

SAINT JOHN HENRY NEWMAN, VICTORIA

Personal Ordinariate of the Chair of St Peter ❖ Deanery of St John the Baptist

under the patronage of Our Lady of Walsingham



AN OFFICE AT MIDNIGHT OR IN THE NIGHT

to adore the Second Coming of Our Lord

This Office is provided so that, in prayer, we may study to be watchful, and prepared to give an account of our stewardship at the judgement seat of Christ.

At midnight I will rise to give thanks unto thee, because of thy righteous judgements. *Psalm 119.62*

And at midnight there was a cry made, ‘Behold the Bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him’. *St Matthew 25.6*

And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God. *Acts 16.25*

And at midnight rise and wash thy hands with water and pray... It is necessary for the following reason to pray at this hour, and truly those men of holy memory who handed on the Tradition to us taught us thus: because in this hour every creature hushes for a brief moment to praise the Lord; stars and plants and waters stand still in that instant; all the hosts of the angels ministering unto Him together with the souls of the righteous praise God. *St Hippolytus*

✠ O God, make speed to save us;
✠ O Lord, make haste to help us.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
✠ As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Praise ye the Lord;
✠ The Lord’s Name be praised.



This hymn is said daily through the year, save from Maundy Thursday to Low Sunday, when all the hymns are omitted in the Offices.

Nocte surgentes

Christ's loving children, for His hope abiding,
Active in gladness, or in hymns adoring;
Be we as servants that await a Master
Sorely delaying.

Happy those servants, whether He returneth
At dead of midnight, or in early morning:
Happy those servants, if He only find them
Faithfully watching.

Father of mercies, give us holy comfort
Here in our pains, and Paradise hereafter:
Where in eternal vision uncreated
Joy never endeth. Amen.

Antiphon. The Son of Man * **shall come in His glory, and all the Holy Angels with Him.** (*In Eastertide: Alleluia.*)

Psalm 57. Miserere mei, Deus

BE merciful unto me, O GOD, be merciful unto me; / for my soul trusteth in Thee;
2 And under the shadow of Thy wings shall be my refuge, / until this tyranny be overpast.
3 I will call unto GOD Most High, / even unto the GOD that shall perform the cause that I have in hand.
4 He shall send from heaven and save me, / even from the reproach of him that would eat me up.
5 GOD shall send forth His mercy and truth; / my soul is among lions;
6 And I lie even among the children of men, that are set on fire, / whose teeth are spears and arrows, and their tongue a sharp sword.
7 Set up Thyself, O GOD, above the heavens, / and Thy glory above all the earth.

8 They have laid a net for my feet, and pressed down my soul; / they have digged a pit before me, and are fallen into the midst of it themselves.

9 My heart is ready, O GOD, my heart is ready; / I will sing and give praise.

10 Awake up, my soul; awake lute and harp: / I myself will awake the dawn.

11 I will give thanks unto Thee, O LORD, among the peoples; / and I will sing unto Thee among the nations.

12 For the greatness of Thy mercy reacheth unto the heavens, / and Thy glory above all the earth.

13 Set up Thyself, O GOD, above the heavens, / and Thy glory above all the earth.

14 Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, / and to the Holy Ghost;

15 As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, / world without end. Amen.

Ant. **The Son of Man shall come in His glory, and all the Holy Angels with Him.** (*In Eastertide: Alleluia.*)

CHAPTER *St Mark 13.35–37*

Officiant:

WATCH ye, therefore: for ye know not when the Master of the house cometh — at even, or at midnight, or at cockcrowing, or in the morning — lest, coming suddenly, He find you sleeping. And what I say unto you, I say unto all, ‘Watch!’ **℟️ Thanks be to God.**

The night is far spent, the day is at hand; (*In Eastertide: Alleluia, Alleluia.*)

℟️ The night is far spent, the day is at hand. (*In Eastertide: Alleluia, Alleluia.*)

Let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and put on the armour of light.

℟️ The day is at hand. (*In Eastertide: Alleluia, Alleluia.*)

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;

℟️ The night is far spent, the day is at hand. (*In Eastertide: Alleluia, Alleluia.*)

The Day of the Lord will come; (*In Eastertide: Alleluia.*)

℟ As a thief in the night. (*In Eastertide: Alleluia.*)

If the officiant is a Priest:

Or, if the officiant is a layman:

The Lord be with you;

O Lord hear our prayer;

℟ And with thy spirit.

℟ And let our cry come unto thee.

Let us pray.

O LORD Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, Who with Thine own mouth hast declared that at midnight, at an hour when we are not aware, Thou shalt come; Grant that the cry ‘The Bridegroom cometh’ may sound evermore in our ears, that so we be never unprepared to meet Thee; Who livest and reignest with the Father and the Holy Ghost, one God, world without end. **℟ Amen.**

If the officiant is a Priest:

Or, if the officiant is a layman:

The Lord be with you;

O Lord hear our prayer;

℟ And with thy spirit.

℟ And let our cry come unto thee.

Then follows:

Let us bless the Lord; (*In Easter Week: Alleluia, Alleluia.*)

℟ Thanks be to God. (*In Easter Week: Alleluia, Alleluia.*)

The officiant concludes with:

✠ May the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. **℟ Amen.**

The following may be said in the night:

O GOD, the author of light eternal, do Thou shed forth continual day upon us who watch for Thee, that our lips may praise Thee, our thoughts bless Thee, and our life glorify Thee; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **℟ Amen.**

MAKE us, we beseech Thee, O Lord, watchful and heedful in awaiting the coming of Thy Son Christ our Lord; that when He shall stand at the door and knock, He may find us not sleeping in carelessness and sin, but awake and rejoicing in His praises; through the same Christ our Lord. **℟ Amen.**

O CHRIST, most pure and merciful and just, Who camest into our darkness to be our Saviour: make us at all times and in all things to love and do only that which will appear merciful and just and pure in the bright light of Thy coming again to be our Judge; Who livest and reignest in the glory of the eternal Trinity, world without end. **℟ Amen.**

WE beseech Thee, O Lord our God, to gird up the loins of our mind by Thy divine power: that at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ Thy Son, we may be found worthy of the banquet of everlasting life; through the same Christ our Lord. **℟ Amen.**

WE beseech Thee, O Almighty God, to suffer our souls to enjoy this their desire, to be enkindled by Thy Spirit: that being filled as lamps by the divine gift, we may shine as blazing torches in the presence of Thy Son Jesus Christ at His coming; through the same Christ our Lord. **℟ Amen.**

**To the true of heart
a light is risen up in
darkness: Alleluia.**

FINAL ANTHEMS OF OUR LADY

Alma Redemptoris Mater

From I Evensong of Advent Sunday to Compline on Candlemas:

MOTHER of Christ! hear thou thy people's cry, Star of the deep, and portal of the sky! Mother of him who thee from nothing made, Sinking we strive, and call to thee for aid; Oh, by that joy which Gabriel brought to thee, Thou Virgin first and last, let us thy mercy see.

From I Evensong of Advent Sunday, up to and including None on Christmas Eve, this Versicle, Response, and Collect is used:

The Angel of the Lord declared unto Mary.

℟ And she conceived by the Holy Ghost.

WE beseech thee, O Lord, pour thy grace into our hearts: that, as we have known the Incarnation of thy Son Jesus Christ by the message of an Angel, so by his Cross and Passion we may be brought to the glory of his Resurrection; through the same Christ our Lord. **℟ Amen.**

From I Evensong of Christmas Eve, up to and including Compline on Candlemas, this Versicle, Response, and Collect is used:

After childbirth thou didst remain a pure Virgin.

℟ Mother of God, intercede for us.

O GOD, who by the fruitful virginity of blessed Mary, hast bestowed upon mankind the reward of eternal salvation: grant, we beseech thee, that we may experience her intercession, through whom we have been made worthy to receive the Author life; our Lord Jesus Christ, thy Son.

℟ Amen.

Ave Regina Cælorum

From Mattins on 3 February, up to and including Compline on Wednesday of Holy Week:

HAIL, O Queen of Heaven enthroned! Hail, by Angels Mistress owned! Root of Jesse, Gate of Morn, Whence the world's true Light was born. Glorious Virgin, joy to thee, Loveliest whom in heaven they see, Fairest thou, where all are fair! Plead with Christ our sins to spare.

Grant that I may praise thee, sacred Virgin.

℟ Give me strength against thine enemies.

GRANT us protection in our weakness, O merciful God, that we who commemorate the holy Mother of God may triumph over our iniquities with the help of her intercession; through Christ our Lord. **℟ Amen.**

Regina Celi

From Compline of Holy Saturday up to and including None of the Saturday in Whit Week:

JOY to thee, O Queen of heaven, alleluia; He whom thou wast meet to bear, alleluia; As he promised hath arisen, alleluia! Pour for us to God thy prayer, alleluia!

Rejoice and be glad, O Virgin Mary, alleluia.

℟ For the Lord is risen indeed, alleluia.

O GOD, who, by the Resurrection of thy Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, hast brought joy to the world: grant we beseech thee, that, through his Mother the Virgin Mary, we may obtain the joys of everlasting life; through the same Christ our Lord. **℟ Amen.**

Salve Regina

From I Evensong of Trinity Sunday up to and including None of the Saturday before Advent.

HAIL, Holy Queen, **Mother of Mercy; hail, our life, our sweetness and our hope! To thee do we cry, poor banished children of Eve. To thee do we send up our sighs, mourning and weeping in this vale of tears. Turn then, most gracious Advocate, thine eyes of mercy towards us. And after this our exile show unto us the blessed fruit of thy womb, Jesus. O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary.**

Pray for us, O Holy Mother of God.

℟ That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

ALMIGHTY, everlasting God, who by the cooperation of the Holy Ghost, didst prepare the body and soul of the glorious Virgin Mary to become a worthy dwelling for thy Son; grant that we who rejoice in her commemoration may, by her loving intercession, be delivered from present evils and from eternal death; through the same Christ our Lord.

℟ Amen.