



**A Champagnat Marist Prayer  
Resource for Advent 2015  
District of the Pacific**

# A Champagnat Marist Prayer Resource for Advent

## What is in the resource?

The resource comprises:

- A theme developed from the Gospel of the day.
- The readings and psalm of the day.
- An opening and concluding prayer.
- A reading from a Champagnat Marist document related to the theme of the Gospel for the day.
- Three intercessions, to which you may add additional prayers.

## How to this resource could be used:

The Advent Prayer Resource is designed to assist in focusing community prayer on the Gospel reading of the day as we journey through the season of Advent. The resource is flexible and could be used on its own or as part of another form of community prayer.

## A suggested process:

As part of the community prayer:

- Use an appropriate Marial Prayer, Morning Offering and Prayer for Vocations.
- Read the Gospel of the day.
- Then allow several minutes of silent reflection.
- Then invite the participants to share any reflection they may have on the Gospel and/or the Champagnat Marist reading.
- The Psalm of the day may be used as a response to the readings.

## Preparation for Community Prayer:

As part of the preparation for community prayer:

- Read the Gospel for the day.
- Read a Scripture commentary. An online commentary from the Society of Jesus in Ireland is available at <http://livingspace.sacredspace.ie>
- Make a short note of what emerged for you from the reading.

## Why was the resource developed?

Our recent General Chapters have urged us, as part of the ongoing process of centring our lives on Jesus Christ, to deepen our personal and community prayer. One way to assist this is to develop a style of community prayer based on the Gospel reading of the day.

Brothers Today has developed this resource, based on the Gospel theme, as an example of one approach to a Gospel centred style of prayer.

## Sunday Advent 1 | 29 November | Be Watchful

### Prayer

Gracious God, in this Advent of expectation  
you call us to be awake and ready  
to recognise the signs of your kingdom in our midst  
A kingdom of justice and mercy,  
of joy and of peace.  
May we be aware of your presence in our lives.  
Through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

### Readings

- **Jeremiah 33:14-16 | I will cause a good seed to spring forth from David**
- **Psalm 25 | To you. O Lord, I lift up my soul**
- **1 Thessalonians 3:12-4:2 | May Christ strengthen your hearts in holiness**
- **Luke 21:25-28,34-36 | Your redemption is near at hand**

### Champagnat Marist Reading - Water from the Rock, par. 73

As mystics we perceive “the footprints of God” in all the events of life. Through a reading of our reality in faith, we are taken beyond appearances and surface meanings, and brought into the depths of each situation. Our prayer becomes, *Oh Lord, how great is your love!* And with a deep trust that comes from knowing we are profoundly loved, we confidently open our hearts to God’s will.

### Intercessions

We pray that we may use this time of Advent to examine all of our relationships with others, material possessions and God. Lord hear us.

We pray for those trapped in the darkness of addiction, that they may be freed. Lord hear us.

Lord, help us to recognise you and respond to you in love through every person and every experience of this day. Lord hear us.

### Prayer

Loving God,  
You loved the world so much  
that You gave us Your only Son to be our Saviour.

When Jesus humbled himself  
to be born among us  
and take on our humanity,  
he fulfilled the plan You formed long ago.  
Jesus opened for us the way of salvation.

In this Advent season,  
we watch in expectation for the day,  
hoping that the salvation promised us will come,  
when Christ our Lord  
will come again in his glory.  
Come Lord Jesus!

## Advent 1 | Monday 30 November | St Andrew | Follow me

### Prayer

Gracious God,  
we pray that we may have the same faith  
as Jesus speaks about in the gospel.  
May the faith that can move mountains  
also move our hearts  
as we prepare for the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.  
We make this prayer through  
Christ, our Lord. Amen.

### Readings

- **Romans 10:9-18 | Faith comes from what is preached**
- **Psalm 18 | The heavens proclaim the glory of God**
- **Matthew 4:18-22 | Immediately they let their nets and followed him**

### Champagnat Marist Reading – Sowers of Hope, p. 255

This is part of what it means to be Marist: a call to be people of faith, people of passionate commitment, people with *mission* clearly stamped upon them. One of the great needs of contemporary society... is people of hope, people able to put aside their fears for the future, people willing to resist the tendency to settle down to a rather selfish existence, people who, placing their hope in the presence of the Spirit in the world, continue with a passion to give themselves fully to carrying on the mission of Jesus Christ.

### Intercessions

We pray for all those who show genuine concern for their neighbours and bring peace of mind and heart to those who suffer from our inhumanity to others. Lord hear us.

We ask your blessing, Lord, on those who show real concern for the spiritual and material good of their neighbours. Lord hear us.

Lord, increase our faith as we wait in hope for the coming of the Saviour. Lord hear us.

### Prayer

God of hope, be with us as we begin this  
Advent journey.  
Increase our faith,  
Show us your ways,  
Teach us your paths,

That we might walk with you more closely,  
Our hand in your hand,  
Our feet in your footsteps,  
That we like Mary and Marcellin  
May be your willing servants.  
Amen.

## Advent 1 | Tuesday 1 December | Openness to Revelation

### Prayer

Loving God,  
you reveal great things to your followers,  
especially those with a humble and open disposition.  
Help us to set aside our fears and hesitations,  
and to embrace you more wholeheartedly  
in this season of active preparation for your coming among us.  
We make this prayer through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

### Readings

- **Isaiah 11:1-10 | The Spirit of the Lord rests upon him**
- **Psalms 72 | O God, give your judgement to the king**
- **Luke 10:21-24 | Jesus is filled with the Holy Spirit**

### Champagnat Marist Reading - Water from the Rock, pars. 19-20 | Love of Jesus and His Gospel

Marcellin taught the first Brothers: To make Jesus known and loved is the aim of our vocation and the whole purpose of the Institute. If we were to fail in this purpose, our congregation would be useless. In saying this, Marcellin clearly expressed his conviction, and a growing conviction for Marists today – the centrality of Jesus in our life and mission.

For us Jesus is the human face of God. In a privileged way we encounter him in the three special Marist places, where Jesus reveals God to us [the Crib, the Cross and the Altar].

### Intercessions

Lord, open our eyes, ears and minds to the mystery of your revelation in our daily lives. Lord hear us.

Lord, help us to welcome the Word of God into our hearts, as a beautiful gift and a privileged encounter with you. Lord hear us.

Lord, may all Champagnat Marists encourage one another and the young people confided to our care. May our relationships with others be marked by joyful simplicity and wholehearted generosity. Lord hear us.

### Prayer

God, loving Father of us all,  
we are encouraged to confidently welcome and share your message  
despite our limitations.  
May your kingdom be proclaimed.  
May your gifts be received.  
May we live in charity and authenticity  
and thus reveal you in today's world.  
Amen.

## Advent 1 | Wednesday 2 December | Healing

### Prayer

Loving God,  
you challenge us this Advent,  
this time of preparation,  
to put aside our pride  
And to understand our need for  
repentance and forgiveness.  
Purify our hearts and sanctify our lives.  
We make this prayer through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

### Readings

- **Isaiah 25:6-10 | The Lord God will wipe away tears from every face**
- **Psalms 23 | The Lord is my shepherd**
- **Matthew 15:29-37 | Jesus healed many and multiplied the bread**

### Champagnat Marist Reading - Water from the Rock, par. 124

Marist spirituality, being apostolic, is lived out on mission. The mission of Marist apostles is born of the experience of being loved by God and of our desire to actively participate in the mission of Jesus. God is passionate about the world and its people, and Jesus expresses this love by a ministry of teaching and healing. *I came that you may have life, and have it abundantly.* Like Jesus we recognise the urgings of the Spirit within, calling us to witness to this Good News. Out of these inner promptings, the mission of the Church is born: to proclaim the Kingdom of God as a new way of living for humanity, a new way to relate with God. We join in this mission of the Church as we look upon the world with compassion.

### Intercessions

We pray that we may be open to hear, to see and to understand the message of Jesus. Lord hear us.

We pray that we may be open to the healing presence of Jesus Christ. Lord hear us.

We pray that we may follow faithfully the way of Jesus Christ, to tell courageously the truth of Jesus Christ, and to live joyfully the life of Jesus Christ. Lord hear us.

### Prayer

Gracious Father,  
you call us to the fullness of life.  
In this Advent season, may the Baptist's call  
resound in our hearts and minds,  
drawing us to the living water  
where we find healing and forgiveness.  
Amen.

## Advent 1 | Thursday 3 December | St Francis Xavier | Discipleship

### Prayer

God who dwells with us,  
we pray for one gift this Advent;  
we pray for a change of heart.  
For any relationship with you  
is more an affair of the heart than of the head.

We pray for hearts open enough so that we can,  
like Mary, take you at your word  
and not demand that all of our questions  
be answered at that outset.

We pray too that our hearts be as fruitful as Mary's  
and eventually as passionate, on fire,  
full of love for Jesus and His Good News. Amen.

### Readings

- **Isaiah 26:1-6 | Let the upright nations, the custodians of truth, enter**
- **Psalms 118 | Give thanks to the Lord who is good**
- **Matthew 7:21, 24-27 | Whoever does the will of my Father will enter the kingdom of heaven**

### Champagnat Marist Reading – Marvellous Companions, pp. 9-10

But God has also entrusted himself and his work to our care, and in so doing has invited us to make Jesus Christ the centre and passion of our lives. In accepting this invitation you and I become his disciples. That fact alone renders unnecessary any imagined wall standing between our mission and community.

The members of our 20th General Chapter said much the same in their *Message*. "Like Mary," they challenged us, "let Christ be the centre and passion of your life and the life of your community." Our identity as disciples of Christ lies at the heart of our mission *and* of our life together as brothers in community.

### Intercessions

We pray for a disciple's heart that is open to the action of the Holy Spirit. Lord hear us.

Lord, we pray that we may be like the sensible person who listens to your word and acts on it.  
Lord hear us.

Lord, as we prepare for Christmas, help us to find the right balance between action and prayer in our lives. Lord hear us.

### Prayer

Lord, what you will, let it be so,  
Where you will, there we will go,  
What is your will, help us to know.

Because you will it, it is best,  
Because you will it, we are blest,  
Until in your hands our hearts find their rest.  
Amen.

## Advent 1 | Friday 4 December | St John Damascene | Spread the Good News

### Prayer

God of life,  
as we begin this period of Advent,  
may we see Your unconditional love for us  
in the birth of Jesus.  
As we rejoice in the birth of our Saviour  
renew our faith in the  
healing presence of Jesus in our lives. Amen.

### Readings

- **Isaiah 29:17-24 | In that day the eyes of the blind will see**
- **Psalms 27 | The Lord is my light and my help**
- **Matthew 9:27-31 | Their belief in Jesus brought the cure of the two blind men**

### Champagnat Marist Reading – Water from the Rock, pars. 88-90

We pray in all situations, with creativity and generosity. No matter the difficulties and struggles of daily life, no matter the limitations and injustices we live with, we continue to see the blessings of God upon us and those we love. Like Mary in her Magnificat prayer, we are grateful to God who has blessed us.

In our times of solitude, we cultivate an interior life that strengthens our love of, and communion with, the world. In this way we become more sensitive to life. Though we experience the poverty of our limitations and failures, we also recognize the beauty and wonder of humanity and of all creation.

Day after day, we feel called to commit ourselves to the world; to contemplate the world with the eyes and the heart of God. Our spirituality draws us to deepen our relationship with Christ and in trust to give ourselves in service in community living and mission.

### Intercessions

Lord, heal our blindness when we cannot see your will for us. Lord hear us.

Lord, as you came to us as a child; give us the insight to see your redeeming love for us.  
Lord hear us.

Lord, give us the courage to spread your Good News among all those we encounter. Lord hear us.

### Prayer

God of love,  
in the birth of Jesus you show us  
your personal love for each one of us.  
Give us a stronger belief in, and love for  
Jesus Christ, our Redeemer.  
Amen.



## Advent 1 | Saturday 5 December | The Kingdom of Heaven is at Hand

### Prayer

In your time, Saving God  
You walked upon this earth  
And in your time  
Became one of us  
To show what we could become  
Remind us always  
As we look at our lives  
In comparison with yours  
That at the centre of all things  
Is the saving Grace of God. Amen.

### Readings

- **Isaiah 30:19-21, 23-26 | If you have mercy the Lord God will be gracious when you cry**
- **Psalms 147 | Sing praise to the Lord who is good**
- **Matthew 9:35, 10:1,6-8 | When Jesus saw the crowd he felt sorry for them**

### Champagnat Marist Reading – Making Jesus Christ Known and Loved, p. 39

I believe Marcellin might also raise some troubling questions. Honest questions, but disturbing, nonetheless. Questions such as: Does sufficient evidence exist to prove that you and I are bringing the Gospel of Jesus Christ to poor children and young people here at the outset of the third millennium? When the Christian young people entrusted to our care move on from our programs and institutions, have they come to know and love Jesus Christ? Are the teachings and values of his *Good News* evident in their day-to-day lives?

### Intercessions

May we be carriers of the Good News by becoming shepherds leading the sheep to where they belong. Lord hear us.

May we have the courage to accept the call from the Good Shepherd to liberate people from all binds them. Lord hear us.

Lord, we ask your blessing on those who labour in the fields among the needy to bring hope into their lives. Lord hear us.

### Prayer

In your time, Mighty God  
You will come in glory  
And in your time  
Gather the harvest  
From one end of this earth to the other

Remind us always  
In times of plenty  
And in times of famine  
That at the centre of all things  
Is the love and mercy of God.  
Amen.

## Sunday Advent 2 | 6 December | All people will see God's salvation

### Prayer

Lord of heaven and earth,  
you govern all things according to your love.  
May the light of the Gospel  
scatter the darkness of the world,  
And may you open the hearts of all  
who remain blind to the Truth.  
We ask this through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

### Readings

- **Baruch 5:1-9 | Jerusalem – God will show your splendour**
- **Psalms 126 | When the Lord delivered Sion from bondage**
- **Philippians 1:4-6,8-11 | Show yourselves without blame in the day of Christ**
- **Luke 3:1-6 | All people will see the salvation of God**

### Champagnat Marist Reading – Evangelisers in the Midst of Youth, par. 69

We are invited to be prophets in our time, to listen to the calls that God is sending us through the lives and suffering of so many brothers and sisters who find themselves at the margin of society. In these specific conditions, feeling a responsibility to proclaim the Gospel and denounce the profaning of God's face present in each person, our mission takes shape and becomes set, enriched by the particular goings-on in the world around us. In this process we approach young people and open our eyes to their dreams and plans and their genuine challenges. This offers us the wherewithal to truly become builders of justice and peace in the world. Ours is a prophetic Church in tune with the prophetic vocation of youth.

### Intercessions

We pray that our faith may make a difference in the world. Lord hear us.

We pray that all nations may know true and lasting peace. Lord hear us.

We pray that we may be attentive to the prophets in our time. Lord hear us.

### Prayer

Almighty God,  
You sent John the Baptist into the world  
to prepare the way for Your Son.  
May we also prepare a place for  
Your Son in our hearts.  
Give us the conviction to actively work  
for a more just world  
on which all of creation  
reflects Your goodness and grace.  
Grant this through our Lord, Jesus Christ.  
Amen.

## Advent 2 | Monday 7 December | We have seen wonderful things

St Ambrose

### Prayer

Gracious God,  
as we prepare the way of your Son in our hearts,  
level the mountains, fill in the valleys,  
make the winding way straight,  
that all creation may know your saving love.  
We make this prayer through Jesus, God-with-us.  
Amen.

### Readings

**Isaiah 35:1-10 | God will come and save you**

**Psalms 85 | O Lord, you once favoured your land**

**Luke 5:17-26 | We have seen wonderful things this day**

### Champagnat Marist Reading | Burning embers, witnesses to the faith, p. 5

We recognise that Marcellin Champagnat was also a man of faith (Cf. Marist Constitutions, 81). That is to say that he had an experience of God such that he was able to abandon himself in all confidence into his hands, and that his whole life was filled with meaning and peace. To say that our Founder was a man of faith means that his life cannot be understood without this fundamental element.

Mary and Champagnat, witnesses of the experience of God, give us the key to the profound reasons which animated our martyrs. *These Christians stir up irresistible questions in the hearts of those who see how they live: Why are they like this? Why do they live in this way? What or who is it that inspires them? Why are they in our midst?* (Evangelii Nuntiandi)

### Intercessions

Lord, increase our faith that we may tell courageously the truth of Jesus Christ. Lord, hear us.

Lord, may we hear the words of Jesus addressed to each of us, 'Your sins are forgiven', that we may live joyfully the life of Jesus Christ. Lord, hear us.

Lord, you tell us not to be afraid. In this Advent season give us the courage to follow faithfully the way of Jesus Christ. Lord, hear us.

### Prayer

Loving God,  
you sent your Son Jesus into our world  
to show us your mercy and love.  
Open our hearts to your grace.  
Open our eyes to see Christ in our midst.  
We ask this in the name of that same Jesus Christ, the Eternal Word,  
who lives and reigns with you  
and the Holy Spirit, forever. Amen.

Advent 2 | Tuesday 8 December

The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Year of Mercy – Be merciful as your Father in heaven is merciful

**Greeting to Mary**

O with what joy we sing of Mary, a woman of great love,  
whose openness and loving kindness,  
gave birth to God's own Son.

Mary, O so gentle and discrete, be with us as we pray,  
to know the whisper of His presence,  
The wonder of His love.

**Prayer**

Gracious God,  
may the life of Mary, preserved from sin,  
help us to follow in the footsteps of Jesus.  
Open our hearts to your Word,  
and help us to respond generously, as Mary did.  
May we become beacons of light  
where there is darkness,  
transforming our world, day by day.  
Amen.

**Readings**

**Genesis 3:9-15, 20 | I will place enmity between your seed and the seed of the woman**

**Psalm 98 | Sing a new song to the Lord**

**Ephesians 1:3-6, 11-12 | God chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world**

**Luke 1:26-38 | Rejoice, favoured one, the Lord is with you**

**Champagnat Marist Reading – In Her Arms or in Her Heart, p. 16**

Like you and me, the mother of Jesus searched and was uncertain. She had her share of anxiety, frustration, and disappointment. Theologian Leonardo Boff, for example, reminds us that Mary's Immaculate Conception "does not mean that she was never troubled, or that she had no need for faith and hope."

Saint Thérèse of Lisieux believed that it was for these reasons that love and honour have always been shown toward Mary. She remarked further that she loved the mother of Jesus not because she received exceptional privileges, but rather because she lived and suffered as we all do in the dark night of faith.

**Dialogue Prayer** (from the Constitutions)

- Mary lived out her whole life in the spirit of her "Fiat".  
*She is blessed because she listened to the word of God and carried it out. (C. 38)*
- As Champagnat Marists, Lay and Brothers, we come to Mary, the Handmaid of the Lord, to be schooled by her, and we respond to her call:  
*"Do whatever he tells you". (C. 38)*

- Faithful handmaid, she lives out her YES even to the Cross.  
*Mother, she ponders in her heart what Jesus does, and relates his actions to the words of Scripture. (C. 67)*
- We contemplate her, hidden and unknown in the world, faithful in her mission of bringing God to us.  
*Patiently she awaits God's hour. (C. 84)*

### **Intercessions**

Let us praise God who has given us Mary as a model of holiness. We pray:  
*Mother of Christ, teach us to hear the word of God.*

Be praised in Mary, mother of mercy; teach us to be a healing presence in the lives of others.  
*Mother of Christ, teach us to hear the word of God.*

Be praised in Mary, help of Christians; help us to proclaim the Gospel with our lives.  
*Mother of Christ, teach us to listen to the word of God.*

Be praised in Mary, Queen of Peace; give us forgiving hearts and bless our world with the peace that only you can give.  
*Mother of Christ, teach us to live the word of God.*

### **Prayer**

Loving God,  
you have given us Mary, the mother of Jesus  
to encourage and guide us on the way to union with you.  
Let her life of loving obedience and prayer  
be a beacon of light for us  
as we seek to follow your Christ.  
We ask this in the name of that same Jesus Christ,  
the Eternal Word,  
who lives and reigns with you  
and the Holy Spirit, forever. Amen.



Advent 2 | Wednesday 9 December | Come to me...  
St Juan Diego Cuauhtlatoatzin

**Prayer**

God of life,  
help us to look forward  
to the coming of your Son  
who shoulders our yoke and lifts our burdens  
that we may be enabled to proclaim  
the coming of your Kingdom.  
Amen.

**Readings**

- **Isaiah 40:25-31 | The Lord God gives strength to the weary**
- **Psalms 103 | My soul, give thanks to the Lord**
- **Matthew 11:28-30 | Come to me, all who are overburdened**

**Champagnat Marist Reading – Water from the Rock, par. 109**

With God's grace we engage in the challenging journey of growing into that inner harmony that attracted people to Jesus - humble and gentle of heart. We cannot grow towards our potential as human beings without being involved with others, and responding to the support and challenges posed by those who share our journey most intimately.

**Intercessions**

Lord, we thank you for your Word which lightens our way and lifts our burdens. Lord hear us.

Lord, lighten our burdens, grant us we ask your forgiveness and healing. Lord hear us.

Lord, bless those who are overburdened and give them your peace. Lord hear us.

**Prayer**

God of compassion and love,  
we thank you for your Word today  
as we prepare for the birth of Jesus,  
our way, our truth and our life.  
Through Jesus Christ, our Saviour.  
Amen.

## Advent 2 | Thursday 10 December | Take up your cross

### Prayer

Father, as we prepare for the birth of your Son, Jesus,  
who walked the path of obedience,  
even to the Cross.

Help us to discern your holy will in our lives  
and make our hearts obedient to the prompting  
of your Holy Spirit.

Amen.

### Readings

- **Isaiah 41:13-20 | I am your redeemer, the Holy One of Israel**
- **Psalms 145 | I will give you glory, O God, my king**
- **Matthew 11:11-15 | No greater than John the Baptist has been born**

### Champagnat Marist Reading – Water from the Rock, pars. 22 & 24

22. At the foot of the Cross, we are in awe of a God who loves us without reserve. We find a God who shares the physical and psychological suffering, betrayal, abandonment and violence experienced by humanity, and transforms these experiences. There we enter the mystery of redemptive suffering and learn humble fidelity in love. The crucified Christ is the sign and deepest expression of a God who is love.

24. At the Cross, we associate ourselves with people affected by failure and suffering, and with those who struggle for bread, justice and peace.

### Intercessions

We pray that we may remain faithful to proclaiming the Kingdom of God through our words and actions. Lord hear us.

We pray for those who courageously witness to the Gospel in areas where the Church is persecuted. Lord hear us.

We pray for all those who have committed their lives to building relationships of peace and justice. Lord hear us.

### Prayer

God our Father,  
we remember the violent deaths of John the Baptist and of Jesus,  
who were obedient to your will.

Look with pity on those who are suffering  
persecution because of their faith.

Grant this through  
Jesus Christ, our Saviour.

Amen.

Advent 2 | Friday 11 December | Listen  
St Damasus I

Being true to the Word of God

**Prayer**

O Lord,  
Open our eyes to your presence,  
Open our lips to your praise  
Open our lives to your healing  
Open our minds to your grace  
Open our hearts to your love  
And be found among us. Amen.

**Readings**

- **Isaiah 48:17-19 | If only you had listened to my commandments**
- **Psalm 1 | Happy indeed**
- **Matthew 11:16-19 | They listened to neither John nor the Son of Man**

**Champagnat Marist Reading – Water from the Rock, par. 74**

To welcome God in this way, we need to develop an attitude of openness. With God's help we grow into being an attentive listener to life, reflective and perceptive when reviewing the events of our life, and generous in responding to the invitations of the Spirit contained within the substance of our days.

**Intercessions**

Let us pray for one another that the Lord will open our minds and hearts to be true to the message He gives us through His word today. Lord hear us.

We pray that like John the Baptist, we may be heralds of the Good News of Jesus Christ.  
Lord hear us.

**Prayer**

Loving God,  
you sent your Son among us,  
born of a woman, to be our Messiah.  
Open our ears to hear your Word,  
and our hearts to recognise you  
present in the daily events of our lives.  
Help us, like Mary, to say "yes" to all that you ask of us.  
We ask this through Jesus Christ, our Lord.  
Amen.



## Advent 2 | Saturday 12 December | Our Lady of Guadalupe

### Prayer

God of hope, who brought love into our world, be the love that dwells among us.  
God of love, who brought peace into our world, be the peace that dwells among us.  
God of peace, who brought joy into our world, be the joy that dwells among us.  
Amen.

### Readings

- **Zechariah 2:14-17 | I will come and dwell in your midst**
- **Psalm - Judith 13: 18-19 | May you be blessed, my daughter**
- **Luke 1:39-47 | Mary visits Elizabeth**

### Champagnat Marist Reading – Making Jesus Christ Known and Loved, p. 10

At the Visitation, Mary carried Christ to John the Baptizer with simplicity, generosity, and charity; she presented him to the shepherds and the Magi in the same spirit. And Mary waited until the first signs of faith stirred among the apostles and then stepped aside so that the focus could fall on Jesus. We do well to heed her example and imitate her ways.

### Intercessions

On this feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, we pray that like Mary, we may hear the Word of God and respond generously to God's call. Lord hear us.

O God, be praised in Mary, refuge of sinners. Teach us to support one another in our efforts to follow your will. Lord hear us.

O God, be praised in Mary, ark of the covenant. May our lives bear witness to your abiding presence in us. Lord hear us.

### Prayer

Most gracious Father,  
remove from our hearts those forces that prevent us  
from believing in your unconditional love and mercy.  
Grant us your grace, so that during this time of Advent,  
we may choose to "make straight the ways" which lead to you.  
We make this prayer through Jesus Christ, our Saviour. Amen.

## Sunday Advent 3 | 13 December | Rejoice in the Lord

### Prayer

At this Advent-time we remember Mary and Joseph,  
giving thanks for their faithfulness,  
courage and obedience,  
stepping out into the unknown,  
in the strength of your Spirit,  
playing their part  
in the fulfilment of your plan  
to bring your prodigal people home again.

We pray that their example  
might be the pattern of our lives.  
That when your gentle whisper  
breaks through the clamour of this world  
and into our small corner,  
we might be ready to listen,  
and having listened, to act. Amen.

### Readings

**Zephaniah 3:14-18 | The Lord will renew you with his love**

**Psalm - Isaiah 12:2-6 | That day, you will say**

**Philippians 4:4-7 | The Lord is near**

**Luke 3:10-18 | What then must we do?**

### Champagnat Marist Reading – Revolution of the Heart, p. 34

The members of our 20th General Chapter challenged us “to centre our lives and communities in Jesus Christ, like Mary, with passion and enthusiasm, and to implement processes of human growth and conversion which promote this.”

Their Message is a challenging one, but not without its own measure of joy. Certainly, today joy must be very evident in our life and mission as Marcellin’s brothers. As one of our brothers said to me recently: “Wouldn’t it be wonderful for you and for me to come to the end of our Marist life and wonder if there was any merit in it at all, because we had enjoyed it so much?”

So, my Brothers, let us be up and doing. The challenge we face is clear, and we have the resources to contend with it. But hasn’t the challenge ever been the same, beginning with our foundation on 2nd January 1817? Marcellin put it very simply: “To love God,” he said, “to love God and to labour to make God known and loved – this is what a brother’s life should be.” In giving us this description of our vocation, he was reminding us that at the heart of our identity as Little Brothers of Mary, now as then, must be found, first and foremost, Jesus Christ and his Good News.

### Intercessions

We pray that we may recognise Christ in the presence of our brothers and sisters. Lord hear us.

We pray that all new born infants may be welcomed into homes of love. Lord hear us.

We pray in this Advent season that Jesus Christ may increasingly become the centre of our lives. Lord hear us.

**Prayer**

Rejoice in the Lord always  
Shout out his name  
For God is with us  
Our God is with us  
The God of our salvation  
In whom alone we trust.

Rejoice in the Lord always  
Shout out his name  
For God is our loving Father  
He draws us home to himself  
By streams of living water  
Where we shall thirst no more.

Rejoice in the Lord always  
Shout out his name  
He knows our thoughts  
Understands our hearts  
And enables us to become  
The people we are meant to be.  
Amen.

## Advent 3 | Monday 14 December | Belief in God St John of the Cross

### Prayer

God of life,  
you revealed your Son through the message of an angel.  
Give us the grace to discern where you are breaking into our lives,  
And the courage to respond to your call.  
Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.  
Amen.

### Readings

- **Numbers 24:2-7, 15-17 | A star from Jacob will arise**
- **Psalms 25 | To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul**
- **Matthew 21:23-27 | John's baptism; where did it come from?**

### Champagnat Marist Reading – Water from the Rock, pars. 18 & 50

18. We endeavour to develop our relationship with God so that, just as for Marcellin, it is our daily source of renewed spiritual and apostolic dynamism. This vitality makes us daring, despite our shortcomings and limited resources. Drawing from Marcellin's experience we embrace the mysteries of our life with confidence, openness and self-giving.

50. In such human situations we discover God as the one for whom our hearts really yearn. We realise that this longing is not of our making but primarily the work of God's Spirit within the depths of our being. With trust, we can open ourselves and come to an experience of God.

### Intercessions

Lord God, we pray that we may find you in the love we have for one another. Lord hear us.

Lord God, may we like John the Baptist be heralds of your presence in the world. Lord hear us.

Lord, that we may be open to the movement of your Holy Spirit in our lives. Lord hear us.

### Prayer

God, source of all gifts,  
may the joy you promise be with all Champagnat Marists.  
May this blessing take us in haste  
to those on the margins of life,  
the 'cribs' and 'stables' of our world.  
Amen.

**Advent 3 | Tuesday 15 December | True Response to God's Word  
Foundation Day of the District of the Pacific 2014**

**Prayer**

O God,

Enlarge our hearts that they may be big enough to receive your Word.

Expand our hearts that they may be a shelter for those in need of healing.

Stretch our hearts that they may be a place of nourishment for those who hunger for justice.

Enlarge our hearts until they become your kingdom here on earth.

Amen.

**Readings**

- **Zephaniah 3: 1-2, 9-13 | Messianic salvation is promised to all of the poor**
- **Psalms 34 | I will bless the Lord at all times**
- **Matthew 21: 28-32 | John came and sinners believed in him**

**Champagnat Marist Reading – Water from the Rock, par. 80**

Daily contact with the Word of God allows us to connect with our personal journey from the perspective of the History of Salvation. It takes us beyond our personal window on life to the larger window of the journey of the People of God.

**Intercessions**

Lord, we pray that we may see the world through the eyes of poor children and respond with compassion to their needs. Lord hear us.

Lord, we pray for those who doubt your existence. May our lives witness your love. Lord hear us.

Lord, we ask the grace for every child to discover their infinite dignity as your son or daughter. Lord hear us.

**Prayer**

Jesus, once again this Advent,  
we rejoice in your accepting us,  
ceaselessly seeking us,  
freely treasuring us  
with love older than the earth itself,  
or the distant stars,  
yet ever new each day.  
Amen.

## Advent 3 | Wednesday 16 December | Tell him what you have seen

### Prayer

Just and Holy God,  
rain down your grace upon us.  
Guide us this Advent as we walk the path of justice.  
We make this prayer through Jesus,  
who lives with you and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

### Readings

**Isaiah 45:6-8, 18, 21-25 | Let the clouds rain down**  
**Psalms 85 | O Lord, you once favoured your land**  
**Luke 7:19-23 | Tell John what you have seen and heard**

### Champagnat Marist Reading – *Sollicitudo Rei Socialis*, p. 301

We must undergo conversion. We have to change our spiritual relationship with self, neighbour, even with the most remote human communities and with nature itself, in view of the *common good*. This truly felt inter-dependence is a new category: the response to it is solidarity.

Solidarity is not a vague feeling of compassion or a shallow sadness, but a firm and persevering determination to commit oneself to the common good.

### Intercessions

O Lord, may the Church water the earth with your compassion, mercy and love.  
Lord hear us.

O Lord, may we acknowledge our complete dependence on you.  
Lord hear us.

O Lord, may your Holy Spirit help us to say “yes” to your call to us as Champagnat Marists.  
Lord hear us.

### Prayer

God of justice,  
help us to live as Jesus taught,  
that the deaf may hear, the blind see and the lame walk.  
We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

## Advent 3 | Thursday 17 December | The Whakapapa (Genealogy) of Jesus

### **O Sapientia**

O Come, O wisdom of our God most high,  
guiding creation with power and love,  
come to teach us the path of knowledge. (Isaiah 11: 2-3)

### **Prayer**

Wisdom of God most high,  
you guide creation with power and love.  
Teach us this Advent  
the path of wisdom.  
We make this prayer through Jesus,  
who lives with you and the Father.  
Amen.

### **Readings**

- **Genesis 49:2, 8-03 | The sceptre shall not pass from Judah**
- **Psalms 72 | O God, give your judgement to the king**
- **Matthew 1:1-17 | A genealogy of Jesus Christ, son of David**

### **Champagnat Marist Reading – Water from the Rock, par. 124**

Marist spirituality, being apostolic, is lived out on mission. The mission of Marist apostles is born of the experience of being loved by God and of our desire to actively participate in the mission of Jesus. God is passionate about the world and its people, and Jesus expresses this love by a ministry of teaching and healing. I came that you may have life, and have it abundantly. Like Jesus we recognise the urgings of the Spirit within, calling us to witness to this Good News. Out of these inner promptings, the mission of the Church is born: to proclaim the Kingdom of God as a new way of living for humanity, a new way to relate with God. We join in this mission of the Church as we look upon the world with compassion.

### **Intercessions**

O Lord, come to all who wait in darkness and fill them with your light. Lord hear us.

O Lord, come to your Church and renew it through the power of your Holy Spirit. Lord hear us.

O Lord, come into our broken world and give us your peace. Lord hear us.

### **Prayer**

God of love,  
in the birth of Jesus you show us  
your personal love for each one of us.  
Give us a stronger belief in, and love for  
Jesus Christ, our Redeemer.  
Amen.

## Advent 3 | Friday 18 December | Growth from Doubt to Faith and Trust

### **O Adonai**

Come O Leader of ancient Israel,  
giver of the Law to Moses on Sinai,  
come to rescue us with your mighty power. (Isaiah 11: 4-5)

### **Prayer**

O God of might,  
you revealed yourself to Moses in the burning bush.  
You continue to reveal yourself  
through your Son, Jesus.  
Come to us and set us free from all that  
blocks our complete acceptance of your unconditional love.  
Amen.

### **Readings**

- **Jeremiah 23:5-8 | I will raise a virtuous branch for David**
- **Psalms 72 | O God, give your judgement to the king**
- **Matthew 1:18-24 | Jesus was born of Mary, the betrothed of Joseph, a son of David**

### **Champagnat Marist Reading – Water from the Rock, pars. 21**

*At the Crib we find the innocence, simplicity, gentleness and even weakness of a God who is capable of touching the hardest of hearts. ... There is no room for fear of a God who became a child. We come to know a God who has pitched his tent in our midst, and whom we call "brother."*

### **Intercessions**

Lord, you call us to be salt for the world. Give us your strength to confront unjust structures in the Church and the world. Lord hear us.

Lord, you call us to be light for the world. Give us your strength to demand accountability, transparency and honesty of those in authority in the Church and in public office. Lord hear us.

Lord, you call us to be yeast for the world. Give us your strength to proclaim the Good News through our words and actions. Lord hear us.

### **Prayer**

Loving God,  
you are the light that gives light to our way.  
You are our hope as we await the coming of your Son.  
May we like Mary have Jesus constantly in our hearts.  
Amen.



## Advent 3 | Saturday 19 December | Chosen by God

### O Radix Jesse

Come O Flower of Jesse's Stem,  
sign of God's love for all his people,  
come to save us without delay. (Isaiah 11: 1, 10)

### Prayer (Dom Helder Camara)

Lord, do not smile and say  
You are already with us.  
Millions do not know you,  
and to us who do, what is the difference?  
What is the point of your presence  
if our lives do not alter?

Change our lives, shatter our complacency.  
Make your word flesh of our flesh,  
blood of our blood,  
and our lives purpose.

Take away the quietness of a clear conscience,  
press us uncomfortably.  
For only then, that other peace is made,  
your peace. Amen.

### Readings

- **Judges 13:2-7, 24-25 | The birth of Samson was announced by an angel**
- **Psalms 71 | In you O Lord, I take refuge**
- **Luke 1:5-25 | The birth of John the Baptist was announced by Gabriel**

### Champagnat Marist Reading – Water from the Rock, par. 60

*God chooses individual men and women and calls each of them by name. He leads them into the desert and there he speaks to their hearts. ... By his Spirit, he transforms them constantly leading them more deeply into his love in order to send them out on mission. The more we come to know God, the more we come to know the deepest meaning of our lives. We grow in the knowledge that we are part of God's project for the world.*

### Intercessions

Lord, comfort your people and clothe us with your compassion. Come to save us without delay.  
Lord hear us.

Lord, calm our anxieties, lighten the darkness that surrounds us. Come to save us without delay.  
Lord hear us.

Lord, surround us with your love and anoint us with your peace. Come to save us without delay.  
Lord hear us.

### Prayer

God of love,  
we pray with a joyful heart that Jesus  
be born among us again this Christmas.  
Instruct us in your ways of compassion  
so that we may extend your love  
and mercy to all people.

We ask this through Jesus Christ,  
the Eternal Word,  
who lives with you and the Holy Spirit, forever.  
Amen.

## Sunday Advent 4 | 20 December | Blessed is she who believed

### **O Clavis David**

Come O Key of David,  
opening the gates of God's eternal kingdom  
come and free the prisoners of darkness. (Isaiah 22: 22)

### **Readings**

**Micah 5:1-4 | From you will be born the one who will rule over Israel**

**Psalm 80 | O Shepherd of Israel, hear us**

**Hebrews 10:5-10 | I am coming to do your will**

**Luke 1:39-44 | Why am I honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord?**

### **Champagnat Marist Reading – In Her Arms or In Her Heart, p. 53**

Marcellin meant us to be apostolic religious in the way of Mary. What does that mean exactly? In the biblical texts, the mother of Jesus questions, pursues her son, gives orders, and travels. Actually, she travels a lot. Mary sets out "at once and in haste" to visit her cousin Elizabeth, makes the definitive pilgrimage to Jerusalem, and at Pentecost is part of the believing community into whom the Spirit of God breathes life and sends forth on mission. Yes, Mary's story is characterized by movement, by passages from one moment of meaning to another.

Such an outlook is essential for anyone who claims membership in an apostolic Institute that bears her name. Unfortunately, some of us have come to resemble more the members of monastic congregations, with their commitment to a specific monastery and place. In contrast, we are meant to be itinerant, to move to those places where the need for evangelization is most urgent.

As a rural woman, she travelled beyond village boundaries to give birth to God among us and to serve as a witness to his salvific death. We, too, are called to go to those places where the Church is not, bearing God's Good News to poor children and young people. Where we have lost this ability, we must restore it to its proper place in our lives.

### **Intercessions**

We pray for the prophets in our midst who challenge us to read the signs of the times. Lord hear us.

We pray for all those who are sick and suffering at this time, may they experience your healing presence in their lives. Lord hear us.

We pray that broken relationships may be healed and restored. Lord hear us.

### **Prayer**

King of Kings and Lord of Lords,  
we wait in anticipation of your coming.  
Help us to prepare your way  
by straightening our hearts.  
Fill our hearts with your love and compassion  
that we may be instruments  
of your peace in our world.  
Amen.

Advent 4 | Monday 21 December | God will renew you by his love  
St Peter Canisius

**O Oriens**

Come O Radiant Dawn,  
splendor of the eternal light, sun of justice,  
come and shine on those who dwell in darkness  
and the shadow of death. (Isaiah 9: 1)

**Prayer**

God of power and might  
you revealed the coming of Your Son  
into our world through the message of an angel.  
May we attune our hearts to the many ways you enter our lives,  
and respond as Mary did to your invitation.  
Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

**Readings**

- **Song of Songs 2:8-14 | My beloved comes**
- **Psalm 33 | Ring out your joy to the Lord, O you just**
- **Luke 1:39-44 | Why am I honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord?**

**Champagnat Marist Reading – Water from the Rock, par. 102**

All our relationships are enriched when they are lived by taking Mary as the inspiration for our way of being and doing with others. With Mary we learn how to express God's love in all the relationships of our personal and communal living, since from her *we learn how other people are to be loved, and we, in turn, become living signs of the Father's tenderness (Constitutions 21).*

**Intercessions**

Lord, make us aware of the many ways you enter our lives. Lord hear us.

Emanuel, God-with-us, may we live in you and you in us. Lord hear us.

Lord, come and shine your light into the darkness of our lives. Lord hear us.

**Prayer**

O God, as we await the coming of the radiant dawn, Jesus Christ,  
enlighten our darkness and transform our hearts.  
We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

## Advent 4 | Tuesday 22 December | Praise for God's actions in our world

### **O Rex Gentium**

Come O Desire of all the Nations,  
keystone of the Church,  
come and save us,  
whom you formed from the dust. (Isaiah 9: 5)

### **Prayer**

God, our Father,  
may your kingdom come, your will be done:  
in our choices as we struggle with the complexities of our world,  
and confront greed and the desire for power in ourselves,  
our country and our world.  
May your kingdom come this Advent.  
Amen.

### **Readings**

**1 Samuel 1:24-28 | Anna gave thanks for the birth of Samuel**  
**Psalm - 1 Samuel 2:1, 4-8 | My heart exults in the Lord**  
**Luke 1:46-56 | He who has done great things for me is powerful**

### **Champagnat Marist Reading – Water from the Rock, par. 50**

In such human situations we discover God as the one for whom our hearts really yearn. We realise that this longing is not of our making but primarily the work of God's Spirit within the depths of our being. With trust, we can open ourselves and come to an experience of God.

### **Intercessions**

Creator God, open our eyes to the wonder and truth of the Word made flesh in Mary. Lord hear us.

Lord, open our minds to the beauty of the promise of new redeeming life when our Saviour is born.  
Lord hear us.

Loving Father, may we follow Christ as faithfully as Mary did, and keep to the path he shows us to the fullness of life. Lord hear us.

### **Prayer**

Loving Father,  
we thank and praise you for blessing us with the great things which Mary proclaims in her *Magnificat*.  
In your tender mercy you care for each one of us,  
and especially for those this world sees as lowly,  
the poor, weak, outcasts and marginalised.  
Help us to do all we can to bring these blessings to all whom we meet.  
Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.  
Amen.

## Advent 4 | Wednesday 23 December | We learn to say 'Yes'

St John Kanty

### **O Emmanuel**

Come O Emmanuel,  
our King and Giver of the Law,  
come and save us, Lord our God. (Isaiah 7: 14)

### **Prayer**

Lord, as we come to celebrate the birth of your Son, Jesus,  
we thank you for the gifts that you have given us.  
We thank you for the example of Mary and Elizabeth  
in accepting your Word in their lives.  
We thank you for the gift of the charism to Marcellin.  
We thank you for our community and family.  
Through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

### **Readings**

- **Malachi 3:1-4, 23-24 | I shall send the prophet Elijah as a sign that the day of the Lord is near**
- **Psalms 25 | To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul**
- **Luke 1:57-66 | The birth of John the Baptist**

### **Champagnat Marist Reading – Evangelisers in the Midst of Youth, pars. 67-68**

Creation continues throughout revelation. God introduces His Divine Presence to human beings from the first pages of the Bible and manifests His desire to establish a covenant with them. ... [God] sends the prophets to remind us of the covenant entered into with God. The creative word of God is also the liberating Word of a God who inserts Himself in human history.

In the fullness of time God sent His only Son Jesus Christ. The Word of God became flesh to live among human beings. He came to put us in touch with that very God: "He who sees me sees the Father" (JN 16:9). He proclaims the Reign of God to all who find themselves "weary and downtrodden" - the poor, the sick, those rejected by mainstream religion, sinners, women and children. By His death and resurrection He transmitted divine life to all. In fact He had already proclaimed this: "I have come so they may have life and have it in abundance" (JN 10:10).

### **Intercessions**

Lord, may our community share in the blessings of the Holy Family of Nazareth. Lord hear us.

Lord, may the virtues and blessings of the Holy Family be seen in the actions of the Champagnat Marist Family. Lord hear us.

Lord, give us the courage to spread your Good News among all those we encounter. Lord hear us.

### **Prayer**

God of love, we thank you for your servants, Mary and Elizabeth.  
Their unconditional acceptance of your Word  
gave birth your kingdom of love, justice and peace.  
We thank you for the blessings we have received through their actions.  
Give us the grace to work for justice,  
that we may bring your love to those in need of healing.  
Through Jesus Christ, our Saviour. Amen.

## Advent 4 | Thursday 24 December | God with us

### **Come, O Lord, and set us free**

#### **Prayer**

Emmanuel, "God with us",  
like Zachariah of old, may we be conscious of your redeeming love  
and you meet you in those whom we encounter,  
in the Scriptures and the breaking of bread.  
Amen.

#### **Readings**

- **2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8-12, 14, 16 | The kingdom of David will be established forever**
- **Psalms 89 | I will sing forever of your love, O Lord**
- **Luke 1:67-79 | From on high the rising sun will visit us**

#### **Champagnat Marist Reading – A Revolution of the Heart, p. 50**

The incarnational nature of Marcellin's spirituality was the source of his practice of the presence of God; he had a passion for both the Lord and his mission. For Marcellin, Jesus was always close at hand. Consequently, his conversations with the Lord continued uninterrupted, and his confidence in him and abandonment to God's will deepened over time. He often quoted the words of Psalm 127, "If the Lord does not build a house, in vain do its builders toil."

Marcellin's incarnational spirituality can be found in the wording of many of his letters. In an April 8th, 1839 note to Brother Marie-Laurent, for example, the founder wrote, "Your letter, my very dear friend, greatly aroused my compassion. Since then I never approach the holy altar without recommending you to Him in whom we never hope in vain, who can help us overcome the greatest obstacles."

#### **Intercessions**

Loving God, help us to receive Jesus as Emmanuel and like John the Baptist, proclaim his message of peace. Lord hear us.

Gracious God, as you revealed your presence among us through Zachariah, may we too be aware of how actions give birth to an unfolding of God in our day. Lord hear us.

Mighty God, just as Zachariah announced the coming of a Messiah may we, by our joy in living, proclaim the coming of your Kingdom. Lord hear us.

#### **Prayer**

Father, reveal yourself to us so that we may know  
how to welcome you as you become present to us  
in the person of your new born Son, Jesus.  
Help us to share the joy of his coming  
with all whom we meet today.  
Come, Lord Jesus.