

Thursday 24th December

Christmas Eve

Jesus, our Peace

V. The Angel of the Lord declared unto Mary.
R. *And she conceived of the Holy Spirit.*

Hail Mary, Full of Grace,
The Lord is with Thee;
Blessed art thou among women,
And blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.
R: *Holy Mary, Mother of God,
Pray for us sinners,
Now and at the hour of our death. Amen*

V. Behold the handmaid of the Lord.
R. *Be it done to me according to Thy word.*

Hail Mary, Full of Grace,
The Lord is with Thee;
Blessed art thou among women,
And blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.
R: *Holy Mary, Mother of God,
Pray for us sinners,
Now and at the hour of our death. Amen*

V. And the Word was made flesh.
R. *And dwelt among us.*

Hail Mary, full of grace,
The Lord is with Thee;
Blessed art thou among women,
And blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.
R: *Holy Mary, Mother of God,
Pray for us sinners,
Now and at the hour of our death. Amen*

V. Pray for us, O holy Mother of God.
R. *That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.*

Let us pray:

Pour forth, we beseech Thee, O Lord, Thy grace into our hearts, that as we have known the Incarnation of Thy Son, Jesus Christ, by the message of an angel, so by His Cross and Passion we may be brought to the glory of His Resurrection; through the same Christ Our Lord. Amen.

Read this verse – Titus 3: 4-7 [or the Gospel of the day: Luke 1: 67-79]

But when the goodness and loving-kindness of God our Saviour appeared, he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. This Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Saviour, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

After a short meditation, say this prayer:

O JESUS, help me to accept, with total openness of spirit, you who for love made yourself my brother. You came to bring to the world the gift of peace, which is the precious gift of Christmas. You are my true peace. You knock at my heart to grant me peace—peace of the soul. May I dedicate myself each day to building in every situation an authentic culture of encounter and peace. Amen. (Pope Francis)