



Aid to the
Church in Need

ACN UNITED KINGDOM

Aid to the Church in Need #RedWednesday Novena (Secondary)

Notes for Teachers

A novena is a set of prayers, prayed over nine consecutive days, usually for a certain intention. This year, to prepare for #RedWednesday, we are asking schools and parishes to join us in praying for an end to religious persecution.



The novena begins on Friday 13 November 2020 and ends on #RedWednesday 25 November (so it covers nine school days, excluding the weekend).

It should take about 5-10 minutes per day to pray collectively. A video has been included for each day (except day 8). These videos show projects related to the intentions and people being prayed for. If you are going to use the clips, it is advisable to watch them in advance (especially for Key Stage 3 classes) as some of the content may be upsetting for younger pupils.

The novena for schools is based on the Our Father. The Our Father is the focus for this novena because it is the prayer given to us by Jesus, because it unites all Christians and because we want to bring to the world's attention that being a Christian is punishable by death in some countries.

Each of the nine days consists of:

- ✓ A line from the Our Father
- ✓ A short meditation on the line from Pope Francis' Catechesis on the Our Father*
- ✓ A prayer intention
- ✓ A brief explanation of why we are praying for that particular intention.

How to pray Aid to the Church in Need's #RedWednesday Novena:

Each day:

1. Begin with the Introduction.
2. Make the sign of the cross.
3. Read out the reflection based on Pope Francis' Catechesis on the Our Father.
4. Pray the prayer intentions for the day.
5. Pray the Our Father.

6. Finish with that day's particular line from the Our Father, and invite pupils to bring it to mind throughout the day, remembering today's intention as they do.
7. Invite pupils to offer their own prayers to God in a moment of silence
8. Make the sign of the cross.
9. Invite the pupils to pray one more Our Father before they go to sleep for today's intention.

Alternatives:

1. Pray nine Our Fathers each day (maybe during lunchtime) for the intentions.
2. Ask pupils/staff to pray the Our Father in other languages and record it for an assembly.
3. At the beginning of each lesson, the teacher could start with the meditation line for the day and spend a few moments in silence.

Novena Dates 2020:

Day 1 - Fri 13 Nov - Our Father

Day 2 - Mon 16 Nov - Who art in heaven

Day 3 - Tue 17 Nov - Hallowed be thy name

Day 4 - Wed 18 Nov - Thy kingdom come

Day 5 - Thu 19 Nov - Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven

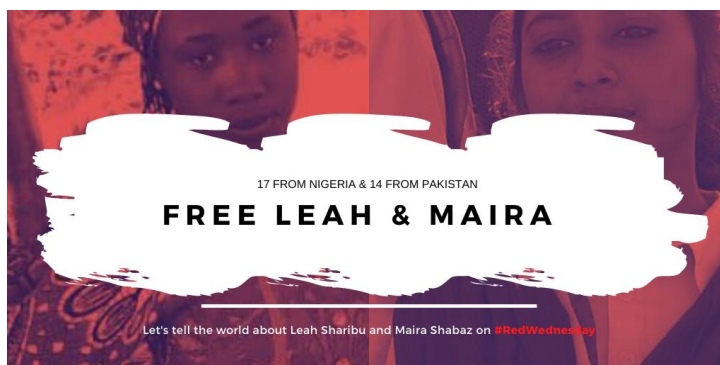
Day 6 - Fri 20 Nov - Give us this day our daily bread

Day 7 - Mon 23 Nov - And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us

Day 8 - Tue 24 Nov - And lead us not into temptation

Day 9 - Wed 25 Nov - But deliver us from evil.

The penultimate slide on each presentation is a graphic to remind the pupils that #RedWednesday is on 25 November 2020. The final slide shows two girls (Leah Sharibu and Maira Shabaz) whose stories feature in the novena. There will be an opportunity for pupils to raise awareness about Leah and Maira on #RedWednesday.



For more information:

#RedWednesday: <https://acnuk.org/our-campaigns/redwednesday/>

The work of ACN: <https://acnuk.org/about/our-projects/>

*The reflections on the 'Our Father' have come from Pope Francis' catechesis on the Our Father which took place during his Wednesday General Audiences in March 2019.

The text we have used is from the Vatican News website.

<https://www.vaticannews.va/en/pope/news/2019-05/pope-francis-general-audience-#>

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