



**THIS WEEK**

- Sun 22 **ADVENT IV**
- Mon 23 *feria*
- Tue 24 *feria*
- Wed 25 **CHRISTMAS DAY**
- Thu 26 **S STEPHEN**
- Fri 27 **S JOHN**
- Sat 28 **HOLY INNOCENTS**
- Sun 29 **HOLY FAMILY**
- Mon 30 **WITHIN THE OCTAVE**
- Tue 31 **WITHIN THE OCTAVE**
- Wed 1 **MARY MOTHER OF GOD**
- Thu 2 Ss Basil & Gregory
- Fri 3 Holy Name of Jesus
- Sat 4 S. Zdzisława
- Sun 5 **THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD**

**SUPPORT US**

Our ministry relies on the generosity of our friends and supporters. If you would like to support us make a donation in the cloister, visit our website, or speak to or email the bursar, Fr Albert.

[cambridge.bursar@english.op.org](mailto:cambridge.bursar@english.op.org)

**THE PRIOR & COMMUNITY**

**WISH YOU A**

**MERRY CHRISTMAS**

and to thank you for your support and generosity throughout the year.



The Christmas collection (those made at the Christmas Masses) is, by tradition, shared among the brothers to help them visit family and friends over the Christmas season. You can also donate online. Scan the QR code to find out more.

**LITURGY TIMES ON BACK PAGE**

There is a special collection for Christmas flowers for the chapel. There will be a basket outside the chapel for donations, and you can also donate online by marking the donation 'For Flowers'.

Keep Christ in Your Christmas with Radio Maria England - Tune in for uplifting programmes that celebrate His Coming, guide your daily prayers, and help you live the joy of the Christmas season well into 2025. You can listen to Radio Maria on DAB+ in many areas, online at [www.RadioMariaEngland.uk](http://www.RadioMariaEngland.uk), via the Radio Maria Play mobile phone app, or by saying "Play Radio Maria England" to your smart speaker.

# JEROME AND HIS LION

## *A Story Read Aloud To The Children*

Once upon a time, long long ago in the little town of Bethlehem there was a monastery where there lived a holy old man called Jerome together with other holy men. One evening as they were all sitting round listening to a reading from the Bible, who should come limping in at the door but a great lion! The other brothers were frightened, and they got up and ran away. But Jerome went to meet the guest. The poor lion held up his paw and look, it was bleeding, there was a great thorn stuck in it. Then Jerome called for a basin of water and some bandages and ointment, and he took out the thorn and bound up the wound and soon made it well again.

From that day the grateful lion would not leave the monastery but went in and out among the brothers and followed them wherever they went. Then Jerome said, what shall we do with our lion to make him useful to us? And they said, our donkey goes out every day all by himself to the woodmen in the forest, who send him back with our firewood for the kitchen stove. But we are worried that one day a naughty beast might seize our donkey and gobble him up. Let us trust our lion to look after him and make sure he comes to no harm. Then the lion can earn his keep, and the donkey will be as safe as houses.

So that was decided on. Every morning when the donkey set off up the forest trail, the lion went with him and brought him safe home again laden with firewood, and the two became firm friends. And this went on for some time.

Now one day when the sun beat down and it was very hot, the two stopped on the way for a rest in a place where the donkey could eat the grass. The lion's head felt so heavy! He lay down by the side of the road and fell fast asleep. Now what should happen but a party of merchants should pass that way with their camels, they were on their way down into Egypt to buy oil. And seeing the lion was asleep, they very naughtily stole the poor donkey and made off with him! They made him walk right in front of the caravan or procession of camels, for as everyone knows, camels will always follow a donkey if he walks in front. Shall we all remember that? Say after me, for as everyone knows, camels will always follow a donkey if he walks in front. *For as everyone knows, camels will always follow a donkey if he walks in front.*

Now after a time the lion woke up, and oh dear, the donkey was not to be seen anywhere. His friend rushed up and down roaring and lashing his tail. There was no donkey anywhere!

Later that same day, Jerome and the other old men began to worry because the two friends had not returned with the firewood. Jerome went to the door and looked out. At last who should he see but the lion coming slowly home, slinking close to the ground and not raising his eyes. And Jerome said, O you wicked lion, to eat up your poor friend, you greedy ungrateful beast! And the lion was crying big tears. But Jerome wondered whether the lion really had devoured the donkey, all the same. In the morning he sent out the brothers to search for him, to see if they could find perhaps the ears and the tail. But nothing of the donkey could they find.

Then Jerome said, let us make a harness with ropes and put it on the lion so that he can go by himself to the woodmen in the forest, and be loaded with the wood we need for the kitchen fire and



bring it home to us. So they did this and every day the lion made the journey to fetch the wood, all by himself. This went on for some time.

Now it so happened one evening, when the lion had brought back the firewood and eaten his supper as usual, that he felt restless. He went back to the forest road and roamed up and down, sniffing the air. Then he lifted his head and saw in front of him a caravan of camels stirring up the dust, and the camels were bearing great pots of oil they had brought from Egypt, and were ridden by merchants. And who should be leading the procession but his very own donkey, *for as everyone knows, camels will always follow a donkey if he walks in front.*

The lion let out a great roar and rushed at the caravan lashing his tail. The camel drivers jumped down from their seats on the camels' backs and ran away in all directions. Now before long, something made Jerome go to the door of the monastery, and what should he see but the donkey proudly heading a caravan of camels, for as everyone knows, camels will always follow a donkey if he walks in front. They came right into the monastery and coming up behind them was the lion! Then the lion went from one to the other of the brothers and licked their feet and purred, and they loved him and made a fuss of him.

But Jerome said, prepare a meal for a number of people for we shall soon have guests. When the food was ready, who should appear at the door of the monastery but some very sorry and miserable merchants, asking Jerome's forgiveness for naughtily stealing the donkey. But Jerome said, you must come and have your supper. But they would not sit down until they had persuaded him to accept half the jars of oil for the lamps of the monastery. And ever afterwards, on their way home from Egypt, they would always call at the monastery with a jar of oil for the old men.

And now you have heard the story of Jerome and the lion. It reminds us how, on the first Christmas, the King of all Creation was born in the little town of Bethlehem to live among us – Jesus, Son of God and Son of Mary, who said, let the little children come to me, for such is the kingdom of heaven. He himself was wrongfully accused and made to suffer shame and sorrow, but brought about peace and happiness through the Good News. To him belong the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

*fr* Bob Eccles, OP

# TIMES OF THE LITURGY FOR CHRISTMAS

## SUNDAY 22 DECEMBER

7.45am = Lauds | 8.15am = Low Mass | 9.15am = Dominican Rite Mass (Extraordinary Form) | 11am = Sung Conventual Mass | 6pm = Low Mass | 7pm = Vespers.

## MONDAY 23 DECEMBER

7am = Lauds | 7.30am = Conventual Mass | 6.15pm = Devotions & Meditation | 6.30pm = Vespers.

## TUESDAY 24 DECEMBER

7am = Lauds | 7.30am = Conventual Mass | 5pm Vigil Mass | 6.30pm = Vespers |  
11pm Matins followed by Midnight Mass at Midnight.



## WEDNESDAY 25 DECEMBER

7.45am = Lauds | 8.15am = Low Mass | 9.15am Mass (Dominican Rite) | 11am Sung Mass | 6.30pm Solemn Vespers (Note no evening Mass!)

## THURSDAY 26 - SATURDAY 28 DECEMBER

9am = Lauds | 9.30am = Conventual Mass | 6.15pm = Devotions = or on Saturday Sung Litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary | 6.30pm = Vespers. (Confessions on Saturday as usual.)

## SUNDAY 29 DECEMBER

7.45am = Lauds | 8.15am = Low Mass | 9.15am = Dominican Rite Mass (Extraordinary Form) | 11am = Sung Conventual Mass | 6pm = Low Mass | 7pm = Vespers.

## MONDAY 30 DECEMBER - WEDNESDAY 1 JANUARY 2025

9am = Lauds | 9.30am = Conventual Mass | 6.15pm = Devotions | 6.30pm = Vespers.

NORMAL TIMINGS RESUME FROM THURSDAY 2 JANUARY 2025

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## THE PRIORY OF ST MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL

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