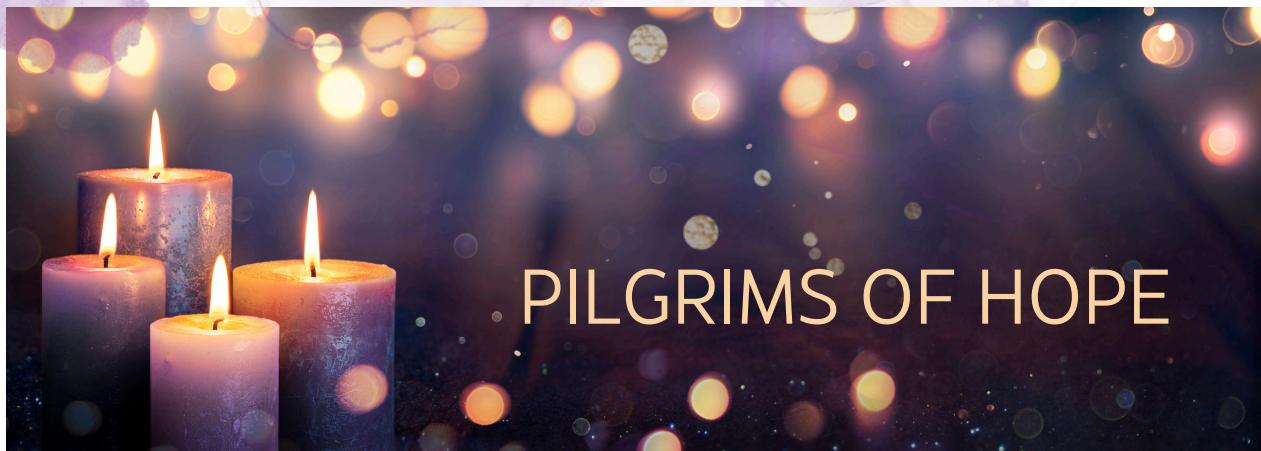


# Advent Prayers & Blessings for the home



*May your home be filled with the gifts of  
hope, peace, joy & love this Advent.*

Parishioners across the diocese are invited to draw on these blessings and prayers in the home during Advent. This season is full of expectation and anticipation. We look forward to the second coming of Christ and we ready ourselves to remember and celebrate the first coming of the Son of God at Christmas. In these busy weeks, we hope these prayers and blessings can help people to rest in the true spirit of the season.

A central message in Advent is HOPE. Hope is the person of Jesus who lived and died for us, and who walks with us in every experience of our lives. Pope Francis will open a Jubilee Year of Hope at Christmas. In a world so much in need of hope, may this Advent season help us to welcome the Hope that dwells within each human heart, the hope who is called Jesus Christ.

## An Advent Wreath for the Home

We invite you to continue or start the tradition of having an Advent wreath in your home. The advent wreath has a rich meaning.

- The **circle** of the wreath, with no beginning or end, symbolises the eternity of God.
- The **evergreen** reminds us of the everlasting life we have in Christ while any pine cones or pods in the wreath represent new life and resurrection.
- The **four candles** represent the four Sundays of Advent. Purple is traditionally a colour of penance and prayer while the rose pink candle that is lit on the Third Sunday (Gaudete/Rejoice Sunday) marks our joy as we move ever closer to Christmas.
- Each Sunday in Advent we light another candle. As the winter grows darker, the **light** of the Advent wreath increases - reminding us that the light of Christ overcomes and dispels the darkness of our world.



As you light a candle on your Advent wreath for the first time, pray this prayer of blessing and take a moment to talk to God about how you will journey through Advent this year alone or as a household. Finish your time of prayer with the Advent prayer:  
Come, Lord Jesus!

## A Blessing of the Advent Wreath

Loving God,  
let your blessing come upon us  
as we light this wreath.  
May it be a sign of hope for us  
as we prepare for your coming  
& may it turn our hearts to you  
in the days ahead.  
Give us & the world  
your peace and love  
as we wait in joyful hope.  
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.  
Come, Lord Jesus!





## Advent Blessing Prayers

### *A Daily Prayer for Advent*

*A family member can light a candle  
or the family advent wreath to begin this prayer*

**Loving God,**

as your light grows in the dark of winter,  
bring its strength and its hope  
to all people who suffer through war and conflict,  
povety and injustice.

Just as you sent the star of Bethlehem  
to lead the way to your Son,  
guide all people - leaders and citizens –  
to follow your ways of peace and justice.  
As we remember the difficult journey  
of Mary and Joseph,  
may the Holy Family be a source  
of courage for each of us,  
helping us to reach out in friendship  
to all in need in this world and in our community.

Help us to see in the Christ-child  
we welcome this Christmas,  
the one who who came to bring an end to all  
divisions and injustice.

Through Christ our Lord. Amen.  
And may the Lord bless us, keep us safe,  
and fill us with hope  
this Advent day and always. Amen.  
Come, Lord Jesus.

### *Blessing of the Christmas Tree*

**Lord God,**  
let your blessing come upon this tree  
and upon those who gather around it.

May its light  
and the cheer it gives us  
be a sign of the joy  
that fills our hearts.

May it remind us of the goodness  
and beauty of all of your creation.

As we enjoy this tree  
may we come to  
the knowledge and joy  
of the Christmas gifts  
of hope and peace, joy and love,  
and the salvation that comes  
from you alone. Amen.  
Come, Lord Jesus.



### *Blessing of the Family Christmas Crib*



**God of all people,**  
from the very beginning of creation  
you have shown us your love:  
when our need for a Saviour was great  
you sent your Son  
to be born of the Virgin Mary.

To our lives He brings hope, peace, joy, justice, mercy, and love.

Lord, bless this crib, bless our family,  
and bless all who will look upon this crib in the coming days;  
may it remind us of the humble birth of Jesus, and turn our thoughts to Him,  
who is God-with-us, our Emmanuel,  
and the Saviour of all. Amen.  
Come, Lord Jesus.