

*When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting,
the child leapt in her womb. And Eliza-
beth 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 down-
loaded from [www.liturgyoffice.org.
uk/Calendar/Cycle](http://www.liturgyoffice.org.uk/Calendar/Cycle).

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**Liturgy
Office**

**ENGLAND
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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 salva-
tion 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

O Lord,
who willed that your Son
should lay down his life
to gather into one
your scattered children
grant that in sincerity of heart
we may show true compassion
towards strangers
and the abandoned
and that all of us may deserve
to be gathered together
at last in the land of the living

cf. Roman Missal (RM) 1364

O Lord,
*to whom no one is a stranger
and from whose help
no one is ever distant,
look with compassion
on refugees and exiles,
on segregated persons
and lost children;
restore them, we pray, to a homeland,
and give us a kind heart
for the needy and for strangers.*

RM 1364