

Advent Prayers & Blessings for the home



*May your home be filled with the gifts of
hope, peace, joy & love this Advent*

Parishioners across the diocese are invited to use these prayers and blessings in the home during Advent. Our prayer in Advent is 'Come, Lord Jesus'. In this holy season, we look forward to the Second Coming of Christ and we ready ourselves to celebrate His first coming at Christmas. But we are also invited to actively welcome Christ who comes to us everyday in the circumstances of our lives. In these busy weeks, may these prayers and blessings encourage people to rest in the true spirit of the season.

Pope Leo will close the Jubilee Year of Hope in Rome on January 6, the Feast of the Epiphany. In a world so much in need of hope, may this Advent season help us to welcome the Hope that already dwells within each human heart - the hope who is called Jesus Christ.

An Advent Wreath for the Home

We invite you to continue or start the tradition of having an Advent wreath in your home. The advent wreath has a rich meaning.

- The **circle** of the wreath, with no beginning or end, symbolises the eternity of God.
- The **evergreen** reminds us of the everlasting life we have in Christ while any pine cones or pods in the wreath represent new life and resurrection.
- The **four candles** represent the four Sundays of Advent. Purple is traditionally a colour of penance and prayer while the rose pink candle that is lit on the Third Sunday (Gaudete/Rejoice Sunday) marks our joy as we move ever closer to Christmas.
- Each Sunday in Advent we light another candle. As the winter grows darker, the **light** of the Advent wreath increases - reminding us that the light of Christ overcomes and dispels the darkness of our world.



As you light a candle on your Advent wreath for the first time, pray the prayer of blessing and take a moment to talk to God about how you will keep Advent this year alone or as a household. Finish your time of prayer with the Advent prayer: Come, Lord Jesus!



A Blessing of the Advent Wreath

Loving God,
let your blessing come upon us
as we light this wreath.
May it be a sign of hope for us
as we prepare for your coming
& may it turn our hearts to you
in the days ahead.
Give us & the world
your peace and love
as we await your coming
in joyful hope.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.
Come, Lord Jesus!





Advent Blessing Prayers

A Daily Prayer for Advent

Light a candle or the family advent wreath to begin this prayer.

Loving God,
as your light grows in the dark of winter,
bring its gifts of hope, peace, joy
and love to our world.

Just as you sent the star of Bethlehem
to lead the way to your Son,
guide us to follow your ways
of justice and peace.

As we remember the journey
of Mary and Joseph, may the Holy Family
be a source of courage for our family,
inspiring us to reach out in friendship
to all those in need.

Help us to see in the Christ child the one
who came to end all divisions,
who came to love us and be with us.

And may the Lord bless us
and keep us safe from all harm,
this Advent day and always. Amen.
Come, Lord Jesus.

Blessing of the Christmas Tree

Lord God,
let your blessing come upon this tree
and upon all who gather around it.

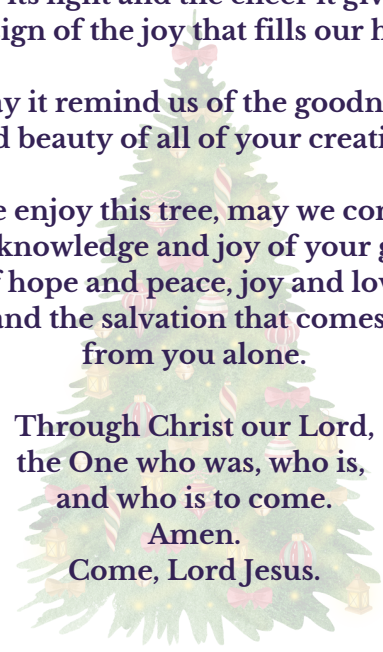
May its light and the cheer it gives us
be a sign of the joy that fills our hearts.

May it remind us of the goodness
and beauty of all of your creation.

As we enjoy this tree, may we come to
the knowledge and joy of your gifts
of hope and peace, joy and love,
and the salvation that comes
from you alone.

Through Christ our Lord,
the One who was, who is,
and who is to come.
Amen.

Come, Lord Jesus.



Blessing of the Family Christmas Crib

Gracious God, you created all things and all people,
and from the very beginning of creation
you have shown your love for us.
When our need for a Saviour was great
you sent your Son to be born of the Virgin Mary.
To our lives He brings hope, peace, joy, justice, mercy, and love.

Bless this crib, bless our family,
and bless all who will look upon this crib in the coming days;
may it remind us of the humble birth of Jesus,
and turn our thoughts to Him,
who is God-with-us, our Emmanuel, and the Saviour of all.

Amen.

Come, Lord Jesus.

