

FAMILY PRAYERS FOR ADVENT from Waterford & Lismore Diocese

Come, Lord Jesus and make your home in this family that you have created with love.

Be the joy in every heart.

Be the strength for those who are poor.

Be the light for those in darkness.

Be the peace for those who live in fear.

Come, Lord Jesus and teach us how to love one another.

Come Lord Jesus, bless our family and all its members and friends.

Bind us together with your love.

Come Lord Jesus, and heal the world from Covid-19 that is currently in our midst.

Give us kindness and patience to support each other.

Let the gift of your peace come into our hearts and remain with us.

May we rejoice in all the blessings that you have given to us.

Come Lord Jesus. Amen.

God of hope, I await your presence

Enter into my heart.

Enter into my mind.

Enter into the hearts of those I love.

Enter into the hearts of those who are lonely at this time.

Enter into the hearts of those who are homeless.

Enter into the hearts of those who are ill.

God of hope, I await your presence

Lord, the day is drawing near

when the birth of your Son will make radiant the night
of the waiting world.

May his quiet coming fill us with true peace.

As we look forward to the birthday of Christ,

may we celebrate his love with a new sense of love for each other.

Father in heaven, our minds and hearts are filled with hope.

Bless those who are less fortunate than we are at this moment.

Bless those who are homeless, who are hungry, and those people who witness poverty every day, in our own country and in the developing world.

May we be blessed during this special time.

Amen.

Lord, the day is drawing near when the birth of your Son will make radiant the night of the waiting world.

May his quiet coming fill us with true peace.

As we look forward to the birthday of Christ,
may we celebrate his love with a new sense of love for each other.

Father in heaven, our minds and hearts are filled with hope.

Bless those who are less fortunate than we are at this moment.

Bless those who are homeless, who are hungry, and those people who witness poverty every day, in our own country and in the developing world.

Bless the sick and comfort the dying.

May we be filled with peace during this special time of waiting. Amen.

Prayers for Christmas time

Putting up the Christmas Tree

When the tree has been prepared, the household gathers around it. All make the Sign of the Cross.

This tree is a blessing to our home. It reminds us of all that is beautiful, all that is filled with the gentleness and the promise of God. It stands in our midst as a tree of light, that we might promise such beauty to one another and to our world. It stands like that tree of paradise that God made into the tree of life, the cross of Jesus.

God of all creation,

we praise you for this tree which brings beauty and memories and the promise of life to our home.

May your blessing be upon all who gather around this tree, all who keep the Christmas festival by its lights.

We wait for the coming of the Christ, the days of everlasting justice and of peace.

You are our God, living and reigning, for ever and ever.

R. Amen.

The lights of the tree are then turned on.

Christmas Tree Prayer

Dear God, two thousand years ago, you brought your son, Jesus into this world to teach us the power of love and sacrifice. As we raise this tree, we remember his birth and the meaning of his life for us. Bless this tree as a symbol of our celebration of Jesus' birth and our gratitude for his sacrifice. May the joy this tree brings and the gifts we place under it remind us of the many gifts you have given us. We ask your blessings upon our loved ones, this day and always. Amen.

BLESSING OF THE CHRISTMAS TREE

Bless, O Lord, this Christmas tree,
all that goes on to it and all that goes around it.
May the needles that point upwards
lead us to worship the Creator
who came from heaven to be born as a child.
May the needles that fall to the ground
remind us of the needs of the poor and homeless
and those who seem to be at the bottom of the social pile.
May the decorations that brighten this dark winter season,
in the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic,
prompt us to celebrate it with thoughtfulness and joy.

A Grace before Christmas Dinner

Lord Jesus, born in Bethlehem on the first Christmas day:
welcome to this meal with us as we gather around the table.

We thank you for the food that is provided and we give thanks to you
for those who have prepared this meal.

We know your love in our hearts today.

We remember those who are homeless and may not have food or
someone to share a Christmas meal with.

Take them into your loving care.

We ask your blessing on those who are suffering as a result of the
current pandemic in our world.

Keep us safe O Lord. Amen.

Prayer for Putting Away Christmas Decorations

Lord Jesus, today we have put all of our Christmas decorations away.
We are entering into Ordinary Time, and our house looks “ordinary”
again, too.

But Lord, You know and we know that our house has a secret. Deep
inside it, all of our Christmas decorations are still here. The blessing of
Christmas is always with us, kept in the deep, quiet places of the house.

And Lord, our lives will become ordinary again, too, but You know that
each of us has the grace of baptism. The grace you gave us is always
with us, in the deep, quiet places of our soul.

May we live the grace of Christmas every day, only without all the
trappings: may we always give generously, receive gifts gratefully,
welcome others, and study your life.

Make our house be a home with Christmas at its core, and our souls a
home where Jesus always dwells. Amen.