



# Title: Advent - Joy

## Prayers

### Prayer to St Julie Billiart

Saint Julie, through your great devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, you were miraculously cured and favoured by many graces.

By your powerful intercession, obtain for us above all, a great trust in God in all the difficulties of life, the strength to accomplish in all things the adorable will of God, and the special grace we now ardently ask of you.

"We must have courage in the times we live in. Great souls are needed, souls having the interest of God at heart"

St Julie Billiart

Lord, during this season of Advent teach us how to bring joy into the lives of others.

Help us, through this last week of our Advent Challenge to show how much we care for others and want them to experience joy in the coming year. **Amen**

## Scripture

### Matthew 11: 2-11

When John, who was in prison, heard about the deeds of the Messiah, he sent his disciples to ask him, "Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?"

Jesus replied, "Go back and report to John what you hear and see: The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is proclaimed to the poor. Blessed is anyone who does not stumble on account of me."

As John's disciples were leaving, Jesus began to speak to the crowd about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swayed by the wind? If not, what did you go out to see? A man dressed in fine clothes? No, those who wear fine clothes are in kings' palaces. Then what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written:

"I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you."

Truly I tell you, among those born of women there has not risen any- one greater than John the Baptist; yet whoever is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

Stay with us Lord, in the last full school week before Christmas. Make it a week that brings the term to a good finish. Help us to let go of any problems or fears that fill our minds. Teach us to see things from your point of view. Help us to let go of resentment. Help us to see the good that has happened and be grateful.

**Lord, in your mercy... hear our prayer.**

Reflect: The third candle on the Advent wreath, the pink or rose coloured one, represents JOY. The third Sunday of Advent is known as Joyful Sunday. Joy can come in many forms—we think of the Joy that Mary & Joseph must have felt when their child arrived safely, we think of the joy that child brought to the world through his message of love. We also think of the people who love us, really know us, cherish us, make us smile, take time to be with us. There are other simple joys in life, someone smiling at us, the offer of a sweet, a walk in the fresh air, holding hands with someone special, laughter... some of these we hardly even notice at times. This week try not to take all the simple pleasure for granted and try to spread joy to others - it really makes a difference!

- What simple things bring you joy?
- How can you share joy with others this week?

### Pray For:

- those who are far from home and family.
- families awaiting the birth of a child.
- those who are lacking joy in their lives, for joy to return.
- a safe and joyful Christmas time for our College community.

Focus on one each day

- Smile - it will lift someone's spirits.
- Do a small and random act of kindness.
- Be joyful even if you don't feel like it.
- Share something - a joke, your time..

Instead of focusing on what you WANT for Christmas, spend a little time reflecting on what you already have in your life that brings you JOY...brings you JOY...

Lord, as we spend this time of Advent waiting and preparing,  
help us to be grateful for the things we already have that mean so much to us... help us not to be selfish by placing extra pressure on our families at this time. May we always remember that Christmas is not about expense and greed, it is about sharing ourselves with our families, and with YOU. Amen

### **CAFOD Advent Prayer**

God of hope, You sent your only son into the world - that he might light our way.

God of light, as we prepare ourselves this Advent, inspire us to share whatever we have with those who do not have enough.

As we wait, in joyful hope, for the coming of the Christ-child, born in a Bethlehem stable, we pray for all children, and especially for those who face hardship or difficulties.

May they be nurtured with respect and dignity, and given the chances they need to do well.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen

At the end of a long term, when we're tired and weary, when we've worked hard and given our all, it can be difficult to feel joyful!

Although we're looking forward to a nice long holiday, and we're excited at the prospect of giving and receiving gifts, right now, this afternoon, it all still seems a long way off.

In this moment of peace right now Lord:

help us to remember what it is we're looking forward to and to be joyful;

help us to look back and see what we have achieved and to be joyful;

help us to see the potential for joy in this very day! Amen

We have so much to be joyful for!

O God,

I thank You for my life with all its ups and downs, and for all those I share this day with. I'm thankful:

for the eyes with which I see the sky,

for the ears with which I hear birds sing and music play, for the feet that take me along life's path,

for the hands I have to hold the hands of another,

for my mind, a mind that allows me to think about and appreciate the magic of everyday miracles, and for a spirit to swell in joy at Your mighty presence everywhere.

Thank you.

A prayer for the last day of term:

Go out and celebrate in love and laughter! Go as lights for the world! Shine in darkness!

Go out: act justly and walk humbly with our God. Go in the name of him who loved and laughed, who was the true light of the world

and humbled himself as a manger child.

Amen