

A Day by Day Spiritual Journey Through Advent
With Deacon Chris

17th December

Light a candle and make sure it is safe and don't leave unattended.

The Holy Spirit

We believe in a Triune God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Our Mass begins and ends with us professing our faith in the Trinity by making the sign of the cross.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Other liturgies do the same. The Holy Spirit is vital in our day to day life. He/she is mentioned quite a few times in our scriptures. In Luke's infancy narratives at the beginning of his gospel we hear the angel saying to Mary that Spirit will come down upon her. At the beginning of the Acts of the Apostles we read that they are waiting for the coming of the Spirit. Our Lord would tolerate everything apart from one thing and that was anybody going against the Spirit, abusing or denying the Spirit. For them it would be eternal damnation.

The Holy Spirit continues to guide us today and every day. Not just the Pope and the clergy but every person who will listen. The Holy Spirit gives us seven gifts and twelve fruits for our use in our daily lives. It is the Holy Spirit who is invoked at Mass when the priest holds his hands over the gifts just before the consecration (when you hear a single bell rung).

We are baptised in the name of the Trinity and receive the Holy Spirit when we are confirmed.

Come Holy Spirit and fill the hearts of the faithful.

Today we start using the O Antiphons.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

God our Father, as we get closer to the celebration of your Son's birth all those years ago, we prepare ourselves by going over the events in scripture. Help to see what is familiar to us in a refreshed light. Through our Lord Jesus Christ your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Gospel

Matthew chapter 1 verses 1 to 17

Family Tree

The late Raymond E. Brown, an eminent scripture scholar, rates this passage from the gospel very highly. It is worth a deep look at because it tells us so much. Yes, the names do appear to be tongue twisters and this does put priests and deacons off. There is such a lot of information contained in these 17 verses. Matthew includes the names of four women which is very important. Some of the names are not instantly recognisable and some of the characters are not very salubrious. This help us to realise that Jesus was born a true human being. He wasn't just conjured up out of thin air.

Your Own Time.

Rosary. Contemplate on the **O Antiphon** that follows

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O Wisdom, you come forth from the mouth of the Most High. You fill the universe and hold all things together in a strong but gentle manner. O come teach us the way of truth.
(Magnificat antiphon 17th December Evening Prayer of the Church)

Concluding Prayer

Lord, from the fall from grace of mankind you promised to send someone who pull us out of the abyss of sin. You said that you would send us someone like ourselves to help us. With your grace may we recall that event with due reverence. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Lord bless us, and keep us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life. Amen.