



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...

How do you think it felt to be John the Baptist? He was trying to get everyone ready for Jesus' arrival! He was telling them how awesome Jesus was, how much He was going to help them. What would you have told people to do to get ready for Jesus if you were John?

Time to do...

Get some water in a small dish and leave it by your Christmas tree. Make a point each day of blessing yourself with the water to remind you of your Baptism – and thank God for the way John helped prepare the way for Jesus coming into our lives.

Gospel Reading - 3rd Sunday of Advent
(ask one of the grown-ups to read this!)

A reading from John's Gospel (1:6-8,19-28)

A man came, sent by God. His name was John. He came as a witness, as a witness to speak for the light, so that everyone might believe through him. He was not the light, only a witness to speak for the light. This is how John appeared as a witness. When the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' he not only declared, but he declared quite openly, 'I am not the Christ.' 'Well then,' they asked 'are you Elijah?' 'I am not' he said. 'Are you the Prophet?' He answered, 'No.' So they said to him, 'Who are you? We must take back an answer to those who sent us. What have you to say about yourself?' So John said, 'I am, as Isaiah prophesied: a voice that cries in the wilderness: Make a straight way for the Lord.'

Now these men had been sent by the Pharisees, and they put this further question to him, 'Why are you baptising if you are not the Christ, and not Elijah, and not the prophet?' John replied, 'I baptise with water; but there stands among you - unknown to you - the one who is coming after me; and I am not fit to undo his sandal-strap.' This happened at Bethany, on the far side of the Jordan, where John was baptising'

Pray together:

Lord Jesus, as we journey through this final week of term, may we mindful of our holy preparations for Christmas. Keep our paths straight, our hearts open and our faith alive, as we get ready to welcome You and celebrate this joyous season.
Amen.