

A photograph of an Advent wreath with four lit candles (three red, one white) on a table covered with a purple patterned cloth. Greenery is visible in the foreground. The image is dimmed to serve as a background for text.

The O Antiphons of Advent

*“How important are the beautiful O Antiphons that the Church has us pray over the course of these days.”
(Pope Francis)*

What are the O Antiphons of Advent?

There are many traditions celebrated during Advent in preparation for Christmas.

A very old tradition is the singing or saying of the O Antiphons at Evening Prayer of the Church.

The O Antiphons are responses which are sung or said before Mary's great prayer, *The Magnificat*, is said at Evening Prayer, from the 17th December until 23rd December.

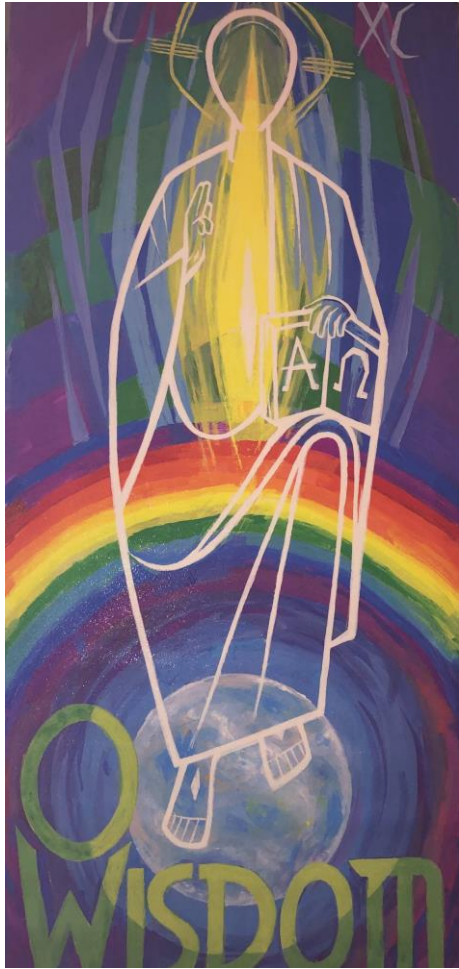
The O Antiphons refer to different titles given to Jesus, our Saviour, the Messiah.

Praying the O Antiphons

We could also use the O Antiphons in our own daily prayers from 17th until 23rd December.

As we think of the one who is coming at Christmas, Jesus, we could say them as prayers in praise and in thanksgiving of God's great and faithful love for us all.





○ Wisdom (Sapientia)

○ Wisdom, you come forth from the mouth of the Most High. You fill the universe and hold all things together in a strong yet gentle manner.

○ come to teach us the way of truth.

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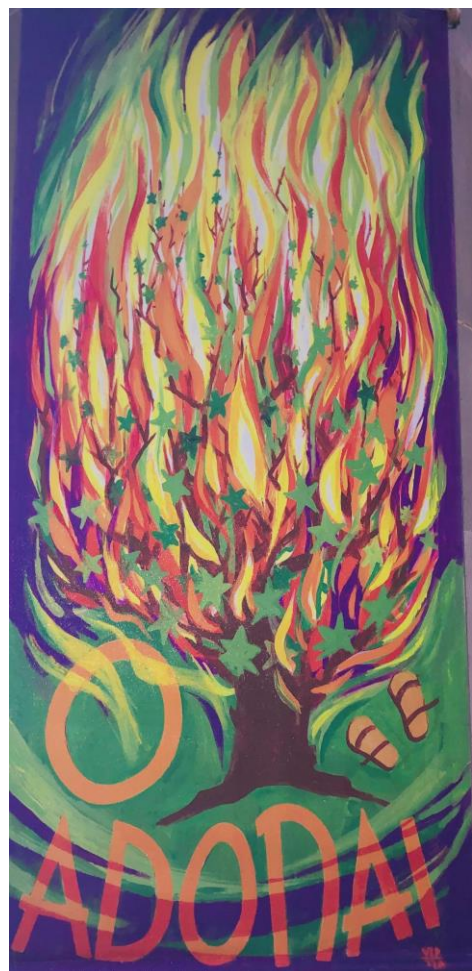


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○ Adonai (Lord)

○ Adonai and leader of Israel, you appeared to Moses in a burning bush and you gave him the Law on Sinai.

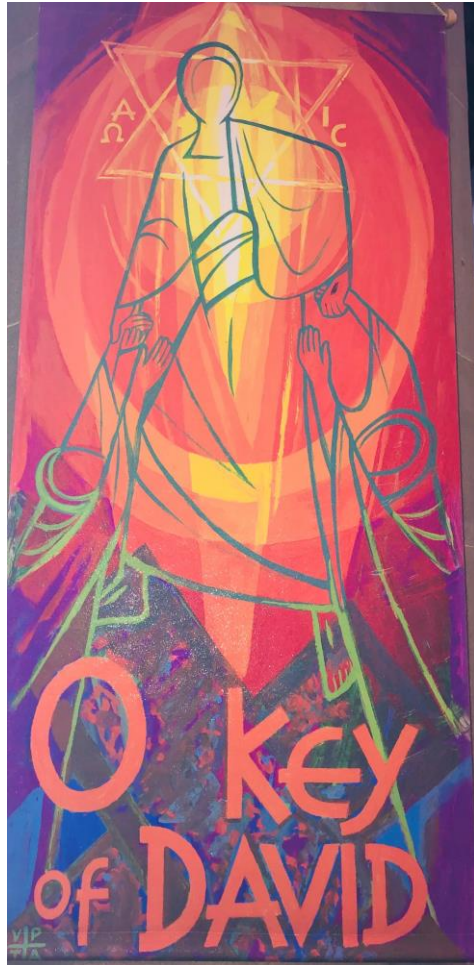
○ come and save us with your mighty power.



○ Root of Jesse (Radix Jesse)

*○ Root of Jesse, you stand as a
signal for the nations; kings fall silent
before you whom the peoples
acclaim.*

*○ come to deliver us and do not
delay.*



O Key of David (Clavis David)

O Key of David and sceptre of Israel, what you open no one else can close again; what you close, no one can open.

O come and lead the captive from prison; free those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death.



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○ Oriens (○ Rising Sun)

*○ Rising Sun, you are the splendour
of eternal light and the sun of
justice.*

*○ come and enlighten those who
sit in darkness and in the shadow of
death.*

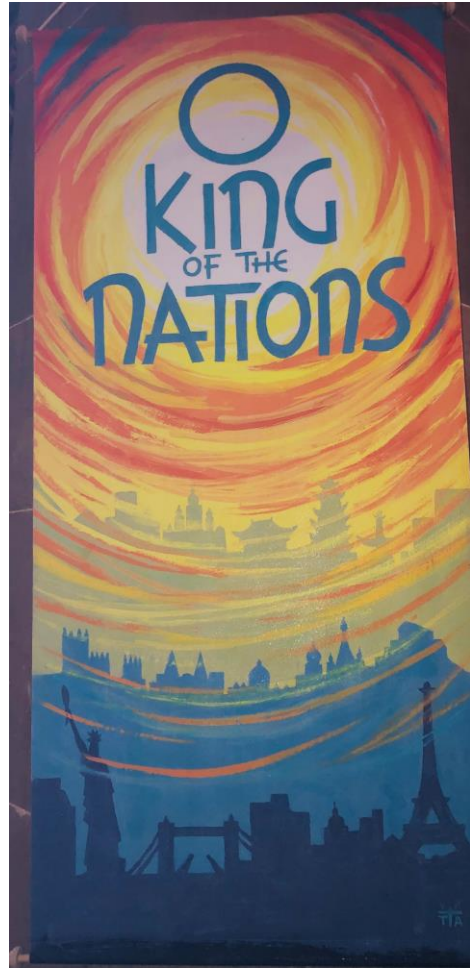
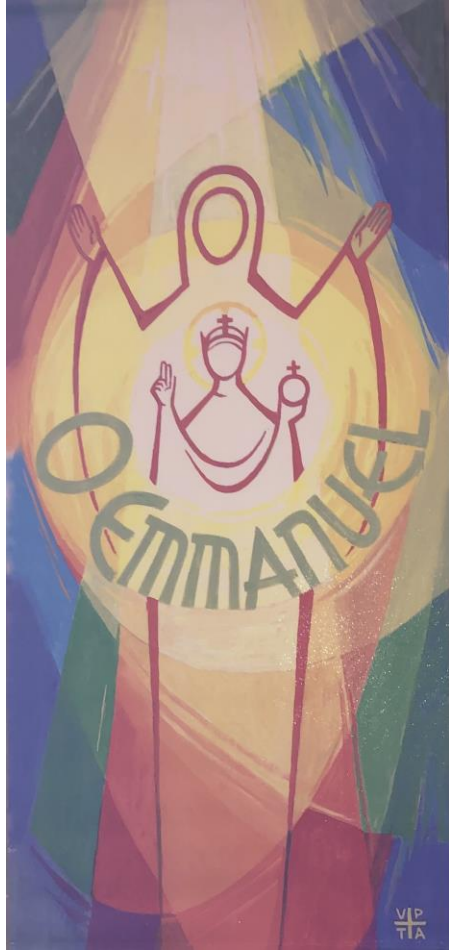


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O King of the Nations (Rex Gentium)

*O King whom all the people's
desire, you are the cornerstone
which makes all one.*

*O come and save man, whom you
made from clay.*



O Emmanuel (Emmanuel)

O Emmanuel, you are our king and our judge, The One whom the peoples await and their Saviour.

O come and save us, Lord our God.

O Antiphons Acrostic

If you take the first letter of each Antiphon starting with the last one and working upwards it spells the Latin words – ERO CRAS

Sapientia (O Wisdom)

Adonai (O Adonai [Lord])

Radix Jesse (O Root of Jesse)

Clavis David (O Key of David)

Oriens (O Rising Sun)

Rex Gentium (O King of the Nations)

Emmanuel (O Emmanuel)

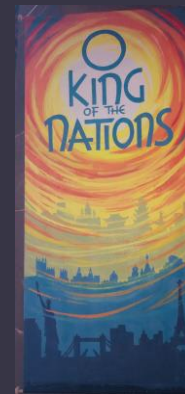
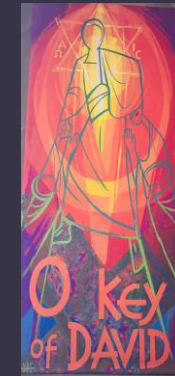
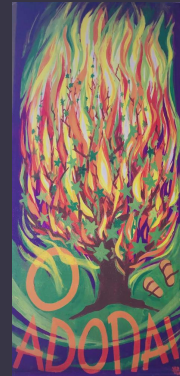




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'ERO CRAS'
CHRIST IS TELLING US
'TOMORROW I WILL BE'
(THERE)
WITH YOU