

ADVENT 2025 PRAYER BOOKLET





*For the Sisters of the
Congregation of Jesus,
South Asia Province*

In the spirit of the
IBVM-CJ Merger





INTRODUCTION

Dear Sisters,

This Advent, we enter a sacred season shaped not only by the Church's journey toward the birth of Christ, but also by our own journey of becoming One Body in the historic union of IBVM and CJ. Advent knows our heart: waiting, longing, grieving, hoping, trusting.

In these prayers, we hold the beauty of what was, the grace of what is, and the promise of what will be. We honour the heritage of IBVM, the legacy of Mary Ward, and the new chapter we now live together as one Mary Ward family.

As we light each candle of the Advent wreath—Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love—may it illumine the path of unity, healing, and renewal.

May this season deepen our communion, strengthen our mission, and root us ever more deeply in Christ, the Light who never fades.

Let us begin our Advent journey..... together.

Week 1

HOPE

Theme: Honouring What Was

Opening Hymn

Opening Prayer

God of all beginnings and endings,
as we light the candle of Hope,
we hold before you the name IBVM—
a name carried with love, fidelity, and pride.

Bless our remembering,
honour our grieving,
and let your light pierce every shadow of uncertainty.

Amen.

Scripture Reading

Isaiah 9:1–2

“The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light...”

Psalm (Responsorial)

Response: Our hope is in You, O Lord.

In our transitions and uncharted paths,

R: Our hope is in You, O Lord.

In what we have loved and now let go,

R: Our hope is in You, O Lord.

In the identity we carried as IBVM,

R: Our hope is in You, O Lord.



Reflection

Our former initials are not lost but woven into our hearts.
Like Mary leaving Nazareth,
we honour the journey behind us
as we trust the road ahead.

Intercessions

Response: Lord, kindle in us Your hope.

For all former IBVM sisters carrying both gratitude and grief...

R: Lord, kindle in us Your hope.

For those who struggle with change or loss of familiar identity...

R: Lord, kindle in us Your hope.

For the entire CJ family, that hope may lead us forward in unity...

R: Lord, kindle in us Your hope.

Closing Prayer

God of Hope,
hold gently all that we carry.
Bless the memories that shaped us
and the future that calls us.
Amen.

Week 2

PEACE

Theme: The Space Between

Opening Hymn

Opening Prayer

Prince of Peace,
we stand in the threshold of the new—
no longer only IBVM,
not yet fully at home as CJ.
Be peace in our questions,
peace in our becoming.
Amen.

Scripture Reading

John 14:27

“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you.”
Psalm (Responsorial)

Response: The Lord gives peace to His people

When familiar patterns fade away...
R: The Lord gives peace to His people.
When we feel unsettled or unsure...
R: The Lord gives peace to His people.
When unity feels slow or difficult...
R: The Lord gives peace to His people.



Reflection

Transitions are holy spaces.
Peace is not the absence of change,
but the grace to walk through it gently.

Intercessions

Response: Christ, be our peace.

For sisters navigating the discomfort of transition...

R: Christ, be our peace.

For patience with ourselves and one another...

R: Christ, be our peace.

For harmony as CJ sisters form one unified body...

R: Christ, be our peace.

Closing Prayer

God of the in-between,
bless us with deep peace—
patient, tender, steady—
as we become one.

Amen.

Week 3

JOY

Theme: Joy in the Paradox

Opening Hymn

Opening Prayer

God of Joy,
we light the rose candle,
not because everything is easy,
but because You are near.
Let joy and sorrow dwell together in us
without fear.
Amen.

Scripture Reading

John 14:27

“Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice!”
Psalm (Responsorial)

Response: Let us rejoice, for the Lord is near.

In our shared Mary Ward charism...

R: Let us rejoice, for the Lord is near.

In the gift of our 1,880 sisters as one family...

R: Let us rejoice, for the Lord is near.

Even when joy feels fragile...

R: Let us rejoice, for the Lord is near.



Reflection

This merger was freely chosen,
born of discernment and conviction.

Joy does not erase grief—
it grows beside it.

Intercessions

Response: Lord, fill us with Your joy.

For the grace to rejoice even amid loss...

R: Lord, fill us with Your joy.

For renewed energy for mission as one apostolic body...

R: Lord, fill us with Your joy.

For joyful witness of unity to the world...

R: Lord, fill us with Your joy.

Closing Prayer

God of Surprise,
teach our hearts to dance again—
slowly, gently, honestly.

Amen.

Week 4

LOVE

Theme: Becoming One Body

Opening Hymn

Opening Prayer

God of Boundless Love,
as we light the final candle,
we recognise the miracle we are living:
two histories becoming one heart.
Make us channels of Your love
for one another and for the world.
Amen.

Scripture Reading

John 14:27

“If we love one another, God lives in us.”

Psalm (Responsorial)

Response: Let love unite us in Christ.

For the healing of old divisions...

R: Let love unite us in Christ.

For the courage to embrace new identities...

R: Let love unite us in Christ.

For the grace to live as one Mary Ward family...

R: Let love unite us in Christ.



Reflection

Love is the final word of Advent,
the bridge between what has been and what will be.
Mary Ward's dream is now our lived reality—
unity not in uniformity,
but in shared mission.

Intercessions

Response: God of Love, make us one.

For deeper communion among all CJ sisters...

R: God of Love, make us one.

For our shared apostolic mission...

R: God of Love, make us one.

For the courage to embody love wherever we serve...

R: God of Love, make us one.

Closing Prayer

God of Love,
complete in us the work You have begun.
Draw us together in mission,
in sisterhood,
in shared purpose,
as one Congregation of Jesus.
Amen.

FINAL CLOSING
FOR THE WHOLE SEASON

God of Advent Light,
as we prepare for Christmas,
bless our IBVM legacy,
bless our CJ present,
and bless the future You are shaping in us.
May Mary Ward walk with us,
may Christ be born anew in us,
and may our unity shine as a sign of hope for the world.
Amen.
Come, Lord Jesus.



