

# ALL SAINTS NEWS

10<sup>th</sup> December 2023  
Advent 2

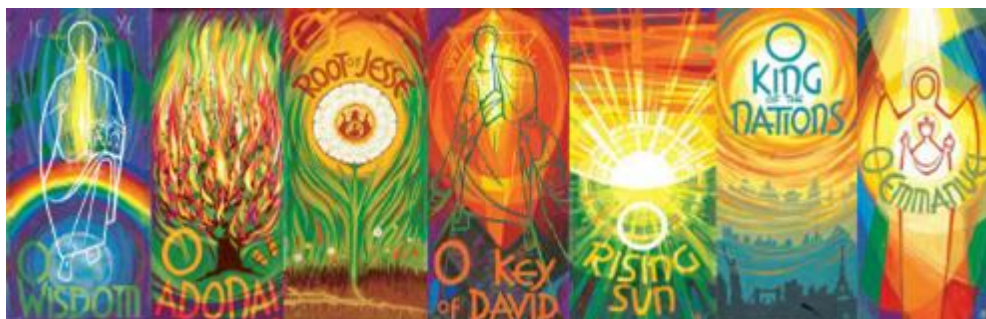
## What are the 'O' Antiphons

The O Antiphons refer to the seven antiphons that are recited (or chanted) preceding the Magnificat during Vespers. They cover the special period of Advent preparation known as the Octave before Christmas, Dec. 17-23, with Dec. 24 being Christmas Eve and Vespers for that evening being for the Christmas Vigil. On the 17 December we stop looking backwards to the prophets and start looking forwards to the Incarnation.

The exact origin of the O Antiphons is not known. Boethius (c. 480-524) made a slight reference to them, thereby suggesting their presence at that time. At the Benedictine abbey of Fleury (now Saint-Benoit-sur-Loire), these antiphons were recited by the abbot and other abbey leaders in descending rank, and then a gift was given to each member of the community. By the eighth century, they are in use in the liturgical celebrations in Rome. The usage of the O Antiphons was so prevalent in monasteries that the phrases, Keep your O and **The Great O Antiphons** were common parlance. One may thereby conclude that in some fashion the O Antiphons have been part of our liturgical tradition since the very early Church.

The importance of O Antiphons is twofold:

- ★ Each one highlights a title for the Messiah: O Sapientia (O Wisdom), O Adonai (O Lord), O Radix Jesse (O Root of Jesse), O Clavis David (O Key of David), O Oriens (O Rising Sun), O Rex Gentium (O King of the Nations), and O Emmanuel.
- ★ Also, each one refers to the prophecy of Isaiah of the coming of the Messiah.

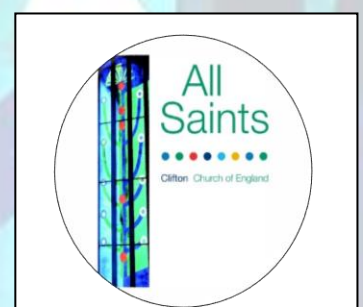


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Let's now look at each antiphon with just a sample of Isaiahs related prophecies:

**O Sapientia:** O Wisdom, O holy Word of God, you govern all creation with your strong yet tender care. Come and show your people the way to salvation. Isaiah had prophesied, the spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him: a spirit of wisdom and of understanding, a spirit of counsel and of strength, a spirit of knowledge and fear of the Lord, and his delight shall be the fear of the Lord. (Isaiah 11:2-3), and Wonderful is His counsel and great is His wisdom. (Isaiah 28:29).

**O Adonai:** O sacred Lord of ancient Israel, who showed yourself to Moses in the burning bush, who gave him the holy law on Sinai Mountain: come, stretch out your mighty hand to set us free. Isaiah had prophesied, But He shall judge the poor with justice, and decide aright for the lands afflicted. He shall strike the ruthless with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall slay the wicked. Justice shall be the band around his waist, and faithfulness a belt upon his hips. (Isaiah 11:4-5); and indeed the Lord will be there with us, majestic; yes the Lord our judge, the Lord our lawgiver, the Lord our king, he it is who will save us. (Isaiah 33:22).

**O Radix Jesse:** O Flower of Jesse's stem, you have been raised up as a sign for all peoples; kings stand silent in your presence; the nations bow down in worship before you. Come, let nothing keep you from coming to our aid. Isaiah had prophesied, but a shoot shall sprout from the stump of Jesse, and from his roots a bud shall blossom. (Isaiah 11:1), and A On that day, the root of Jesse, set up as a signal for the nations, the Gentiles shall seek out, for his dwelling shall be glorious. (Isaiah 11:10). Remember also that Jesse was the father of King David, and Micah had prophesied that the Messiah would be of the house and lineage of David and be born in David's city, Bethlehem (Micah 5:1).

**O Clavis David:** O Key of David, O royal Power of Israel controlling at your will the gate of Heaven: Come, break down the prison walls of death for those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death; and lead your captive people into freedom. Isaiah had prophesied, Al will place the Key of the House of David on His shoulder; when he opens, no one will shut, when he shuts, no one will open. (Isaiah 22:22), and His dominion is vast and forever peaceful, from David's throne, and over His kingdom, which he confirms and sustains by judgment and justice, both now and forever. (Isaiah 9:6).

**O Oriens:** O Radiant Dawn, splendour of eternal light, sun of justice: come, shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death. Isaiah had prophesied, The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; upon those who dwelt in the land of gloom a light has shown. (Isaiah 9:1).

**O Rex Gentium:** O King of all the nations, the only joy of every human heart; O Keystone of the mighty arch of man, come and save the creature you fashioned from the dust. Isaiah had prophesied, for a child is born to us, a son is given us; upon his shoulder dominion rests. They name him Wonder-Counsellor, God-Hero, Father-Forever, Prince of Peace. (Isaiah 9:5), and He shall judge between the nations, and impose terms on many peoples. They shall beat their swords into ploughshares and their spears into pruning hooks; one nation shall not raise the sword against another, nor shall they train for war again. (Isaiah 2:4).

**O Emmanuel:** O Emmanuel, king and lawgiver, desire of the nations, Savior of all people, come and set us free, Lord our God. Isaiah had prophesied, The Lord himself will give you this sign: the Virgin shall be with child, and bear a son, and shall name him Emmanuel. (Isaiah 7:14). Remember Emmanuel means God is with us.

According to Professor Robert Greenberg of the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, the Benedictine monks arranged these antiphons with a definite purpose. If one starts with the last title and takes the first letter of each one **Emmanuel, Rex, Oriens, Clavis, Radix, Adonai, Sapientia**

Then, the Latin words **ero cras** are formed, meaning, **Tomorrow, I will come.**

Therefore, the Lord Jesus, whose coming we have prepared for in Advent and whom we have addressed in these seven Messianic titles, now speaks to us, Tomorrow, I will come. So, the O Antiphons not only bring intensity to our Advent preparation, but bring it to a joyful conclusion.



## **An Email to the ASC Office during this Week**

*Dear All,*

*I visited All Saints yesterday lunchtime to find somewhere peaceful to think and pray.*

*I've come down from Cumbria to help my daughter. Her landlord is selling her flat and she has to move next week. The new flat she'd found had many problems. So we'd quickly viewed another on Monday evening, but A \*\*\*was starting to get very anxious and to really struggle. In Cumbria, we had the heavy snowfall at the weekend and yesterday morning my wife was having to drive our son 20 miles over treacherous ice to college as the train was cancelled. I was feeling so helpless, so I came to your church.*

*Your cards to write a prayer on are such a good help (and you organist sounded lovely, even though it was just practicing).*

*An hour after I returned to the flat, A \*\*\*got a call to say that she'd got the flat we had viewed. It's much nicer and has great views over the park. Such a burden has been lifted. To say my prayers had been answered is such an understatement.*

*Thank you for keeping such a welcoming church for visitors like me. Somewhere to "find a place to be and to think", exactly as your website says. I will always remember All Saints.*

*With best wishes M\*\*\**

## St John's Artwork in the Atrium.

The children in Years 3 / 4 studied Banksy's work in their Art classes and produced their own interpretations on the themes of Love, Kindness, Joy, Saving the Planet, Fun, Art /colour/ life, Saving the planet, Values for life and Making the world a better place. Their work will be on view in the Atrium throughout December.



All Saints Church  
Pembroke Road  
Clifton, Bristol

# December

## 24<sup>th</sup>

4.30 pm  
Carols & Story  
5pm

# The Christmas Story

A short service for all ages telling the story of the first Christmas, with familiar carols around the Crib, Come at 4.30 for hot chocolate and festive nibbles

## Advent Pilgrimage

**Sunday 17th December at 6.00pm**

*Our Advent Pilgrimage is a special act of worship which includes carefully chosen readings and music designed to help people reflect on the meaning of Advent and prepare for the coming of Christ this Advent season.*



*Everyone is welcome to attend this beautiful, reflective service.*

### ASC Advent Calendar:

Each day of December the ASC Advent Calendar will have a new window on the website – do have a look!!



Week 1	Week 2
<b>Hope</b>	<b>Faith</b>
<b>Reminds us...</b> Jesus is coming	<b>Reminds us...</b> To prepare the way of the Lord
<b>Bible verse</b> Romans 15:12-13	<b>Bible verse</b> Luke 3:4-6
<b>Bible verse</b> Luke 2:10	<b>Bible verse</b> Luke 2:14
<b>Reminds us...</b> The joy at the coming birth of Jesus	<b>Reminds us...</b> "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace for those he favours"
Week 3	Week 4
<b>Joy</b>	<b>Peace</b>



The ASC Saturday morning  
Walks For Everyone are now  
on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of every month

Everyone is most welcome to join the walks  
and friendly dogs are very welcome!

The next walk will be on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> of December.

Led by Mary Benton the walk will be an exploration of Terraces and Crescents of Clifton

We will leave from outside ASC at 10.45 and be back about 12.30

Contact: [georginaharford@hotmail.com](mailto:georginaharford@hotmail.com) 07767 746168

Christmas 2023 Events  
@ All Saints, Clifton

3<sup>RD</sup>-25<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER

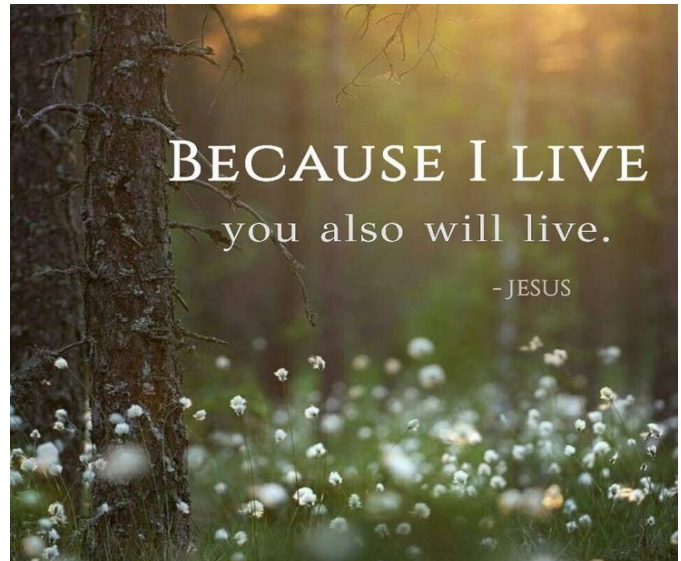
SUNDAY 3 <sup>RD</sup> DECEMBER	
- Advent Carol Service	6.00 <sup>PM</sup>
THURSDAY 21 <sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER	
- Christmas Carol Service	6.00 <sup>PM</sup>
SUNDAY 24 <sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER	
- Christmas Story	4.30 <sup>PM</sup> FOR 5.00 <sup>PM</sup>
SUNDAY 24 <sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER	
- Midnight Mass	10.30 <sup>PM</sup>
MONDAY 25 <sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER	
- Christmas Eucharist with Carols	10.00 <sup>AM</sup>

## Prayers Requests

'In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live.'

(John 14: 19).

Please let Fr Charles know of anyone who would like to be remembered within the weekly prayer list or anyone who you would like to be remembered in prayer.



## Those who we remember in our Prayers.

**Sunday** Tabitha Clark, Ruth and Richard Harding, Katie Norman, Neal Gordon, Joyce Shepherd, Cynthia Ashford Sue Hilliar Mary Greenacre Nadine Benn Lorna Osbon Elisabeth Morgan Andrew Casimir June Matthews Sathia Aruliah Ryan Lindsey

**Monday**

**Tuesday.**

**Wednesday** , Katrina and Katherine King, Philip Miles, Diana Verity, Samantha Tucker, Hugh Farry Maureen Mumford George Lymeropoulos

**Thursday**

**Friday** Charlotte Hopkins, Andy & Gina Ford, Caroline Semon, Nicole Kaneza.

**Saturday**

## The Departed

Joanne Wilkins Eileen Davies Len Hughes John Morley-Bunker (Pr) ) Albert Loveday Ruth Burrows O.M.C Erna Sacof Betty Shaw

## Years' Minds - this week we remember

John Marsh Paul Hancock May Brunsdn Doreen Joan Tong Peter Bradford Dulcie Mason John Dowden Joan Flynn

# ALL SAINTS PRAYERS

Mon 11	Corruption is dishonest or unethical conduct of those in authority. We pray for victims of corruption and for those who work in roles of prevention. We pray for those in authority that they may not be tempted by personal objectives.
Tue 12	We pray for the people of Mexico. Trump actively campaigned against Mexico's national interests and has caused an existing rift to enlarge. We pray for Mexican immigrants who fear mass deportations. (Today is Poinsettia Day).
Wed 13	<b>Mass 10.00am Lucy, Martyr at Syracuse, 304 Samuel Johnson, Moralist, 1784</b> Pray for those who suffer visual impairment or loss. Issues concerned with sight are hugely disabling and often put individuals on the periphery of society. Pray for all who work to reduce the suffering, research the causes, provide medical treatment and campaign for change for positive impact.
Thurs 14	<b>John of the Cross, Poet, Teacher of the Faith, 1591</b> Pray for all who suffer from poor mental health. In particular we pray for those who suffer depression, anxiety disorders, relationship problems, grief, addiction, ADHD and learning disability, mood disorder. Pray for their families, carers and medical and support staff.
Fri 15	<b>Mass 10.00am</b> Pray for those whose lives are enriched by their 'Companion Animals'. Human lives are often transformed through befriending dogs and cats (and horses) – the lonely, disabled, housebound, poor mental health, prisoners, those in recovery. (Today is Feline Day)
Sat 16	Pray for our Emergency Services – the 'Blue Lights'. Christmas normally is a time for joy. Decorations are set up, parties ensue, presents are given and laughter commences. Not many people remember those in law enforcement, fire fighting, ambulance workers and so many others who work tirelessly during the holiday season to keep people safe. Blue Christmas is a holiday dedicated to those who work in that field, giving them an opportunity to be thanked for their services and celebrate Christmas their own way.
Sunday 17	<b>3rd Sunday of Advent</b>  O Sapientia (O Wisdom). O Wisdom, who came from the mouth of the Most High, reaching from end to end and ordering all things mightily and sweetly: come, and teach us the way of prudence.  <b>Early Worship 9.00am      Parish Mass 10.30am</b>

If you would like to give regularly to the Church, please set up a standing order to the church account, details below

**Parochial Church Council of All Saints**  
**Account No. 65256747**  
**sort code 08 92 99**

Gift Aid forms are available from the office  
[office@allsaintsclifton.org](http://office@allsaintsclifton.org)

We are committed to safeguarding children, young people, victims of domestic abuse and vulnerable adults.

If you have any Safeguarding concerns please contact :  
The Parish Safeguarding Officer - Stephen O'Keefe  
[stephen.c.okeefe@gmail.com](mailto:stephen.c.okeefe@gmail.com) and Caroline Davenport  
[c2davbristol@hotmail.com](mailto:c2davbristol@hotmail.com)