

When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, 'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb'.

Luke 1:41-42

God creates each human being to be the centre of a new world that is his or her story, a whole world in miniature, a microcosm. In this sense every human being is irreplaceable. The dignity of each human being is founded on his or her creation in the image and likeness of God.

Cherishing Life 39.

God has brought gladness and light to the world through the Virgin Mary's delivery of her son.

Grant the prayer of all mothers-to-be as they ask for the birth of a healthy child.

May they safely deliver a son or daughter to be numbered among your family, to serve you in all things, and to gain eternal life.

cf. Book of Blessings

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The leaflet is one a series of resources produced to support the Cycle of Prayer. They can be downloaded from www.liturgyoffice.org.uk/Calendar/Cycle.

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**Liturgy
Office**
ENGLAND
& WALES

BISHOPS' CONFERENCE OF
ENGLAND AND WALES

Advent & Christmas

Because the joy and hope, the struggle and anguish of the people of this age and especially of the poor and those suffering in any way are the joy and hope, the struggle and anguish of Christ's disciples, the Church prays not just for its own needs but for the salvation of the world.



The Bishops of England and Wales invite you to join in the Cycle of Prayer.

Please pray for the current intentions, both with your parish community and in your own personal prayers. On some days these intentions will be included in the Prayer of the Faithful at Mass. Also it is hoped that vigils and other prayer services will be held.

This leaflet is one of a series which offer a selection of prayers and texts which may be used in private or public worship.

Throughout Advent and Christmas we are asked to pray for these intentions:

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS

Openness to the Word of God

*especially on Bible Sunday
(2nd Sunday in Advent)*

Migrants and Refugees

*especially on Migrants' Day
(3 December)*

Expectant Mothers

especially on 4th Sunday in Advent

OPENNESS TO THE WORD OF GOD

especially on 2nd Sunday in Advent

*Your word is a lamp for my steps
and a light for my path.*

Lord, by your word give me life.

Ps 118:105,107

In the readings, God speaks to his people, opening up to them the mystery of redemption and salvation, and offering them spiritual nourishment; and Christ himself is present in the midst of the faithful through his word.

cf. General Instruction on the Roman Missal
55

All-wise God,

as you have granted us

to drink with delight

from the Word

that leads us to know you,

in your goodness grant us also

to come at length to you,

source of all wisdom,

and stand for ever before your face.

based on a prayer of the Venerable Bede

May the word of God
always be heard in this place,
as it unfolds the mystery of Christ
before you
and achieves your salvation
within the Church.

Rite of Dedication of a Church

MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES

especially on Migrants' Day

*Love the stranger,
for you were strangers
in the land of Egypt.*

Deuteronomy 10:19

Lord,
your Son gave his life
to gather together
your scattered children
into one family:
may we show your loving care
to all who are forced
to leave their homes
and their homeland.

cf. Roman Missal (RM) 836

*Lord, no one is a stranger to you
and no one is ever
far from your loving care.
In your kindness watch over
refugees and exiles,
those separated from their loved ones,
young people who are lost,
and those who have left
or run away from home.
Bring them back safely
to the place where they long to be
and help us always
to show your kindness
to strangers and those in need.*

RM 836