

15. Lord Jesus,  
As John came to prepare the way for you, we remember with thanks all those who prepared the way for us and helped us to achieve our goals. We pray today for all who train teachers, all those who are training to teach and all those who help our pupils to be their best self each and every day. Amen.

16. Father God,  
We remember Joseph today and the courage it must have taken him to marry Mary, despite the disapproval of others. We give thanks for the courage we find in our schools – to challenge injustice, to make difficult and sometimes unpopular decisions and sometimes, especially at the moment, in just making it through another day. Amen.

17. Loving God,  
Being a shepherd was not a glamorous job, yet the angel appeared to them and they travelled to see Jesus. We pray for every worker in our school, whatever their role, those seen and those unseen. We give thanks for each one of them and for the faithfulness and resilience with which they serve. Amen.

18. Spirit of God,  
We praise you for giving us signs and wonders. We give you thanks for the many daily miracles that take place in our schools – each new moment of learning, each challenge overcome, each smile of encouragement. Help us to encourage each other as we journey together. Amen.

19. Dear Lord,  
As the angels sang praise to God in heaven, we give thanks for the gifts of music and song in our schools. For those who teach music, for the opportunities of learning instruments and for all the opportunities to sing and share together. In Jesus' name. Amen.

20. God of Grace,  
We are called to “go” and “tell” of the good news of Jesus and to shine our light in dark places. We give thanks for our schools as places where good news is shared and celebrated. Help us to share that good news about their work with others in the community, that we too can shine your light into their lives. Amen.

21. Lord God,  
As we begin this season of rejoicing, we celebrate together the transformational power of education – each life changed for the better, each hope realised, each individual and community inspired and empowered to grasp a better future. Thank you for the advent journey of our schools and for the opportunity to share it with them. Amen.

#### **Thankyou...**

We're delighted that there are so many parishes supporting our schools on their Rhythm of Life Advent journey. It would be great if you could find out the things they have been doing to explore **praying, encouraging, sharing, reflecting, celebrating, resting and creating** together through the Primary and Secondary versions of the resource.

Here are some other ways you can prayerfully support your school(s):

- Does your school have a school prayer? Could you include it in your intercessions?
- Pupils are often gifted at writing prayers – could you include one in each of your bulletins?
- Ask the school to share their calendar of events with you, so that you can pray for them at key times of the year.

Every Church school has a named adviser from the Diocesan Education Team. If you'd like to find out how else you could develop ways of working with church and non-church schools, email us at [info.ed@leeds.anglican.org](mailto:info.ed@leeds.anglican.org)

# Rhythm of Life: Advent

**A 21 day prayer diary to accompany schools on their Advent Journey**



1. Living God,  
You spoke through Isaiah hundreds of years before Jesus was born to remind us of the light that was to come. As we begin this advent journey, we pray for every person in our schools, giving thanks for the light, life and joy they bring to our communities. Help us too, to reflect that same light of Christ to others.  
Amen.

2. God of Love,  
Jesus came to all of us, not just certain groups of people. Thank you for our schools as they offer a place of welcome and inclusion for all. Help us, like Jesus, to see the ultimate worth in everyone, that we can help all to find a place of true belonging.  
Amen.

3. Eternal God,  
In Advent we learn more about the names of Jesus - Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace. We pray for our local schools in and around the parish by their name .....and ask your blessing for all who learn and work there. In Jesus' name.  
Amen.

4. Lord God,  
In Advent we look to the past and see how you fulfilled your promises to the prophets. Today we remember the past generations who have learnt and worked in our schools. We give thanks for every lesson learned, every prayer prayed and every life transformed. Help us to look back with gratitude and forward with hope.  
Amen.

5. Spirit of God,  
Advent is a time of preparation. We ask for your spirit of wisdom and understanding for those who lead our schools and your guidance for the many decisions they face. We pray you will guide and support them throughout this season. May they know your presence with them, on this and every day.  
Amen.

6. Loving Father,  
As we share more of the biblical story together through Advent, we give thanks for the power of stories and for the times of collective worship shared together as a school community. We give thanks for our own stories of life and faith and for all who encourage pupils in their spiritual exploration.  
Amen.

7. Lord of All,  
As we gain more wisdom day to day, we pray for all who struggle with learning. Grant them patience, perseverance and courage we pray and as we remember them today, we remember all learning mentors and those who help to remove barriers to learning.  
Amen.

8. Father God,  
In Advent we discover the way you brought together Jesus' earthly family to love and support him. We pray for every family that makes up our school communities, for their joys and sorrows, for their hopes and dreams and for the gift of love that binds us all together.  
Amen.

9. Compassionate God,  
Today we pray for the safety of all children. Thank you for those who shoulder and share this responsibility, for every check that is made and each concern that is followed up. We pray that our schools can be places of sanctuary and peace, where all feel loved, cared for and safe.  
Amen.

10. Dear God,  
As Jesus discovered both the best and hardest parts of living on Earth, we remember that he had friends to share it with. We give thanks for our schools as places of friendship, where life-long relationships are forged and nurtured. We give thanks too, that in our own journeys of faith, we are never alone.  
Amen.

11. Holy Spirit,  
Sometimes we, like Zechariah, have a hard time believing things we cannot see or make sense of ourselves. We give thanks for the many wonderful opportunities in life that we didn't expect, for the unexpected joys that are found in learning new things. We give thanks for all who create life-changing opportunities for our young people to experience the 'life in all its fullness' that Jesus promised.  
Amen.

12. Dear Lord Jesus,  
The Advent season enables us to anticipate the joy of Christmas morning and be ready for what is to come. We pray today that our schools will be places of joy and anticipation, energy and delight. As we give thanks for those things, we pray too that there will be times of rest and restoration for those that need it, so all can be refreshed and excited for the joys still to come.  
Amen.

13. Living God,  
As Mary was noticed by God, you notice each one of us and care about all that we are. We give thanks for the uniqueness of every pupil and adult in school, their skills and talents, the things they enjoy, the worries they face. Help them to find direction and purpose in their living, loving and learning together, so that they can achieve all that you hope for them.  
Amen.

14. Father God,  
You revealed through Jesus' birth at Christmas that our relationship with you can be close and personal. We pray for all of the relationships in our schools – those that are easy and those that are more challenging. Help us to understand one another better each day, that we can be a true community that is stronger together.  
Amen.