

Advent Prayer Week Two



The Greenery

Loreto Prayer for Advent

Week 2 | The Greenery

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 freshness of our wreath's greenery.

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 two purple candles are lit ...

O God of infinite mystery,
your presence fills us with life and hope.
May these green branches remind us of the freshness of your Good News and
open our hearts to the possibility of this season.

Scripture

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

Baruch 5:1-9

Psalms 126

Philemon 1:4-6, 8-11

Luke 3:1-6



Suggested Reading First reading from Baruch

Jerusalem, take off your robe of mourning and misery;
put on the splendour of glory from God forever:
wrapped in the cloak of justice from God,
bear on your head the mitre
that displays the glory of the eternal name.
For God will show all the earth your splendour:
you will be named by God forever
the peace of justice, the glory of God's worship.

Up, Jerusalem! stand upon the heights;
look to the east and see your children
gathered from the east and the west
at the word of the Holy One,
rejoicing that they are remembered by God.
Led away on foot by their enemies they left you:
but God will bring them back to you
borne aloft in glory as on royal thrones.
For God has commanded
that every lofty mountain be made low,
and that the age-old depths and gorges
be filled to level ground,
that Israel may advance secure in the glory of God.
The forests and every fragrant kind of tree
have overshadowed Israel at God's command;
for God is leading Israel in joy
by the light of his glory,
with his mercy and justice for company.

Visual Meditation

[View Susan Daily's visual meditation](#) and explore the power of the symbol of the branch's greenery.



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

The Greenery

Wreaths are alive and green!
Boughs bent and entwined; shaping simple beauty and form.
As we move into the Second Week of Advent, we delight in all living things
created by our God of abundance.

Foliage is fresh now, withering with time.
Sap still rises at this tired time of year.
Earth is dusted with jacaranda, agapanthus and Christmas bush.
God; root, trunk, branches, leaves and oxygen!
Life!

*Where do I find life and hope?
How do I green our world?
How can I ... we ... help green triumph over greed?*

Our desire is to breathe life into our world:
greening our hearts and homes,
greening our communities and churches,
greening our neighbourhoods and nations,
greening our planet, our poor, our purpose,
fostering shoots from Jesse's tree.

Greenery, a sign of all things good!
Bloom along our Advent journey!

*For God will show all the earth your splendour:
you will be named by God forever
the peace of justice, the glory of God's worship.*

*Advent 2
1st Reading from Baruch*



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 reclaim the freshness of the Gospel and engage with the Pope's Laudato Si Action Plan,

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 India, Vietnam and Timor Leste.

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.