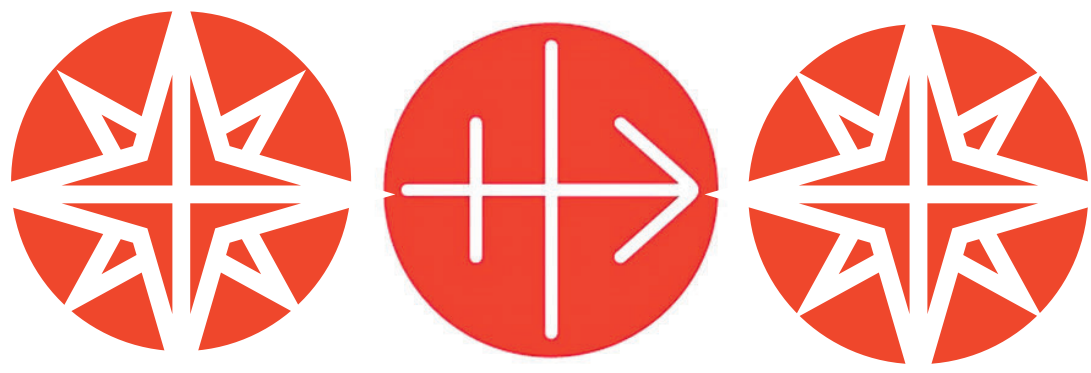


AID TO THE CHURCH IN NEED



ACN

PRAYERS FOR ADVENT 2022



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)

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 - PRAYERS FOR ACN PROJECTS IN LEBANON

Let us pray for the work of ACN and all charities who work to alleviate suffering in the world. As Sr Eva from Lebanon told ACN, "Some of the families here in Jounieh, a town not generally regarded as being poor, actually go out early in the morning, in order not to be seen, scavenging food from the dustbins."

Dear Lord, we pray for anyone facing hunger. May your love heal the wounds of the poor. Bring an end to poverty and help us all to share what we have.

We ask you to bless ACN's efforts to feed the poorest families in Lebanon, those with many children and elderly or sick relatives to care for.

Please help the supply of parcels with basic necessities to continue, with our help, to reach Lebanon. May the selflessness of those who serve be a strong sign of God's love for all. May we be generous in our support of the ACN projects in Lebanon which save lives.

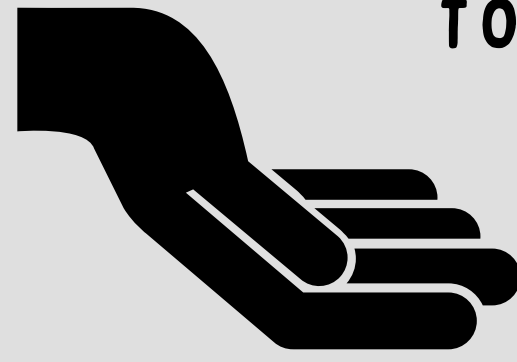
THURSDAY - PRAYERS FOR MY FAMILY

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, addiction, 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 PEACE IN UKRAINE

3 PRAYERS FOR ACN PROJECTS

4 PRAYERS FOR MY FAMILY & FRIENDS

5 PRAYERS FOR ME

MONDAY - PRAYERS FOR THE WORLD

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 (not liked) and who 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 that we who sometimes feel little and unimportant can find a home around Jesus our Saviour. We ask for the Holy Spirit to help us, as a school community, to allow the living Lord to transform, heal and make new our hearts. We give to you, Lord, anything in our lives that feels dark and twisted, and ask you to bring it into your path of light. We pray 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 - PRAYERS FOR UKRAINE

Prayer of St Teresa of Calcutta.

You are invited to read this prayer slowly, reflect on the words and offer to God the situation in Ukraine as you pray:

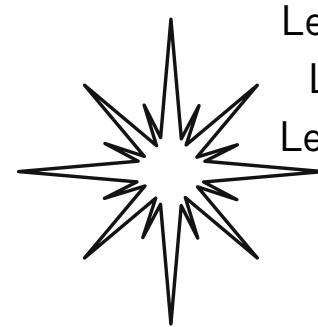
Lead me from death to life, from falsehood to truth.

Lead me from despair to hope, from fear to trust.

Lead me from hate to love, from war to peace.

Let peace fill our heart, our world, our universe.

Peace - Peace - Peace



FRIDAY - PRAYERS FOR MY OWN INTENTIONS

A 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 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.

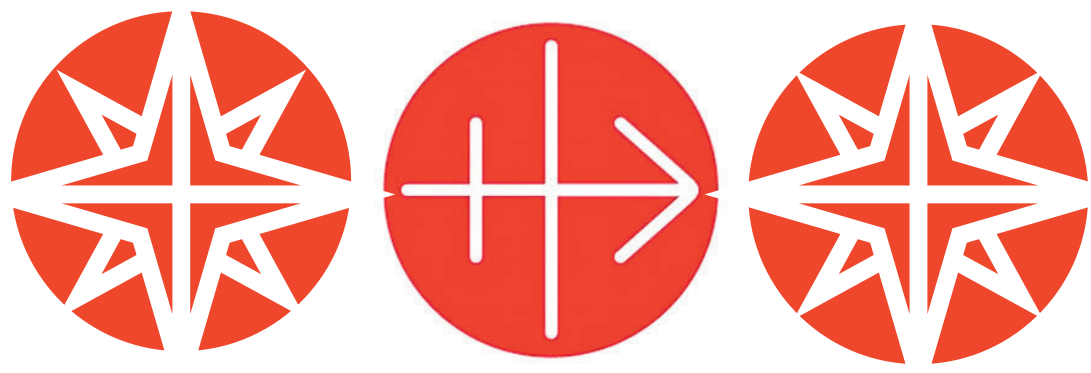
Stay with me, Lord, to show me your will.

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



ACN

PRAYERS FOR ADVENT 2022



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 PRAYERS FOR ACN PROJECTS IN NIGERIA

In parts of Nigeria, there is much violence against Christians and other faith minorities. In spite of this, believers there have kept their faith. Many have died and huge numbers of families have had to flee for their lives.

We pray for any family who has lost a loved one, or suffered as a result of those who want to stop Christians living in Nigeria. We pray for peace, acceptance and mutual respect between people of all faiths and none. Bring about a new era of love of neighbour in Nigeria this Advent. Lord, bless all those who work with, give donations to and offer prayers for ACN's work in Nigeria. We pray that the projects sponsored by ACN and other charities will continue under your care:

the emergency help for widows and orphans,

the workshops that promote understanding between people of different religions,

and the material help for Nigerian Christians in refugee camps.

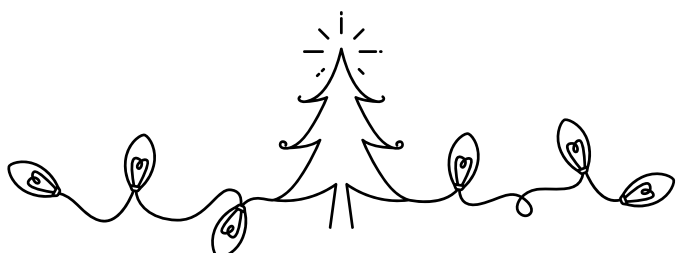
Father, bring about a time when this help is no longer needed. As we prepare for Christmas, may we be willing to consider others and give some time and energy for those who suffer.

THURSDAY - PRAYERS FOR MY FAMILY

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

In the silence bring to mind any troubled family relationships, family members who are sick and any difficult situation within my household.



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 PEACE IN UKRAINE

3 PRAYERS FOR ACN PROJECTS

4 PRAYERS FOR MY FAMILY & FRIENDS

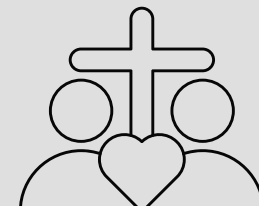
5 PRAYERS FOR ME

MONDAY - PRAYERS FOR THE WORLD

Grant me, O Lord my God, a mind to know you, a heart to seek you, wisdom to find you, conduct pleasing to you, faithful perseverance in waiting for you, and a hope of finally embracing you. Amen. (St Aquinas)



Grant to all people, O Lord my God, a mind to know your truth, a heart to see and serve you in others, wisdom to see that life with you is true freedom, faithful perseverance when you seem far away, and the hope for your kingdom of love to become a reality in every nation. Amen.



TUESDAY - PRAYERS FOR UKRAINE

We pray for those who have lost their lives in the violence and for those mourning their loss. We ask that lives may be spared and peace restored and those who want war will be changed this Advent.

Jesus, Prince of Peace: R/Hear our prayer.



Jesus, may you comfort those facing this war alone. Comfort the elderly, those separated from their families, all refugees, the sick, the injured and those who have lost hope. May they know your love this Christmas.

Jesus, Prince of Peace: R/Hear our prayer.

We pray for each person working to alleviate the suffering of another. Lord God, guide all those who have to make big decisions during this crisis and help us all to be selfless in our conduct.

Jesus, Prince of Peace: R/Hear our prayer.

FRIDAY - PRAYERS FOR MY OWN INTENTIONS

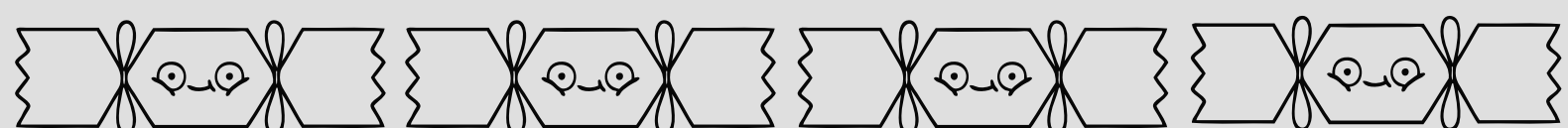
A time of silence for each person to offer to God whatever is on their heart.

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.

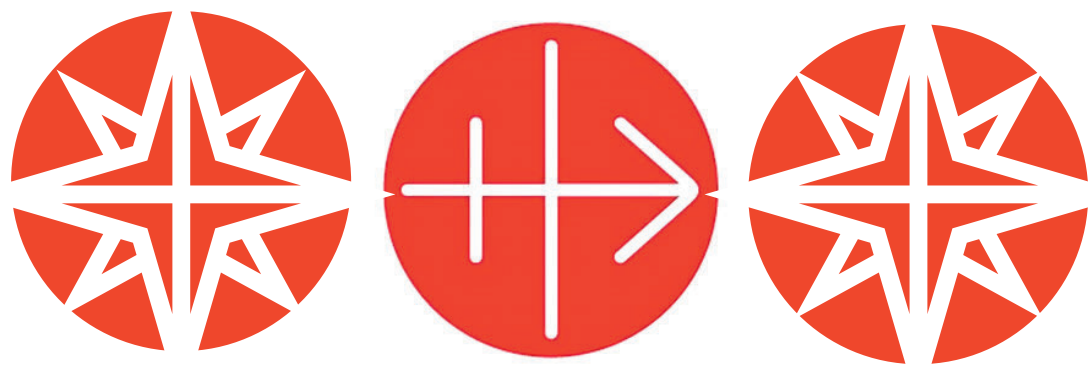
Stay with me, Lord, for you are my light, and without you, I am in darkness.

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



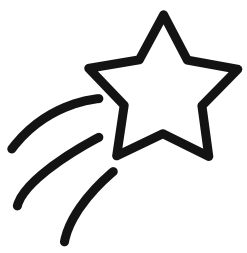
PRAYERS FOR ADVENT 2022



WEEK 3: GENERAL PRAYERS FOR THE WEEK



HOLY SPIRIT PRAYER OF ST AUGUSTINE
BREATHE IN ME, O HOLY SPIRIT,
THAT MY THOUGHTS MAY ALL BE HOLY.
ACT IN ME, O HOLY SPIRIT,
THAT MY WORK, TOO, MAY BE HOLY.
DRAW MY HEART, O HOLY SPIRIT,
THAT I LOVE BUT WHAT IS HOLY.
STRENGTHEN ME, O HOLY SPIRIT,
TO DEFEND ALL THAT IS HOLY.
GUARD ME, THEN, O HOLY SPIRIT,
THAT I ALWAYS MAY BE HOLY.



LORD, WE PRAY THAT YOU ENTER OUR WORLD, ESPECIALLY COMING TO THOSE WHO DO NOT RECOGNISE YOU. PLEASE FILL OUR HEARTS WITH ALL THAT IS HOLY, AS ST AUGUSTINE ASKED IN HIS PRAYER, AND GIVE US THE COURAGE TO SPEAK OF THE GOODNESS OF YOUR KINGDOM.

FATHER, WE KNOW THAT YOUR LOVE IS ALWAYS CREATIVE, WHILE EVIL IS ALWAYS DESTRUCTIVE. WE ASK YOU TO SEND THE HOLY SPIRIT WHO BROUGHT ORDER AT THE BEGINNING OF TIME, TO BRING YOUR CREATIVE LOVE AND ORDERLY WILL TO THE PLACES OF PANIC, FEAR, CHAOS AND DESTRUCTION. MAY WE BE PEOPLE WHO BUILD UP AND NEVER DESTROY.



WEDNESDAY - PRAYERS FOR SYRIA

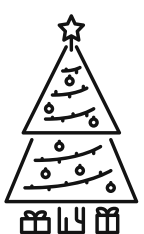
We pray for those who are suffering after the civil war in Syria. Please, Lord, may they receive what they need materially and emotionally. We ask you to bless all the elderly people there who are relying on our generosity to survive. We ask you to be with refugees everywhere and bring an end to their suffering. Lord, may you continue to pour out your love on the needy through the work of Sr Annie in Syria and all the sisters across the world who have given their whole lives to help others. Please help those who have no food to eat and no way of getting work. Through these prayers we make in faith, we ask you, Lord, to take away their pain. 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 all the families in Syria who will receive Christmas parcels this year.

THURSDAY - 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. Dear Lord, bless all our families and friendships this Christmas and let the stress of Christmas preparations and petty family arguments never overwhelm the celebrations.

"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 PEACE IN UKRAINE

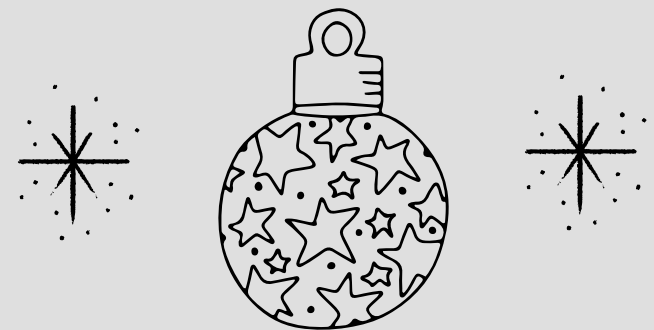
3 PRAYERS FOR ACN PROJECTS

4 PRAYERS FOR MY FAMILY & FRIENDS

5 PRAYERS FOR ME

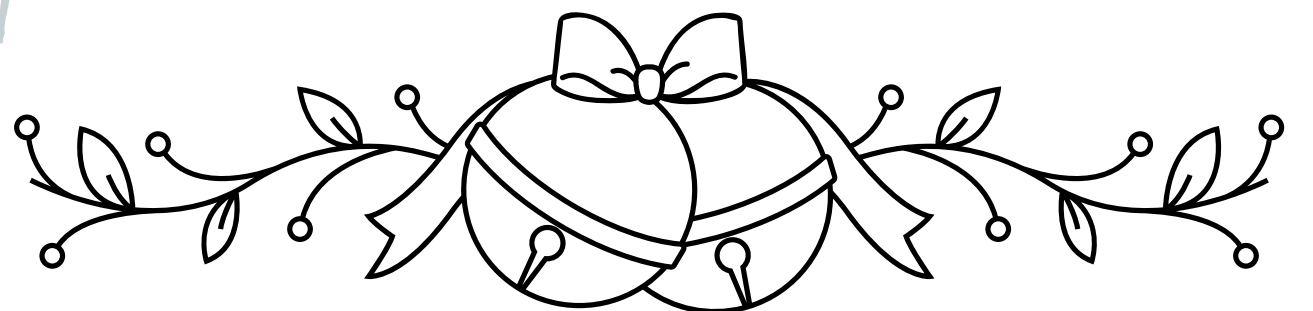
MONDAY - PRAYERS FOR THE WORLD

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 suffering, war and division in families. 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 - PRAYERS FOR UKRAINE

Lord God, when we walk amongst the evil in our world, we pray that you will always be with us. We pray for all those who are facing great danger now, especially those in Ukraine forced to leave everything behind. We pray also for those who have stayed to defend their cities, towns and villages. May St Michael protect them, and God be with their families and friends. Amen.



FRIDAY - PRAYERS FOR MY OWN INTENTIONS

A 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 of others and of the Church. Lord God, help me grow in love for you and 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.