 33</i>• "Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened to you". <i>Matthew 7.7</i>
DAY 16	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children."<i>Luke 10</i>
DAY 17	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• I was hungry and you fed me, thirsty and you gave me to drink, naked and you clothed me, a stranger and you welcomed me... Whenever you did this to the least ones you did it to me <i>Mt 25</i>
DAY 18	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Lord is near to all who call on him, who call on him in truth. <i>Ps 145:18</i>• The Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory that is his as of the only son of the Father. <i>John 1:14</i>
DAY 19	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• "Sing to the Lord, you saints of his: praise his holy name." <i>Psalms 30:4</i>• Rejoice in the Lord and be glad, you righteous; sing, all you who are upright in heart! <i>Psalms 32.11</i>

STEP 2: SUGGESTIONS FOR USING THE DAILY SCRIPTURE VERSES

You may use these Scripture verses on your own, or with other family members or friends.

Before Starting Each Day

Decide on the best time to consider the texts for a given day. It may be on the morning of the day or it may be on the previous evening.

Sit comfortably, settle into a few minutes of quiet time, putting aside any distractions and tasks.

Ask the Holy Spirit to guide you.

When you are ready, read the text for that day/the following day.

If you are alone, you may wish to just turn the words over in your mind for a while, let them sink in, ponder them in prayer. Consider if one or more words strike you particularly.

If you are using the texts with other people, allow a few moments for everyone to think about the texts. If children are participating, check that they have heard and understood the text.

Then ask:

What does this verse mean for me/for us today, in this particular Advent, December 2020?

What key words or message will I/we keep in mind during today/tomorrow?

During the Day

You might want to jot a thought or action that the text prompted or keep a daily diary of this. Children might want to make an Advent calendar card or page for that day, with a key word or message, or draw a picture or write a prayer for the day or once a week for the overall theme of the week. They might choose to make a collage from nature or magazine cuttings, on the theme for the week. If you are out walking you might see something that reminds you of the day's message. Take a photo.

At the end of the Day

Take a few minutes to reflect again on what the verse meant for you.

Share with others if applicable or maybe jot in your diary.

Give a short prayer of thanks for the insights gained, and recall any ways in which you might have forgotten the message or acted against it during the day. Ask God to bless this day of your Advent journey. Turn your thoughts to preparing for the next day's journey.

STEP 3: SHARE YOUR ADVENT JOURNEY

It would be great if we can encourage each other in our cluster parishes and share thoughts that struck us. If you or your family have taken any photos you can post them on a Facebook page we have set up for Advent. If children have drawn pictures or written messages or put up Advent calendar cards for each day or prepared a collage, take a photo of these and post it on the Facebook page (bearing in mind the need to safeguard children's own identities). You might also wish to post a thought that has struck you on a particular day or on the theme for the week.

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