



RED WEDNESDAY NOVENA FOR CHILDREN



Aid to the
Church in Need
ACN UNITED KINGDOM

Notes for Teachers

The novena begins on Friday 11th November 2022 and ends on #RedWednesday 23rd November (so it covers nine school days, excluding the weekend). It should take no more than 5 minutes to pray the novena each day. The focus of the novena is

‘Taking care of one another’.

Each of the nine days consists of:

- A short scripture reading
- A short reflection
- A prayer to pray all together

On the final day, you are invited to pray the Our Father (you could of course do this each day, if you would like to).

Novena Dates 2022:

Day 1—Fri 11 Nov

Day 2— Mon 14 Nov

Day 3—Tue 15 Nov

Day 4—Wed 16 Nov

Day 5—Thu 17 Nov

Day 6—Fri 18 Nov

Day 7—Mon 21 Nov

Day 8—Tue 22 Nov

Day 9—Wed 23 Nov - Red Wednesday

For more information:

#RedWednesday:

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

The work of ACN:

<https://acnuk.org/about/our-projects/>



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Thank you so much for joining us to pray this special set of prayers leading up to **#RedWednesday 2022!**

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!

novena

FROM THE LATIN
WORD FOR NINE OR
'NOVEM'

Our prayer 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.

As well as focusing on Red Wednesday, a second focus we will have is *‘Taking care of one another’*. A big focus of our Red Wednesday Assembly and Liturgy is the story of St Maximilian Kolbe. You can learn all about him and his story by taking part in these activities, but he is a very special saint for many reasons. One of those reasons is that whilst he was a prisoner in Poland, he gave his own life so that another man could live and be with his family. St Maximilian made the ultimate sacrifice that day—not that we have to do the exact same! But his example helps us to see what we can do to help out others around us.

Jesus tells us in John’s Gospel *“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.” [John 15:12-13, NRSVCE].*



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But what does this mean? In the simplest terms, it means that we should live our lives, loving like Jesus taught us. Of course we have love for our friends and family, but Jesus asks us to go even further, and to have love and care for everyone we meet, and those we don’t, like some of the people we will hear about from different countries.



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



Children in Lebanon pray the Rosary together.

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Day One:

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, show us how to love one another. Mary, Queen of Heaven, pray for us.

Make the sign of the cross.

*Children praying the Rosary in
Poland as part of the ACN
campaign—1 Million Children
Praying the Rosary.*

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Day Two:

Make the sign of the cross.

Read: *“Cast your burden on the Lord and he will sustain you; he will never permit the righteous to be moved. [Psalms 55:22, NRSVCE]*

Reflect: Today we pray for the Christian people of Ukraine. Even though many parts of Ukraine are fairly safe again, there are still many areas of the country that dangerous. We pray for all the children who have had to leave their homes behind as a result of the war there, and thank God for all the good people who have looked after those who had to leave their homes.

Pray together: Jesus, show us how to love one another. Mary, Queen of Heaven, pray for us.

Make the sign of the cross.

*Children praying with religious
Sisters of St Paul in Lahore,
Pakistan.*

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Day Three:

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 Pakistan. Many peoples lives have been devastated by the floods there earlier this year. The government is doing little to help people who are struggling, and life there is very difficult right now. We remember all those who need a place of safety at this time.

Pray together: Jesus, show us how to love one another. Mary, Queen of Heaven, pray for us.



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Make the sign of the cross.



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Day Four:

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 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, show us how to love one another. Mary, Queen of Heaven, pray for us.**

*A young boy praying the Rosary in
Aleppo, Syria.
©Aid to the Church in Need.*



Day Five:

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 Syria. Life for Christians in Syria has been difficult for some time. They have suffered the effects of war for many years, and although this is now a bit better, people are facing different challenges. Around 90% of people live in poverty, struggling to feed, clothe and house their families.

Pray together: **Jesus, show us how to love one another. Mary, Queen of Heaven, pray for us.**

Make the sign of the cross.



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Day Six:

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 Christian people of Nigeria. Christians there face real danger every day, just because of their faith. In many areas people are staying in their homes and not going out to work or school because of the risk to them as a Christian. Even priests are sometimes not able to go and see the people that need them. We pray that the situation may get better, and that Christians can feel more secure in their communities.

Pray together: *Jesus, show us how to love one another. Mary, Queen of Heaven, pray for us. Make the sign of the cross.*



*A group of children with the
religious Sisters of Jesus Crucified in
the Diocese of Owerri , Nigeria.*

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Day Seven:

Make the sign of the cross.

Read: *“Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.” [Joshua 1:9, NRSVCE]*

Reflect: In the month of November, we remember all 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. We pray too for our loved ones that are no longer here with us on earth. May you grant them eternal peace, Lord.

Pray together: *Jesus, show us how to love one another.*

Mary, Queen of Heaven, pray for us.

Make the sign of the cross.



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Day Eight:

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 children—for children here in the UK, for those children around the world in a country where they face issues due to their faith, and for any child facing difficulty in their life. We pray for those who take care of children; for parents, grandparents, aunties, uncles, carers, friends—for all the people who take care of us.

Pray together: **Jesus, show us how to love one another. Mary, Queen of Heaven, pray for us.**

Make the sign of the cross.

*Children from Chad and Central African Republic
praying for peace in Ukraine. © ACN*



Day Nine:

Make the sign of the cross.

Read: *“Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.” [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, show us how to love one another. 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.

Our Father...

Amen.

Make the sign of the cross.



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THANK YOU!



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Thank you so 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 23rd, 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 Schools in England & Wales:

Tel: 01524 388 739

Email: schools@acnuk.org

Facebook: @acnschools

Twitter: @ACN_Schools

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Contact details for Schools in Scotland:

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