

# Advent Prayer (Year A)



This prayer resource is a series of five small group rituals. The rituals were designed to be used during the last week of the school year before the Christmas holidays. The readings are from the four Sundays of Advent (Year A) and the Christmas Mass.

## Preparation

The following items are needed for the small group rituals:

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| *Lectionary for Masses with Children* (or a good children’s bible): use the Year A readings for Advent. | book.jpg |
| Advent Wreath tableau: a small table; 4 candles (usually 3 mauve and 1 pink, but the colour is not really important); a circle of green leaves; and a blue or mauve coloured cloth. | AdventTableau.jpg |
| Advent Star basket: each child makes 4 stars (try using coloured card with glitter on the front side); a basket for the stars; markers for drawing on the back of the stars during the daily rituals.  The stars are stored in the basket until they are used. The basket can be placed on the floor near the wreath. | StarBasket.jpg |
| Christmas Tableau: Candle and crib on a white, silver or gold cloth.  The crib replaces the wreath for the prayer on Friday. The stars are put around the crib as gifts for Jesus during the Friday ritual. | ChristmasTableau(2).jpg |
| Music Suggestions:   * "I Light a Candle"  Andrew Chinn – *Butterfly Music* * "Shine" by Nancy Gordon and Jamie Harvill through *Integrity's* *Hosanna Music* * "Like a Candle" AOV Next Generation | CD-Player.jpg |

## Discussion Notes for the Readings

Us the following notes to prepare the students for the Advent Prayer. The text of the five small group rituals is on the following pages.

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| Monday: We give our hearts to Jesus [Romans 13:11-13](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans%2013&version=CEV)  St Paul advises his friends to live properly. He says that bad behaviour is like living in the dark and living a good life is like waking up and living in the light. |
| Tuesday: We make good choices for Jesus [Romans 15:4-6](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=romans%2015&version=CEV)  St Paul tells his friends to live by the advice in scripture, which encourages us to live peacefully with one another. |
| Wednesday: We follow the example of Jesus [James 5:7-10](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=james%205&version=CEV)  James encourages his friends to live good lives and to be patient while they wait and prepare for the Kingdom of God. |
| Thursday: We build the Kingdom with Jesus [Matthew 1:18-24](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=matt%201&version=CEV)  This gospel story describes how Jesus, born to Mary and Joseph, is the one sent by God to bring about the Kingdom of Heaven. In this story, Joseph shows that he is good and kind. An angel explains God’s plan to Joseph in a dream. Joseph believes what the angel tells him, that the child was given to Mary by God’s Spirit. Joseph loves Mary and marries her and he knows that this is all part of God’s plan. |
| Friday: Living in the light with Jesus [Luke 2:1-14](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke+2&version=CEV) *The birth of Jesus.*  Luke’s gospel tells the story of the birth of the Messiah from the family of King David. Jesus was born in a manger in Bethlehem, just as God promised.  The shepherds saw a bright light which told them that something wonderful had happened. Then they saw angels, who gave them a message from heaven. Their message was a blessing of peace! |

# Monday: We give our hearts to Jesus

## Introduction

Reader 1: We gather to pray during Advent. Advent is a time to prepare for Christmas when we celebrate the birth of Jesus. God has given us many gifts and the greatest of these is Jesus at Christmas. So during Advent we prepare our hearts to receive this gift from God. We have our wreath (point to the wreath) and our Advent Star Basket (hold up the basket), so now we are ready to pray:

Reader 2: Jesus we want to prepare our hearts and minds to celebrate your birthday. We want to give you presents. Help us to forget about ourselves for a while and think only of you and what we can offer you.

## Readings

Reader 3: In the Advent readings we are encouraged to ‘live by the light of the Lord.’ This means that we should live good lives and live in peace with one another.

Reader 4: In the second reading, St Paul advises his friends to live properly. He says that bad behaviour is like living in the dark and living a good life is like waking up and living in the light.

Reader 5: A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans

(see the *Lectionary for Masses with Children* – First Sunday of Advent (Year A) Second Reading - Romans 13:11-13)

## Action response to the readings

(play quiet music)

Reader 5: Jesus, our gifts to you do not cost money, but we offer our hearts and our actions by being kind and living peacefully with everyone around us.

Reader 6: (hold up a star) These stars are going to be our gifts to Jesus. On your first star draw a heart and make a promise to Jesus to be kind to everyone at home and at school today. (allow time to draw) Hold up your star as we light our first candle.

(light the candle)

All: Jesus our light, we offer you our gifts. These stars are our promises to live in God’s light by caring for each other and caring for our natural environment.

Reader 7: Now place your stars on the floor around the wreath (allow time to place stars). Every day this week we will put our stars around the wreath and on Friday they will become our Christmas gift to Jesus.

## Sign of Peace & conclusion

Reader 8: Let us offer each other a sign of peace.

(Sing an Advent hymn – see suggestions above)

Reader 9: Jesus our light, help us to remember our promises to live good lives. We ask this in Jesus’ name.

All: Amen

# Tuesday: We make good choices for Jesus

## Introduction

Reader 1: We gather during this Advent time to prepare for Christmas. At Christmas we celebrate the birth of Jesus. God has given us many gifts and the greatest of these is Jesus at Christmas. We have our wreath (point) and our Advent Star Basket (hold up), so now we are ready to pray:

Reader 2: Jesus we want to prepare our hearts and minds to celebrate your birthday. We want to give you presents. Help us to forget about ourselves for a while and think only of you and what we can offer you.

## Readings

Reader 3: In the Advent readings we hear how God sent Jesus to teach us how to live in peace.

Reader 4: In the second reading, St Paul encourages us to be patient and cheerful.

Reader 5: A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans

(see the *Lectionary for Masses with Children* – Second Sunday of Advent (Year A) Second Reading – Romans 15:4-6)

## Action response to the readings

(play quiet music)

Reader 6: Jesus, our gifts to you do not cost money, but we offer our hearts and our actions by being kind and living peacefully with everyone around us.

Reader 7: (hold up a star) On your second star draw another heart. While you are drawing think of a time when you made a bad choice and you were mean to someone. Now make a good choice and promise Jesus that you will be kind to everyone you meet today. (allow time to draw) Now hold up your star as we light our second candle.

(light the candle)

All: Jesus our light, we offer you our gifts. These stars are our promises to live in God’s light by caring for each other and caring for our natural environment.

Reader 8: Now place your stars around the wreath as an offering to Jesus.

## Sign of Peace & conclusion

Reader 9: Let us offer each other a sign of peace.

(Sing an Advent hymn – see suggestions above)

Reader 10: Jesus our light, help us to remember our promises to live good lives. We ask this in Jesus’ name.

All: Amen

# Wednesday: We follow the example of Jesus

## Introduction

Reader 1: We gather during this Advent time to prepare for Christmas. At Christmas we celebrate the birth of Jesus. God has given us many gifts and the greatest of these is Jesus at Christmas. We have our wreath (point) and our Advent Star Basket (hold up), so now we are ready to pray:

Reader 2: Jesus we want to prepare our hearts and minds to celebrate your birthday. We want to give you presents. Help us to forget about ourselves for a while and think only of you and what we can offer you.

## Readings

Reader 3: In the Advent readings we hear what life will be like in the Kingdom of God: there will be no sickness, death or poverty and people will be happy.

Reader 4: In the second reading, James asks us to live good lives, to be patient and not to grumble about each other.

Reader 5: A reading from the letter of James

(see the *Lectionary for Masses with Children* – Third Sunday of Advent (Year A) Second Reading - James 5:7-10)

## Action response to the readings

(play quiet music)

Reader 6: Jesus, our gifts to you do not cost money, but we offer our hearts and our actions by being kind and living peacefully with everyone around us.

Reader 7: (hold up a star) On your third star draw another heart and while you are drawing think about Jesus who treated everyone as special, even people he did not like. Make a promise to follow the example of Jesus and to be kind to everyone today, even those who are not your friends. (allow time to draw) Hold up your star as we light the third candle.

(light the candle)

All: Jesus our light, we offer you our gifts. These stars are our promises to live in God’s light by caring for each other and caring for our natural environment.

Reader 8: Now place your stars around the wreath as an offering to Jesus.

## Sign of Peace & conclusion

Reader 9: Let us offer each other a sign of peace.

(Sing an Advent hymn – see suggestions above)

Reader 10: Jesus our light, help us to remember our promises to live good lives. We ask this in Jesus’ name.

All: Amen

# Thursday: We build the Kingdom with Jesus

## Introduction

Reader 1: We gather during this Advent time to prepare for Christmas. At Christmas we celebrate the birth of Jesus. God has given us many gifts and the greatest of these is Jesus at Christmas. We have our wreath (point) and our Advent Star Basket (hold up), so now we are ready to pray:

Reader 2: Jesus we want to prepare our hearts and minds to celebrate your birthday. We want to give you presents. Help us to forget about ourselves for a while and think only of you and what we can offer you.

## Readings

Reader 3: In the Advent readings we hear that Jesus is truly God’s chosen one.

Reader 4: In the gospel reading, we hear how God sent an angel to tell Joseph about Jesus. Joseph shows that he is a good man, who is wise and kind. Joseph accepts the task that God gives him. His task is to help Mary raise Jesus so that Jesus can complete God’s plan to build the Kingdom on earth.

Reader 5: A reading from the gospel of Luke

(see the *Lectionary for Masses with Children* – Fourth Sunday of Advent (Year A) Gospel – Matthew 1:18-24)

## Action response to the readings

(play quiet music)

Reader 6: Jesus, our gifts to you do not cost money, but we offer our hearts and our actions by being kind and living peacefully with everyone around us.

Reader 7: Draw another heart on your fourth star, but this time write your name inside the heart. While you are writing and drawing, make a promise to help Jesus build up the Kingdom by living peacefully with everyone and caring for the natural environment. (allow time to draw) Hold up your star as we light the fourth candle.

(light the candle)

All: Jesus our light, we offer you our gifts. These stars are our promises to live in God’s light by caring for each other and caring for our natural environment.

Reader 8: Now place your stars around the wreath as an offering to Jesus.

## Sign of Peace & conclusion

Reader 9: Let us offer each other a sign of peace.

(Sing an Advent hymn – see suggestions above)

Reader 10: Jesus our light, help us to remember our promises to live good lives. We ask this in Jesus’ name.

All: Amen

# Friday: Living in the light with Jesus

## Introduction

Reader 1: We gather to pray in preparation for Christmas before we leave school. We know that on Christmas Day Jesus was born in Bethlehem. Jesus is the greatest of all the gifts that God has given us.

Reader 2: Jesus we want to prepare our hearts and minds to celebrate your birthday. We want to give you presents. Help us to forget about ourselves for a while and think only of you and what we can offer you.

## Readings

Reader 3: In the Christmas readings we hear how God sent his chosen one as a child. This child is Jesus, the bright light who shows us the way to live and who gives us a new beginning.

Reader 4: Luke tells us about the birth of Jesus in a manger in Bethlehem. The shepherds, who were in the fields near the manger, saw some angels who gave them a message of peace.

Reader 5: A reading from the gospel of Luke

(see the *Lectionary for Masses with Children* – Christmas (Year A) Gospel – Luke 2:1-14)

## Action response to the readings

(play quiet music)

Reader 6: Jesus, we have made these stars for you. They are our promises to live life properly - to live in God’s light by being kind and caring with everyone.

(hold up the star basket)

Reader 7: As we light our Christmas candle, we bring you all our gifts, Jesus – our promises.

(light the candle)

All: Jesus, we promise to help you build God’s Kingdom of light by caring for each other and caring for our natural environment.

Reader 8: Now place your stars around the crib as an offering to Jesus.

## Sign of Peace & conclusion

Reader 9: Let us offer each other a sign of peace.

(Sing an Advent hymn - see suggestions above - or an appropriate Christmas carol)

Reader 10: Jesus our light, help us to remember our promises to live good lives. We ask this in Jesus’ name.

All: Amen



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| *Advent Prayer*  was produced by ResourceLink @ Brisbane Catholic Education in 2010.  Text, graphics & layout: Dr Jenny Close  Music suggestions: Peter Olley |  |

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