

St James' the Great – Reflections for Advent

Wednesday 29 November - 7:30 - 9:30pm

The first of a series of four Advent reflections will be a video about Thomas Merton. Father David will lead this session.

1 st Week of Advent						
Sunday 3 December	Monday 4 December	Tuesday 5 December	Wednesday 6 December	Thursday 7 December	Friday 8 December	Saturday 9 December
Final collection for the Divine Providence Hospital in El Salvador (parish overseas project).	Create a crib or a picture of the Nativity and place it in a prominent place in your home.	Find time to reflect on the short prayers in this calendar.	Advent reflections on 'Merton's Palace of Nowhere' by James Finlay led by Pam Lundy. 7.30 – 9.30pm	Arrange a toy swap party with other parents and discover new toys for your children.	The majority of gifts inside Christmas crackers are thrown away. Buy crackers that contain only jokes and hats.	LED fairy lights use 75% less energy and can last up to 25 times longer than traditional fairy lights.
God of hosts, bring us back; let your face shine on us and we shall be saved.	Lord our God help us to prepare for the coming of Christ your Son. May he find us waiting eager in joyful prayer.	See, the Lord is coming and with him all his saints. Then there will be endless day.	Lord our God, grant that we may be ready to receive Christ when he comes in glory and to share in the banquet of heaven.	Let our lives be honest and holy in this present age, as we wait for the happiness to come when our great God reveals himself in glory.	The Lord is coming from heaven in splendour to visit his people, and bring them peace and eternal life.	Come, Lord, from your cherubim throne, let us see your face, and we shall be saved.
2 nd Week of Advent						
Sunday 10 December	Monday 11 December	Tuesday 12 December	Wednesday 13 December	Thursday 14 December	Friday 15 December	Saturday 16 December
Swap your usual music selection for some beautiful sacred Christmas music.	Make a large paper star to hang in your window rather than buy a Christmas wreath for your front door.	Instead of buying a new Christmas jumper why not swap a jumper with a friend.	Advent reflections on 'Merton's Palace of Nowhere' by James Finlay led by Pam Lundy. 7.30 – 9.30pm	The UK throws away 108 million rolls of wrapping paper every Christmas. Glittery paper cannot be recycled so try brown paper or reusable cloth.	Donate one food item to the local Foodbank baskets at church (check in Briefly what is needed).	Arrange a Secret Santa where all the gifts have to be bought second-hand or from charity shops.
Let us see, O Lord, your mercy and give us your saving help.	Come to us, Lord, and bring us peace. We will rejoice in your presence and serve you with all our heart.	The Lord is just, he will award the crown of justice to all who have longed for his coming.	The Lord our God comes in strength and will fill his servants with joy.	Almighty Father, give us the joy of your love to prepare the way for Christ our Lord. Help us to serve you and one another.	All-powerful God, help us to look forward in hope to the coming of our Saviour. May we live as he has taught, ready to welcome him with love and faith.	Lord, let your glory dawn to take away our darkness. May we be revealed as the children of light at the coming of your Son, who lives and reigns.
3 rd Week of Advent						
Sunday 17 December	Monday 18 December	Tuesday 19 December	Wednesday 20 December	Thursday 21 December	Friday 22 December	Saturday 23 December
Advent Carol Service at 3.00pm	Advent Reconciliation Service at 7.30pm	Gift your time to someone so they learn the basics of a new skill: carpentry, cooking; gardening, sewing, or singing.	Sweet wrappers, empty crisp packets, and cellophane can be recycled in the large green box in Morrisons.	Fr David will lead a Christmas meditation on 'Merton's Palace of Nowhere' by James Finlay. 7.30 – 9.30pm Community Centre	Donate any spare non-perishable food to a foodbank because 250,000 tonnes of food is thrown away during Christmas.	To reduce food waste use serving dishes so guests only take the food they want to eat.
O Wisdom of our God Most High, guiding creation with power and love: come to teach us the path of knowledge!	O Leader of the House of Israel, giver of the Law to Moses on Sinai: come to rescue us with your mighty power!	O Root of Jesse's stem, sign of God's love for all his people: come to save us without delay!	O Key of David, opening the gates of God's eternal Kingdom: come and free the prisoners of darkness!	O Radiant Dawn, splendour of eternal light, sun of justice: come and shine on those who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death.	O King of all nations and keystone of the Church: come and save man, whom you formed from the dust!	O Emmanuel, our King and Giver of Law: come to save us, Lord our God!
4th Week of Advent						
Sunday 24 December	Monday 25 December	Tuesday 26 December	Wednesday 27 December	Thursday 28 December	Friday 29 December	Saturday 30 December
Christmas Eve	Christmas Day					
The appointed time has come: God has sent his Son into the world	For unto us a child is born. O come let us adore Him.	Glory to God in the highest	A saviour has been born to us, Christ the Lord.	A great light has shone down upon the earth.	The world became flesh, and dwelt among us.	Let the heavens rejoice and earth be glad.



Christmas Day

O come let us adore Him

During the last seven days before Christmas (17 – 23 Dec) a special antiphon is recited each day to accompany the Magnificat prayer. These antiphons are known as the "O Antiphons" and are based on Isaiah's prophecies which reveal the different titles given to the Messiah.