

Advent Prayer Week One



The Circle

Loreto Prayer for Advent

Week 1 | The Circle

The 2021 Loreto Justice Network's Advent prayers attempt to link the Sunday readings, the symbolic richness of the Advent wreath and the Province's justice priorities. Today we pray with the eternal symbol of the circle.

Gathering Acclamations

We gather on the land of the (Wurundjeri) people,
listening to all creation with hearts and souls,
imaginations and intelligence.

We gather during this summery Advent season,
lengthening days to linger in love,
savouring time to pause, ponder and pray,

We gather as friends of Jesus, Mary Ward and Teresa Ball,
opening our bodies to the beauty and brokenness of our world,
and to one another, our circle of friends.

We gather as one Institute, many parts of one body,
desiring freedom, justice and integrity,
fostering felicity across these days of endings and festivity.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

As the first candle is lit ...

O God of infinite mystery,
your presence encircles us in love.
May this simple circle open our hearts to the possibility of this season.

Scripture

Use all or part of Sunday's Liturgy of the Word:

Jeremiah 33:14-16

Psalm 25

1 Thessalonians 3:12-4:2

Luke 21:25-28, 34-36

Suggested: Second Reading from St Paul

Sisters and brothers:

*May the Lord make you increase and abound in love
for one another and for all,
just as we have for you;
so as to strengthen your hearts,
to be blameless in holiness before our God and Father
at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his holy ones. Amen.*

*Finally, brothers and sisters,
we earnestly ask and exhort you in the Lord Jesus that,
as you received from us
how you should conduct yourselves to please God,
and as you are conducting yourselves
you do so even more.*

For you know what instructions we gave you through the Lord Jesus.



Visual Meditation

[View Susan Daily's visual meditation](#) exploring the power of the symbol of the circle.

Here is the text used in the visual meditation for further pondering:

The Circle

Wreaths are for welcoming!
Adorning doors of homes, inviting guests to enter in a spirit of festivity.
As we begin the Season of Advent, we prepare our wreaths,
our homes and our hearts.

A wreath is a circle; timeless symbol of unity and inclusivity.
The circle of life!
Our circle of friends!
God; neither beginning nor end.

*Is a circle too perfect?
Does our circle include or exclude?
How can our circle expand this Advent?*

Our desire is to shape a circle ever-wider:
welcoming our own strengths and struggles, wonder and weakness,
welcoming those who are different to us,
welcoming the wisdom of our land,
welcoming those fleeing violence, persecution and oppression,
welcoming those ignored by our world.

Wreaths are for welcoming!
Welcome to Advent!

*May the Lord make you increase and abound in love
for one another and for all, just as we have for you.*

Advent 1

2nd Reading from St Paul



Space

A period of silence and/or an opportunity to pray or share an insight.

Prayers of the People

(based on the Province's justice priorities)

For our church, that we might bring Good News to all and open our circle to all who are estranged.

Let us pray to the Lord: All: Gracious God, hear our prayer.

For our indigenous sisters and brothers,
that respect, reconciliation and reparation be poured out by our nation.
May our network accept the invitation from Aunty Sherry Balcombe to move from awareness-raising to action.

Let us pray to the Lord: All: Gracious God, hear our prayer.

For a deepening of our commitment to our global anti-trafficking stance.
May our Christmas giving be marked by conscious choices that respect the rights of our earth, children and those trafficked for labour.

Let us pray to the Lord: All: Gracious God, hear our prayer.

For our MWIA partners as they 'create just and sustainable change with women, children and communities.' This week we pray with our friends in Kenya, South Sudan and Zambia.

Let us pray to the Lord: All: Gracious God, hear our prayer.

For our entire cosmos, that the interconnection of all created things be honoured and celebrated.

Let us pray to the Lord: All: Gracious God, hear our prayer.

Other prayers may be offered ...



Blessing

(Adapted from a text by Henri Nouwen)

Lord Jesus,
you are both the light and the darkness.

Send your Holy Spirit upon our preparations for Christmas.

We, who have so much to do, seek quiet spaces to hear your
voice each day.

We, who are anxious over many things, look forward to your
coming among us.

We, who are blessed in so many ways, long for the complete joy
of your kingdom.

We, whose hearts are heavy, seek the joy of your presence.

We, who feel the pain of injustice, long for harmony across
all creation.

We are your people, walking in darkness, yet seeking the light.

To you we say,

Come Lord Jesus! ... Mai Nai Jesus ... Halika panginoong hesus ...

Lạy Chúa Giê-su, xin hãy đến!

Amen.