

## Reflection Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> Week of Advent 2024

Today, 17<sup>th</sup> December, we are introduced to the O antiphons, the first of which proclaims:

*"O 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. O come to teach us the way of truth."*

As Christmas approaches ever more closely, its radiant light begins to blot out the lights of the individual days just like planets becoming less and less visible the closer come to the Sun. The great "*O Antiphons*", that we use at Vespers or Evening Prayer, are worth celebrating even though Vespers may not form part of your daily lives. These antiphons count down the last seven days before Christmas and tie together seven threads of hope, longing and doctrine which all find their culmination and final union in the Incarnation, the birth of Christ.

The antiphon we use today reminds us that Jesus is the Word and the Wisdom of God. As Isaiah says, "*On him the spirit of the Lord rests, a spirit of wisdom and insight, a spirit of counsel and power.*" But it wishes to tell us that these are the very gifts Jesus brings to share with us at his birth. Yes, we want you to come, Lord Jesus, so that you will *teach us the ways of truth!*

**What's a sentence that can never be truthfully written down?**     "*This pen isn't working*"

After the birth of his baby brother, a little boy was thoroughly annoyed at all his crying and screaming.

"Where did we get him anyway?" he asked his mother.

"He came from heaven!" his mother said.

The boy replied. "*Well, I can see why they threw him out!*"