



## How to use this prayer resource in your home:

1. Gather together at a time that suits the whole family
2. Turn off screens, phones, music and any distractions.
3. Create a focus - a small table with a cross and candle
4. Hand over your time and attention to God.

Begin by making the Sign of the Cross and lighting the candle.

### Opening Prayer:

Lord Jesus, we come together this day, ready to pray! No matter how many of us are gathered right now, we know that you are with us. Help us to spend these next few moments in your presence; may we ask for your help, feel your love and receive your blessing as we bring prayer home.

#### Time to think...

To 'prepare a way for the Lord' means we have to make sure we have time and space to welcome Jesus into our lives. We need to make Him our priority; clear away anything that is preventing us from getting our hearts ready for Christmas. Can you think of how you can do this?

#### Time to do...

Each time you see a Christmas tree, decorations or lights this week, take a minute to pray. And when you put your tree or lights up at home, pray for your heart to look just as prepared and welcoming as your house!

Gospel Reading - 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent  
(ask one of the grown-ups to read this!)

#### A reading from Mark's Gospel (1:1-8)

The beginning of the Good News about Jesus Christ, the Son of God. It is written in the book of the prophet Isaiah:

Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way.

A voice cries in the wilderness:

Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight.

And so it was that John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. All Judaea and all the people of Jerusalem made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. John wore a garment of camel-skin, and he lived on locusts and wild honey. In the course of his preaching he said, 'Someone is following me, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to kneel down and undo the strap of his sandals. I have baptised you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.'

#### Pray together:

Lord Jesus, help us this week to think about preparing a way for You to enter our lives. Like John, we might not feel worthy to welcome You. But help us to see, feel and know Your love and remember that You are God's gift to each of us. Help us to prepare our hearts as well as our homes this week. Amen