

A BLESSING FOR THE ADVENT WREATH



Use appropriate music for this short Prayer time.

(Advent Song; Grow in Love Senior Infants, First Class, Reflective Music; (All classes) Prepare Ye (Grow in Love Second Class)

INTRODUCTION

Advent, the four weeks before Christmas, is a time of preparation, waiting and hope. In Advent, the prophets and John the Baptist tell us that the Saviour is near. Advent is a time when we wait, and wonder and hope. It is also a time when we pray.

Let us listen to the words of Isaiah, the prophet:

A READING FROM THE PROPHET ISAIAH 9:1-2

The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light; on those who lived in a land as dark as death a light has dawned. You have increased their joy and given them gladness; They rejoice in your presence as those who rejoice at harvest, as warriors exult when dividing the spoils.

THE ADVENT WREATH

As our nights grow longer and our days grow short, we look on these earthly signs — light and green branches — and remember God's promise to our world: Christ, our Light and our Hope, will come.

LET US PRAY

O God, rejoicing, we remember the promise of your Son.

We ask you to bless this wreath.

May it remind us always of the coming of Jesus at Christmas.

As the light from the candles on this wreath increase,

So may the light of Christ grow stronger and brighter in our hearts.

May the blessing of Christ come upon us, Brightening our way and guiding us by his truth.

May Christ our Saviour bring life into the darkness of our world, and to us, As we wait for his coming.

We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen

The youngest child in the school (with some assistance) lights the first purple candle.

LET US PRAY

Lord God, we light this candle to thank you for your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ, Who is the light of the world.

We, who have sat in darkness, have seen a great light, The light of Jesus Christ, our salvation.



We give you thanks and praise in Jesus' name,
Because he lives and reigns with you in your glory,
and in the unity of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

At the Saviour's command and formed by divine teaching, we pray:



Our Father, who art in heaven....

LET US PRAY

God our Father, our school community has begun our Advent preparation. Be with us as we learn more about this holy time of year. May we watch in prayer, may we listen in hope, may our hearts be filled with wonder and may we praise you always. We ask this and all our prayers through Christ, our Lord. Amen