

The background of the top section is a photograph of a lit red candle in an advent wreath, with soft bokeh lights in the background. The text 'Advent Wreath' is written in a white, elegant script font, and 'PRAYERS' is in a white, bold, sans-serif font below it.

Advent Wreath

PRAYERS

First Sunday of Advent (Year B)

The Advent Wreath

Adapted by Angela McCarthy and Kerry Willison

Introduction

(This would usually be read on the first Sunday of Advent)

Within the four weeks of the Advent season, the Church's liturgy draws attention to different facets of how God's plan has been revealed in Christ, is now revealed in every Mass we celebrate, and that Christ will be revealed in all his glory at the end of time.

For each Sunday of Advent, we take our focus for the Advent Wreath from our Advent traditions. Like the people of the Old Testament we live in hope for the fullness of the revelation of Christ the Messiah when he will come in glory to judge the living and the dead. This year we will also anticipate and pray for the process and outcomes of the Plenary Council.

The Advent Wreath Responsory often replaces the Penitential Act and therefore leads into the Opening Prayer.

Presider:

The Presider blesses the wreath and the assembly with the sprinkling of holy water, using these or similar words:

May the sprinkling of this water remind all of us gathered here of our first sharing in the grace of baptism. During this time of Advent may we prepare for the Lord's coming with open hearts and minds. May this wreath be a symbol to us of this time of prayerful watching and waiting for the coming of the Lord, and a symbol of faith in the power of the Holy Spirit as we anticipate the fruits of the Plenary Council.

The Presider, or an assistant, lights the first candle, which is often named the Prophets' Candle as the prophets prepared the way for the future coming of the Messiah.

V. Lord Jesus, your coming was proclaimed by the prophets of old. The Prophet Isaiah proclaimed to the people that we are the work of God's hands; we are the clay, God is the potter (First Reading). Mould us in your image as we walk together the pilgrimage of the Plenary Council.

R. Come, Lord Jesus.

V. Lord Jesus, we believe you come among us now. St Paul declares that the Spirit will keep us steady until the last day (Second Reading). May our hearts be centered on listening to the Holy Spirit throughout the Plenary Council journey.

R. Come, Lord Jesus.

V. Lord Jesus, you will come again in glory. You ask us to 'stay awake!' (Gospel). May we be awake and ready to hear the movement of the Spirit in the world around us.

R. Come, Lord Jesus.

Presider [*Collect: First Sunday of Advent*]

Grant your faithful, we pray, Almighty God,
the resolve to run forth to meet your Christ
with righteous deeds at his coming,
so that gathered at your right hand,
they may be worthy to possess the heavenly Kingdom,
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your son who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God for ever and ever.

R. Amen

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Advent Wreath

PRAYERS

Second Sunday of Advent (Year B)

Presider:

The Presider, or an assistant, lights the second candle, which can be named the John the Baptist Candle. John the Baptist was the one who prepared the way for the Lord.

V. Lord Jesus, your coming was proclaimed by the prophet Isaiah who described you as a 'shepherd feeding his flock, gathering the lambs in his arms' (First Reading). The Plenary Council invites us to be a Humble, Healing and Merciful community. Like the shepherd may we be people with arms outstretched in love.

R. Come, Lord Jesus.

V. Lord Jesus, you will come again. St Peter reminds us to live holy and saintly lives while we wait and long for the Day of God to come (Second Reading). Waiting can be filled with anxiety. The unexpected can be frightening. Help us to live in the Spirit always.

R. Come, Lord Jesus.

V. Lord Jesus, you call us to baptism in the Holy Spirit (Gospel). Be with us as we 'Listen to what the Spirit is saying' throughout the journey of the Plenary Council.

R. Come, Lord Jesus.

Presider [*Collect: Second Sunday of Advent*]

Almighty and merciful God,
may no earthly undertaking hinder those who set out in haste to meet your Son,
but may our learning of heavenly wisdom gain us admittance to his company.
Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the
Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

R. Amen

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Advent Wreath

PRAYERS

Third Sunday of Advent (Year B)

Presider:

The Presider, or an assistant light the third candle, which can be named the Saints' Candle to call to mind all the saints who share the life of Christ by being baptised into his Body the Church.

V. Lord Jesus, your coming was foretold by the prophet Isaiah who cried with joy, for God clothes us in the garments of salvation (First Reading). As a joyful, hope-filled Servant Community may our hearts be filled with gratitude for the many gifts God has given us.

R. Come, Lord Jesus.

V. Lord Jesus, you come among us now as the light of the world. St Paul urges us to be happy at all times and to pray constantly (Second Reading). May the joy of the Lord be in our hearts as we journey together, listening to what the Spirit is saying to the Church of Australia.

R. Come, Lord Jesus.

V. Lord Jesus, you sent John the Baptist to be a witness for the light (Gospel). Like John the Baptist may we be witnesses to the power of Jesus and be people open to Conversion and Renewal in the Church of Australia.

R. Come, Lord Jesus.

Presider [*Collect: Third Sunday of Advent*]

O God, who sees how your people faithfully await the feast of the Lord's Nativity, enable us, we pray, to attain the joys of so great a salvation and to celebrate them always with solemn worship and glad rejoicing.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your son,
Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

R. Amen

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Advent Wreath

PRAYERS

Fourth Sunday of Advent (Year B)

Presider:

The Presider, or an assistant, lights the fourth candle, which is often named the Angel Gabriel Candle for those messengers who bring God's Word into our world.

V. Lord Jesus, you established the house of David to be secure forever and from which the Saviour would be born (First Reading). Jesus is the cornerstone. We are a Christ-Centred Church.

R. Come, Lord Jesus.

V. Lord Jesus, you alone are wisdom and as St Paul declares, you will give us the strength to live the Gospel (Second Reading). By living a prayerful life centred on the Eucharist may we open ourselves to your wisdom and the Spirit working in the community of the Church.

R. Come, Lord Jesus.

V. Lord Jesus, you sent the angel Gabriel to give the good news to Mary so that she would bring Jesus into the world through the power of the Spirit (Gospel). Giving birth is painful. Change can be frightening. Mary trusted in God and let herself be led by the Holy Spirit so that we can say:

R. Come, Lord Jesus.

Presider [*Collect: Fourth Sunday of Advent*]

Pour forth, we beseech you, O Lord, your grace into our hearts,
that we, to whom the incarnation of Christ your Son
was made known by the message of an Angel,
may by his Passion and Cross
be brought to the glory of his resurrection.
Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever.

R. Amen

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