



RED WEDNESDAY NOVENA FOR CHILDREN

Aid to the
Church in Need
ACN UNITED KINGDOM

Thank you so much for joining us to pray this special set of prayers
leading up to **#RedWednesday!**

You might be wondering what a novena is... the word “novena” is actually from the Latin word for nine, or *novem*. Usually a novena consists of nine days of prayer, asking God for a special intention (asking God to help us in a specific way or for a specific thing). There are many different varieties of novena, and people might pray one that already exists, or they might write one of their own for something in particular they’d like to pray for – just like we have!



Children praying in Bihar state, India.
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Our intention for this **#RedWednesday** Novena is for children and families across the world who are suffering for their faith, and in particular for those people who are experiencing religious persecution because of their belief in Jesus Christ. Sometimes it is difficult to think of what we can do to help when we are far away, but prayer is one of the easiest things we can do to show love and support for boys and girls across the world who are having a difficult time.

novena

FROM THE LATIN
WORD FOR NINE OR
'NOVEM'



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This novena starts on Friday, 13th November, which means that the special feast day of Christ the King (Sunday, 22nd November), will fall whilst we are praying this set of prayers. For that reason, we have decided to centre our novena on the idea of ‘the Kingdom of God’. Jesus tells us in Matthew’s Gospel to “strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.” [Matthew 6:33, *NRSVCE*]. But what does this mean? In the simplest terms, it means that we should live our lives with God! By praying, following the commandments, taking care of ourselves and people around us, we can bring God’s glory into the world.



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Children in the Diocese of Makini in Sierra Leone, pray the Our Father together. Credit: ACN

Many of you will know the Lord's Prayer (the Our Father). It's often the first prayer that we learn off by heart, and the words that we pray sum up what it means to be a Christian. This prayer will also be a part of our novena. We are also going to be asking for the help of Our Lady – Mary, the Mother of Jesus. She is a special help to us, and also to many people around the world. We are going to ask her to pray with us and for us, too.

Will you join us in prayer for nine days leading up to **#RedWednesday**, and be a **#RedWednesday** champion?

Day One:

Our Father

Make the sign of the cross.

Read: *"I have said this to you, so that in me you may have peace. In the world you face persecution. But take courage; I have conquered the world!" [John 16:33, NRSVCE]*

Reflect: Today we pray for peace in our world, especially in places where it may be difficult for people to practice their faith. We pray for tolerance of all religions, and that our world may become somewhere where all faiths are respected.

Pray together: Jesus, help us to build your kingdom. Mary, Queen of Heaven, pray for us.

Make the sign of the cross.


Children praying with a religious Sister in the Diocese of Thies, Senegal.

Credit: ACN





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Day Two:

Who art in Heaven

Make the sign of the cross.

Read: *"In everything do to others as you would have them do to you; for this is the law and the prophets."* [Matthew 7:12, NRSVCE].

Reflect: Today we pray for the Christian people of Pakistan. Christians in Pakistan are often treated very badly, and it can be difficult for them to practise their faith the same way we can. There are also some children who have been taken from their parents and families – we pray that they can return home safely soon.

Pray together: Jesus, help us to build your kingdom. Mary, Queen of Heaven, pray for us.

Make the sign of the cross.

Children in Ukraine learning how to pray the Rosary. Credit: <https://synod.ugcc.ua/>



Day Three:

Hallowed be thy name

Make the sign of the cross.

Read: *"The name of the Lord is a strong tower; the righteous run into it and are safe."* [Proverbs 18:10, NRSVCE]

Reflect: Today we pray for the Christian people of China. There have been more people practising their Christian faith in recent years in China. This is something the government is unhappy about, so there are restrictions on many churches. We pray that the Christian people of China find peace and freedom in their faith – please keep them safe, Lord.

Pray together: Jesus, help us to build your kingdom. Mary, Queen of Heaven, pray for us.

Make the sign of the cross.





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Day Four:

Thy kingdom come

Make the sign of the cross.

Read: “Jesus said, ‘Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs’.” [Matthew 19:14, NRSVCE]

Reflect: Today we pray for all those around the world who are working hard to spread God’s love. We pray for priests and religious Brothers and Sisters especially, but please give strength and courage to all people working and praying to do good, Lord. We remember those who are working in your Name in countries where it is dangerous to be a Christian – we pray for your protection over all children, men and women in the many places where they face danger just for believing in you, Jesus.

Pray together: Jesus, help us to build your kingdom. Mary, Queen of Heaven, pray for us.

*A girl prays beside a statue of Jesus in
the Diocese of Zahleh, Lebanon.
Credit: Aid to the Church in Need*



Day Five:

Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven

Make the sign of the cross.

Read: “Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own insight. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.” [Proverbs 3: 5-6, NRSVCE]

Reflect: Today we pray for the Christian people of Nigeria. Lord, thank you for giving them the strength to trust in you. We pray for peace for all those who have lost loved ones – there are many families who have been split up or hurt in Nigeria.

Pray together: Jesus, help us to build your kingdom. Mary, Queen of Heaven, pray for us.




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Make the sign of the cross.



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*Children from the Diocese of Mopti
in Mali, pray before the altar.*

Credit: Aid to the Church in Need.

Day Six:

Give us this day our daily bread

Make the sign of the cross.

Read: “Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights.” [James 1:17, NRSVCE]

Reflect: Today we pray for the Christian people of Syria. People there have faced war, fighting, starvation, and homelessness, amongst many other things. Often people have faced these things because of their Christian faith. We pray that the Christian people of Syria continue to have faith in you, Lord, and we pray for continued kindness and generosity from all those around the world who are helping Syrian people rebuild their lives.

Pray together: Jesus, help us to build your kingdom. Mary, Queen of Heaven, pray for us.

Make the sign of the cross.



Day Seven:

Forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us

Make the sign of the cross.

Read: “Whenever you stand praying, forgive, if you have anything against anyone; so that your Father in heaven may also forgive you your trespasses.” [Mark 11:25, NRSVCE]

Reflect: In the month of November, we remember those who have passed away. Today we pray for Christian people across the world who have been hurt or killed as a result of war, fighting, persecution or natural disasters. May you grant them eternal peace, Lord.

Pray together: Jesus, help us to build your kingdom. Mary, Queen of Heaven, pray for us.


Make the sign of the cross.



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Day Eight:

Lead us not into temptation

Make the sign of the cross.

Read: *"Therefore take up the whole armour of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm."* [Ephesians 6:13, NRSCVE]

Reflect: Today we pray for the leaders of our country and all countries across the world. Please be in the hearts of these leaders, Jesus, and we pray for an end to rules that make it difficult for people to believe in God and go to Church.

Pray together: Jesus, help us to build your kingdom. Mary, Queen of Heaven, pray for us.

Make the sign of the cross.

Children in the Diocese of Aleppo in Syria, pray before starting school.

Credit: Ismael Martinez Sanchez



Day Nine:

But deliver us from evil

Make the sign of the cross.

Read: *"Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom."* [2 Corinthians 3:17]

Reflect: Today we pray for the work of ACN, and all the people, parishes and schools involved in ACN's mission. Thank you, Jesus, for making sure that their hard work helps to provide safety and freedom for so many Christian people across the world. Thank you, too, for our wonderful school and for listening to our prayers throughout this #RedWednesday Novena.

Pray together: Jesus, help us to build your kingdom. Mary, Queen of Heaven, pray for us.

On our final day, let us bring together the special prayers from the last 9 days of prayer here in school by praying the Our Father together.



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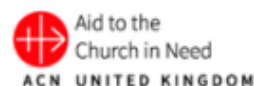
Our Father...

Amen.

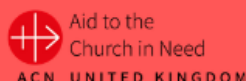
Make the sign of the cross.



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THANK YOU!



Thank you very much for taking part in our novena to pray for those who are persecuted for their faith around the world. If you share any photos on social media, please tag us in and use the hashtag #RedWednesday.

Please do join in solidarity on Wednesday November 25th, with all the people around the world who suffer as a result of their Christian faith.

See our website (www.acnuk.org/our-campaigns/redwednesday/) for more information, and keep an eye on our social media accounts.



Maisy Milk often has lots of Aid to the Church in Need resources to share. Make sure to keep an eye out for her—she has lots to share with children across the UK, about what they can do to help children in other countries around the world.

Contact details for the National office:

Tel: 020 8661 5154

Email: schools@acnuk.org

Facebook: @acnuk

Twitter: @acn_uk

Instagram: [aidtothechurchinneed_uk](https://www.instagram.com/aidtothechurchinneed_uk)

Contact details for the Scottish office:

Tel: 01698 337 470

Email: acn.scotland.office@acnuk.org

Facebook: @acn.scotland.office

Twitter: @ACN_Scotland

Contact details for the North West office:

Tel: 01524 388 739

Email: nw.office@acnuk.org

Facebook: @acnuk.northwest

Twitter: @ACNUK_NW

Instagram: [acnuknw](https://www.instagram.com/acnuknw)



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