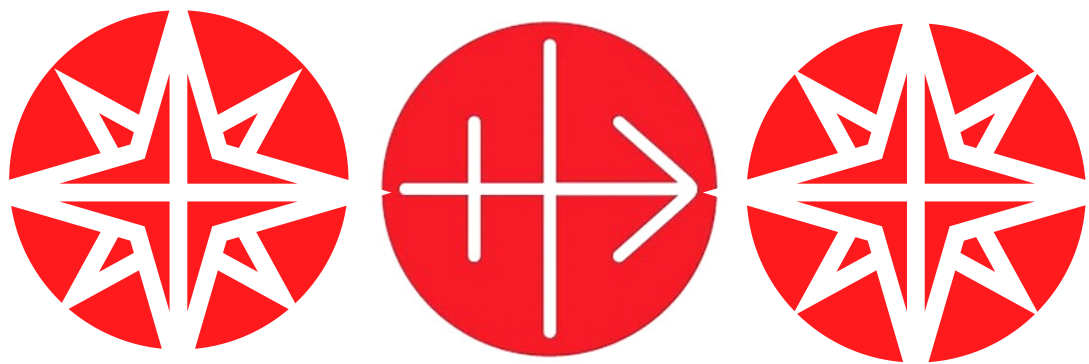


AID TO THE CHURCH IN NEED



☆ ACN

PRAYERS FOR ADVENT 2020



WEEK 1: GENERAL PRAYERS FOR THE WEEK

Only if people change will the world change; and in order to change, people need the light that comes from God, the light which so unexpectedly [on the night of Christmas] entered into our night.

(Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI - Homily at Mass on December 25th, 2008)
Jesus, help us to have more hope in you. Our way of preparing ourselves for Christmas today is to say this prayer when we feel the need for God's help.

Try to say it today at least once and through the rest of Advent.

JESUS, I TRUST IN YOU
JESUS, I TRUST IN YOU
JESUS, I TRUST IN YOU

O Christ Jesus, when all is darkness
and we feel our weakness and helplessness,
give us the sense of your presence,
your love and your strength.
Help us to have perfect trust
in your protecting love
and strengthening power,
so that nothing may frighten or worry us,
for, living close to you,
we shall see your hand,
your purpose, your will through all things.

A prayer of Saint Ignatius of Loyola.



WEDNESDAY 2ND DECEMBER - PRAYERS FOR THE WORK OF ACN

Let us pray for the work of ACN and all charities who work to alleviate suffering in the world. We offer to you those families suffering from Covid-19 coronavirus in Bangladesh; Burkina Faso; Lebanon; Pakistan; Ukraine and in Venezuela who, though already very poor, have suffered discrimination in accessing healthcare services and receiving government food parcels. We pray that there will always be men and women of faith and charity to care for the needs of the sick, vulnerable and lonely. We ask our Father to envelop in his love all who have been mistreated, exploited or pushed from the centre to the edges of society. We pray for Sr Mary and the nuns in Kenya, that they will be able to reach even more of those who need their loving care.

THURSDAY 3RD DECEMBER - PRAYERS FOR MY FAMILY

An opportunity for pupils to pray privately for their families or to offer intercessions vocally.

Look around you at the people you see every day. Is there someone who needs help? Someone who looks upset or stressed? Is there a story in the news where people are afraid? Is there someone in your family experiencing the darkness of illness, depression or broken relationships? To prepare for the great feast of Christmas, spend a few minutes today praying for that person. If you can help them in any way, then resolve to do so.

FIVE PRAYERS EACH WEEK

Remember to think about the five points
of a star or your five fingers to
remember what to pray for:



1 Prayers for the world

2 Prayers for an end to Covid 19

3 Prayers for ACN projects

4 Prayers for my family and friends

5 Prayers for me

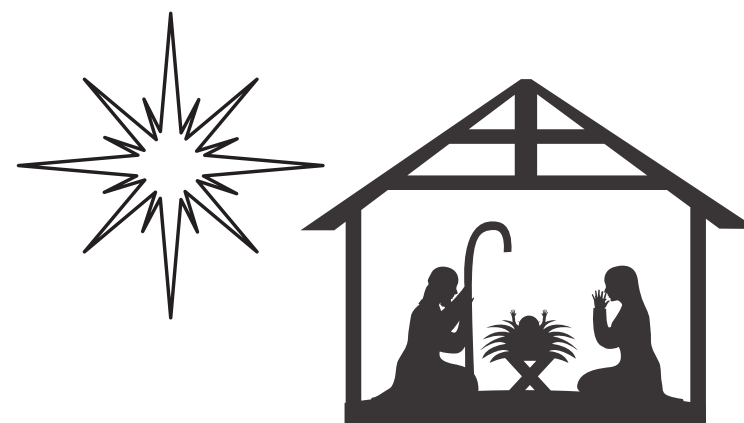
MONDAY 30TH NOVEMBER - PRAYERS FOR THE WORLD

We pray that the Church may faithfully proclaim the message of freedom to a troubled world, and that by your grace and the work of the Holy Spirit, the Church will continue to transform, heal and make new the hearts of all who hear her message. Pope Francis tells us, "the key players in the Christmas story prove that history is not made by the powerful, but by God together with his little ones, those small and simple people whom we find around Jesus, who is about to be born: Zachariah and Elizabeth, who are old; Mary, the young virgin engaged to Joseph; the shepherds, who were despised and counted for nothing. They had hope, and they turned the dark and twisted paths of life around them into a highway on which to walk toward the glory of the Lord."

We pray for peace, that we, the people of God, may work for peace and justice and that the world will be changed through us, the little ones.

TUESDAY 1ST DECEMBER - PRAYERS FOR AN END TO COVID

We pray for each person working to alleviate the suffering of another. Bless, protect and assist all medical workers, hospital cleaners and catering staff, carers, ministers and neighbourhood groups as they strive to heal, comfort and uphold those who need their care. We pray too for retail workers, delivery drivers and key workers. Lord God, guide all those who have to make big decisions during this crisis and help us all to be selfless in our conduct. Amen.



FRIDAY 4TH DECEMBER - PRAYERS FOR MY OWN INTENTIONS

Time of silence for each person to offer to God whatever is on their heart. Holy Spirit, fill our hearts with joy. Enable us to experience the joy that comes from being in the right relationship with you. Give us a deep joy, knowing that even in these times of hardship, you are with us and watching over us as the Good Shepherd who never leaves his flock.

Stay with me, Lord, for you are my light, and without you, I am in darkness.

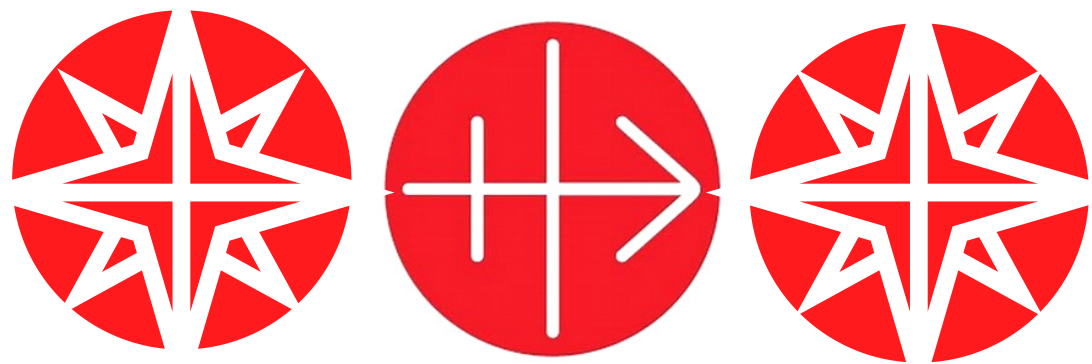
Stay with me, Lord, to show me your will.

Stay with me, Lord, so that I hear your voice and follow you.

Lord, we offer to you the intentions of every person in this class.

Bless us all and help us to look after each other.

AID TO THE CHURCH IN NEED



PRAYERS FOR ADVENT 2020



WEEK 2: GENERAL PRAYERS FOR THE WEEK

"Christian hope is knowing that whatever dark or frightening things are going on in one's life, God is there offering protection and light." - Pope Francis

Jesus being born is so monumental that it changes everything. God, the creator of the universe, the creator of time, matter and everything we know, becomes a small baby. It is hard for us to understand the magnitude of this, and because we are so used to hearing the story, it can feel like a myth or a fairy tale. May we, this week, ask God to show us anew what his birth means for us and for the world.

God the Father of all creation: give us faith.

God the Father who loves unconditionally: give us peace.

God the Father who knew me before I was born: give us faith.

Jesus who conquered death: give us peace.

Jesus who calmed the storm: give us faith.

Jesus who takes our burdens: give us peace.

Holy Spirit, who transformed the disciples' fear into courage: give us faith.

Holy Spirit, the Comforter: give us peace.

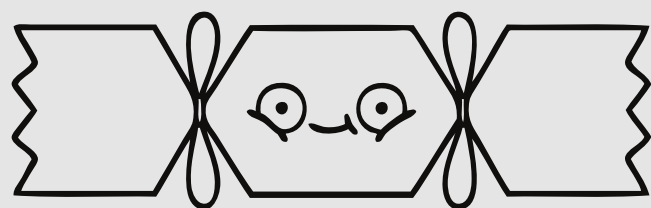
Holy Spirit, alive in your people: give us faith.



WEDNESDAY 9TH DECEMBER - PRAYERS FOR THE WORK OF ACN

Lord, we ask you to bless Archbishop Warda of Erbil and the work of ACN in Iraq. May those who have no access to free healthcare find the help they need. We pray for all of those who will need the oxygen generator provided by ACN.

May those who have suffered because of the invasion by ISIS and the humanitarian crisis it caused be healed and comforted. Jesus, we ask you to help the unemployed people there who struggle to provide for their families, the refugees and the displaced people. May ACN be able to provide pastoral and medical care to benefit people of all faiths.



THURSDAY 10TH DECEMBER - PRAYERS FOR MY FAMILY

An opportunity either for pupils to offer prayers privately for their families or as prayer intentions.

I know, Jesus, that your hands are reaching out to me at this moment, and in response, I hand over every thought, niggle, worry and anxiety to you. You love my loved ones more than I do, so now, in an act of faith, I make the decision to trust you to look after them..



FIVE PRAYERS EACH WEEK

Remember to think about the five points of a star or your five fingers to remember what to pray for:



1 Prayers for the world

2 Prayers for an end to Covid 19

3 Prayers for ACN projects

4 Prayers for my family and friends

5 Prayers for me

MONDAY 7TH DECEMBER - PRAYERS FOR THE WORLD

Prayer of Pope Francis:

O Mary, you shine continuously on our journey as a sign of salvation and hope. We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick. At the foot of the Cross, you participated in Jesus's pain, with steadfast faith.

You, Salvation of the People of God, know what we need. We are certain that you will provide, so that, as you did at Cana, joy and feasting might return after this moment of trial.

Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform ourselves to the Father's will and to do what Jesus tells us; He who took our sufferings upon Himself, and bore our sorrows to bring us, through the Cross, to the joy of the Resurrection. Amen.

We seek refuge under your protection, O Holy Mother of God. Do not despise our pleas - we who are put to the test - and deliver us from every danger, O glorious and blessed Virgin. Amen.

TUESDAY 8TH DECEMBER - PRAYERS FOR AN END TO COVID

Jesus, through your Spirit, let all those facing this crisis alone know your love. Be with the elderly, those separated from their families, the homeless, those in the care system, the sick and those in hospital, prisoners and those with mental illnesses. We pray for the safety of anyone with underlying health conditions. Lord, protect them from the coronavirus, let their conditions be stable and grant them access to any medical help they need throughout this period. Especially grant them peace of mind and preserve them from fear and anxiety. Please, Lord, help those facing financial difficulties. May employers, landlords and governments show generosity and understanding to all. May cooperation between people alleviate any dire situations so that nobody need lose their jobs or homes. Amen.

FRIDAY 11TH DECEMBER - PRAYERS FOR MY OWN INTENTIONS

Time of silence for each person to offer to God whatever is on their heart.

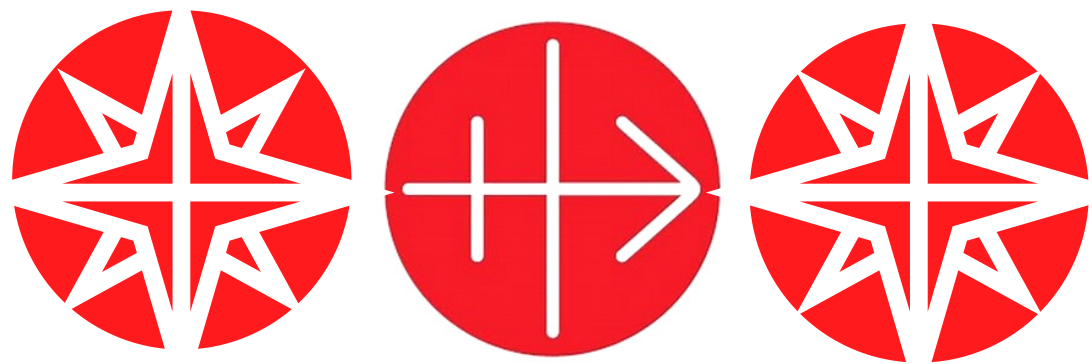
God, our Father, thank you for creating me and for caring about every detail of my life. I believe in your love for me and I trust in your promise that you will bring good out of every situation I face. Thank you for your presence, which is, at this moment, closer than I can grasp.

Stay with me, Lord, for you are my light, and without you, I am in darkness.

Stay with me, Lord, to show me your will.

Stay with me, Lord, so that I hear your voice and follow you.

AID TO THE CHURCH IN NEED



☆ ACN

PRAYERS FOR ADVENT 2020

WEEK 3: GENERAL PRAYERS FOR THE WEEK

Dear Lord, help us to understand more fully that you are not a figure from the past. Help me to understand the depths of your love for me and allow you to light up my pathway through life. Mary was planning to marry Joseph when the angel appeared to her and from that day her life changed beyond anything she could have imagined. Help us to allow the Holy Spirit to change our lives and ourselves, even when we don't understand your will for us. Help us to work to bring about your kingdom of love. Help us to allow the news of Christ to enter our hearts.

Angel of God, my guardian dear,
To whom God's love commits me here,
Ever this day be at my side,
To light and guard, to rule and guide.
Amen.



WEDNESDAY 16TH DECEMBER - PRAYERS FOR THE WORK OF ACN

We pray for the displaced Christian families in Syria and Iraq who have kept the faith alive during the years of conflict by holding onto their Christian traditions. They continued to celebrate Christmas, go to Mass and Confession during Advent. For the fourth year running, ACN is bringing them the joy of Christ's birth by providing Christmas parcels for displaced children who have been traumatised by war and conflict.

We pray for those who are suffering in Syria that they receive what they need materially and emotionally. We ask you to bless all the elderly people there who are relying on our generosity to survive. We ask you to be with refugees everywhere and bring an end to their suffering.

THURSDAY 17TH DECEMBER - PRAYERS FOR MY FAMILY

An opportunity for pupils to pray privately for their families or to offer intercessions vocally.

The Angel Gabriel told Mary not to be afraid. Sometimes, fear overwhelms us and we too must hear the words spoken to Mary. Now in a moment of silence, let us offer to God any dark or frightening things that are going on in our own lives, or in our families.

"God is there offering protection and light... [and He] leads his people to the path of liberation and salvation." Pope Francis.

FIVE PRAYERS EACH DAY

Remember to think about the five points of a star or your five fingers to remember what to pray for:



1 Prayers for the world

2 Prayers for an end to Covid 19

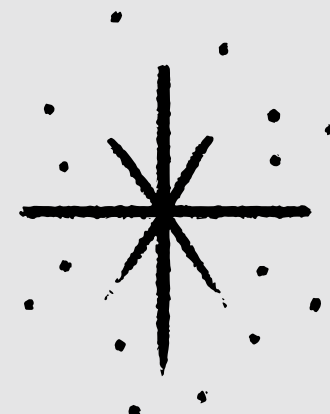
3 Prayers for ACN projects

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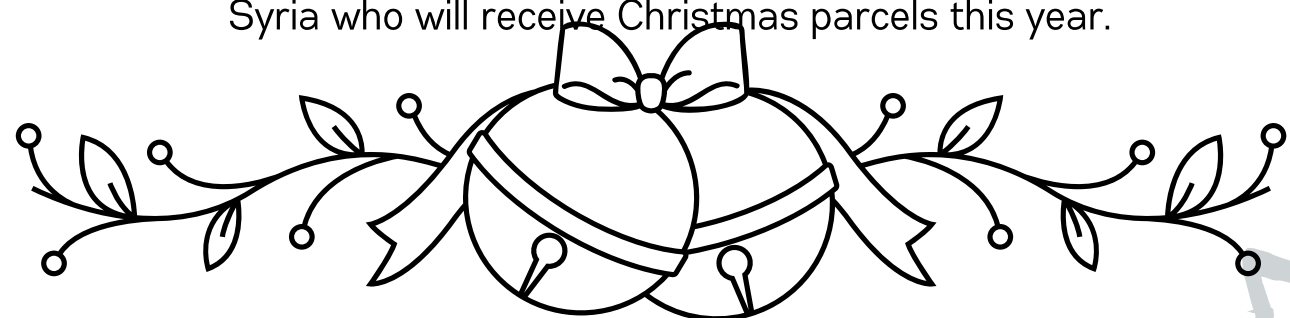
MONDAY 14TH DECEMBER - PRAYERS FOR THE WORLD

We ask for governments and leaders to bring an end to ideologies which suppress belief in God. We pray for the whole world, that there may be an end to the coronavirus. We pray for all people, for peace between nations, for an end to poverty and for governments to prioritise people, not weapons; moral laws, not wealth; care for the vulnerable, not power; and cooperation rather than mistrust. May every heart discover you, Lord, and may your kingdom come..



TUESDAY 15TH DECEMBER - PRAYERS FOR AN END TO COVID

Lord God, be with those facing the virus on top of other problems. We beg you to protect the 70 million displaced people on our planet as they too endure this pandemic. We pray for those who live in overcrowded tents and have no soap and inadequate food supplies. Come to the assistance of those who have already suffered so much: the millions of people forced to flee due to war, terrorism or natural disasters. We pray for Laura and her family and for all the families in Syria who will receive Christmas parcels this year.



FRIDAY 18TH DECEMBER - PRAYERS FOR MY OWN INTENTIONS

Time of silence for each person to offer to God whatever is on their heart. Let me learn how to be faithful in small, everyday situations, knowing that being a disciple begins with the person in front of me. Give me the words to say to those who need consolation and the energy and inclination to use my gifts in the service to the Church and of others. Lord God, help me grow in love for you and of others. Help me to be willing to serve you, your Church and any person in need. Jesus, during this time, give me the courage to rely on you, so that I may become a living reflection of your love. Holy Spirit, help me to act on this resolve, by spending time in prayer and by being more sensitive to the needs of others. Stay with me, Lord, for you are my light, and without you, I am in darkness.

Stay with me, Lord, to show me your will.
Stay with me, Lord, so that I hear your voice and follow you.