

Blessing of the Advent Wreath

This ritual can be used in the classroom during a prayer service or at a school assembly and can also be adapted for use at the beginning of a school Mass during Advent

Opening Hymn: Advent Hymn (Alive-O 5 p. 114)

Leader

God our Father, when we look at our Advent wreath we see its evergreen leaves. They remind us that, through the birth of your Son, Jesus Christ, and through our Baptism in Christ, we have a path to the everlasting life of God who loves us. Each week as we light the different coloured candles we remember that you are the light of the world, especially at this, the darkest time of the year. Bless our Advent wreath and bless us as we journey through Advent. May your light guide us on our way.

All: Amen

A child may then be invited to bless the wreath with Holy Water.

Leader

Bless all of us in this class/school as we journey together through Advent, waiting in joyful hope for the coming of your Son, Jesus.

All: Amen

Lighting of Candles

Leader

In our winter darkness our Advent candle lights the way. God is with us we light our candle. We know that God is with us at all times. We know that God was with us in the brightness of the summer and the freshness of spring. We know that God was with in the golden colours of autumn. We know that God is with us now this winter.

Children are now invited to say the following as they light each candle

Lighting of First Candle

Come Lord Jesus light of the world and grant us peace

Lighting of second candle

Come Lord Jesus light of the world and bring us hope

Lighting of third candle

Come Lord Jesus light of the world and give us your love

Lighting of fourth candle

Lord Jesus you are with us. Help us to share your peace, hope and love with each other and the world

All: Our Father.....

Final Hymn: Mary's Lullaby Alive-O 5 p. 138

