

PARISH OF ST MARY IMMACULATE & THE HOLY ARCHANGELS  
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## PARISH NEWSLETTER

11th December 2016

### ***THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT 'Laetare'***

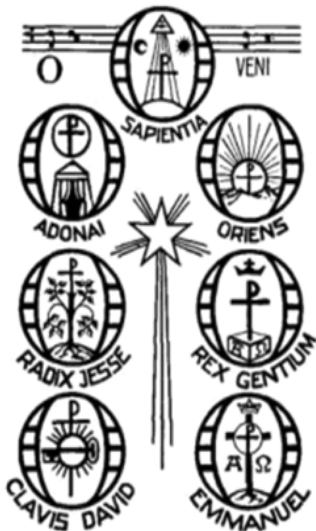
*Are you the one who is to come, or have  
we got to wait for someone else?*

First Reading	Is 35:1-6. 10
Responsorial Psalm	Ps 145: 6-10
Second Reading	Jm 5:7-10
Gospel	Mt 11.2-11



**THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT** : The Scriptures liken the coming of the Messiah to the rising of the sun and just as this is foreshadowed by the lightening of the sky and fingers of pink from the sun still below the horizon so today the Church lightens her penitential purple vestments into a lighter shade of rose. The entrance antiphon and first reading speak of the joy that cannot be contained at the dawning of salvation. The new age has already dawned with the birth of Christ two thousand years ago. Our Lord points to evidence that the hopes and expectations are already being fulfilled in his healing of the sick. Great though he is John the Baptist belongs to the end of the previous era – the curtain raiser or forerunner. We celebrate Christmas because we recognise the truth that we are part of this new age and to reaffirm our faith and hope until he comes in glory.

**THE ‘O’ ANTIPHONS**



The *O Antiphons* developed during the Church’s very first centuries. The writer Boethius (+525) mentions them. By the 8th century they were in use in Rome. There are seven of these special antiphons, and their texts spring from the Old Testament Hebrew Scriptures, the Prophetic and Wisdom Books. They are found in the Liturgy of the Hours or older Roman Breviary, which clerics, religious, consecrated virgins, and others use for daily prayer. The *O Antiphons* are short prayers sung before and after the *Magnificat*, the great prayer of Mary in Luke 1:46-55 when coming visit to Elizabeth her cousin the Virgin praised God for His favor wondrous deeds. The *Magnificat* is sung during Vespers, evening prayer. The *O Antiphons* begin on 17th December, seven days before the Vigil of Christmas (24th December). The seventh and last antiphon is sung at Vespers on 23rd December. They are called the “*O Antiphons*” because they all begin with the letter-word “*O*”: they address Jesus by one of His Old Testament titles. They

are fervent prayers asking Our Lord to come to us. The carol “**O Come, O Come, Emmanuel**” is simply a reworking of the seven *O Antiphons*. When you sing it, you are joining yourself to a vast throng of Christians stretching back across centuries and spanning the whole of the earth who prayed as all Christians do, “Come, Lord Jesus!” (Rev 22:20). The Latin versions of each of the titles of the Messiah are: *Sapientia* (Wisdom), *Adonai* (Lord), *Radix* (Root), *Clavis* (Key), *Oriens* (Dawn), *Rex* (King), and *Emmanuel* (Emmanuel). **Take the first letters of each of the titles**, starting with the last and working back to the first. You spell: *EROCRAS* or “*ero cras... I will be (there) tomorrow*”. Fr John Zuhlsdorf.

**PRAYER NEEDS:** Please continue to pray for those parishioners who are sick especially **Samantha Upton, Margaret Britain, Paul Britain, Vanessa Dann, Angelina Barber, June Jezierski, Mrs Van Stolk Senior, Denis Wood, Hayley Hetzel, Julie Trueman, Deborah Lee, Bill Sullivan, Pam Loath, Karen Kelly, Sheila Faulkner, Mike Gibson, Donovan Bushing, Rebecca Dillon, Brian Harper, Anne Entwistle, Audrey Hopwood** & any unknown to us.