



# NOVENA 2018: FAMILY PACK

Nine days of prayer  
11-19 May

CHANGED LIVES → CHANGING LIVES

# WELCOME TO THE 2018 POCKET PRAYERS: FAMILY RESOURCES

The Novena period is a wonderful chance for the Church to come together and pray for God's Kingdom to come closer in our lives, both individually and communally. We pray 'Thy Kingdom come' every time we use the Lord's Prayer, but how inspiring to daily take that expression and attend to it. The images that we are using this year are inspiring, beautiful and thought provoking for all of us, no matter how old or young we are. These resources, written to be used in the home, at school or a church - and ideally all three - have been designed to enable us to listen to everyone in our local community as we study the Bible texts and listen together to what God is saying to us through scripture and images.

I am greatly indebted to Revds. Stephen and Lesley Hardy for their ideas and fellowship in the compiling of these resources.

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# PRAYER STATIONS FOR CHURCH, SCHOOL OR A QUIET CORNER AT HOME

## For the whole period from Ascension Day to Pentecost

1. Attach 9 large envelopes to the wall, each with one of the themes, Praise, Thanks, etc. You might like to add A4 printouts of the daily images ([www.canterburydiocese.org/novena](http://www.canterburydiocese.org/novena)). Provide slips of paper and pens for folk to write prayer requests/thoughts on. People can put a slip in any envelope, then perhaps at Pentecost they could be used as a basis for prayers together. Alternately, you could use them daily together, praying the slips from the previous day.
2. Place blank paper chain slips and coloured pencils on a table. As the days go by, invite everyone to write a short prayer on one of the slips, and add it to a paper chain. You can then use the completed chain at the end of the novena to decorate a space which is special to your community.
3. Alongside the daily prayer activities listed below, print out A4 copies of each image in the booklet ([www.canterburydiocese.org/novena](http://www.canterburydiocese.org/novena)). Every day, gather together and ponder the following;
  - a. I wonder what the story of this picture might be.
  - b. I wonder how the picture makes you feel.
  - c. What could we say to God about the ideas that we've shared?
  - d. Do we need to pray for anyone/anything that the image may be bringing to mind?
  - e. How can we each continue to pray for that person/thing during the day?

- f. You might like to make something either as individuals or together to remind you of what you've said - these could be added to the Novena Prayer diary.
4. Print A3 sized copies of the Praise image (available at [www.canterburydiocese.org/novena](http://www.canterburydiocese.org/novena)) and provide a table with chairs and colouring materials so people can use the image and mindful colouring as and when they want.

# FRIDAY 11 MAY: PRAISE

Make up a dance to your favourite worship song/music.

Draw a rainbow - think of something of every colour to praise God for.

Sing your favourite worship song, thinking about what the words mean. Many songs can be found easily on YouTube.

Action prayer. [www.illustratedchildrensministry.com/2017/ways-to-pray-with-kids](http://www.illustratedchildrensministry.com/2017/ways-to-pray-with-kids)

(Use the prayer which involves using the whole body.)

Collect pictures of some awesome scenes – this could be done digitally and made into a presentation to share.

Colour in the illustrated page with praise words; see [www.canterburydiocese.org/novena](http://www.canterburydiocese.org/novena)

Each person could write something praiseworthy large on an A4 sheet, perhaps using bright coloured paper. Then assemble them into a praise wall. If you are in a church or school, use this as the beginning of a 'Novena Prayer Diary'.

# SATURDAY 12 MAY: THANKS

Play the game “God is real, God is good, thank you God for...” (‘Prayer through conversation’)

[www.illustratedchildrensministry.com/2017/ways-to-pray-with-kids](http://www.illustratedchildrensministry.com/2017/ways-to-pray-with-kids)

Go for a walk in search of things to thank God for... pavements, roads, grass, buses, trees, flowers, sky, birds, pets, lampposts... etc.

Give everyone a triangle of paper and ask them to write something for which they want to give thanks upon it. Using paper clips, fix these onto a length of string like a line of bunting, and hang it as part of your Novena Prayer Diary.

A game for a group to play together: Think of something to give thanks for, beginning with every letter of the alphabet – saying ‘Thank you God for A... then the next person says ‘Thank you God for B... etc.’

Write one or two thank you prayers on a balloon, then hang them as part of the Novena Prayer Diary, or to decorate your worship space.

Use a digital recorder to collect people’s thanks, and then play them all back. This might be particularly effective in a school.

Play ‘I spy’ ‘thank you’, using cardboard tubes as telescopes, and spotting things to be thankful for.

# SUNDAY 13 MAY: SORRY

On a small piece of paper, write down things you are sorry for and put them through the shredder. If you have a garden, the shreds could be placed on a compost heap.

Write things that you are sorry about on a stone and drop them in the sea/river/font in church. This is especially effective if you use a water-soluble marker.

If you have access to outside, write what you are sorry for on a piece of paper, then process outside with a metal rubbish bin. You could then set light to all the paper. *Clearly, health and safety issues need to be taken into account.*

# MONDAY 14 MAY: OFFER

Give some time or money to help someone or a cause. Make sure that the whole group decide together what your cause or person should be.

Out of your own (pocket) money, each member of the group buys food for the local food bank and pray together for whoever might get that food. Someone could contact the food bank to find out what their particular needs are at this time.

Give time to help in the school building, where you live or the church.

People field. Cut out people shapes from card or paper then name and decorate them. Stick them on a 'lolly' stick into a tray of sand, or even outdoors. Pray for everyone there, and say thank you for the time that they offer to you each day.

# TUESDAY 15 MAY: PRAY FOR

Go for a prayer walk, stopping at places to pray. Ask God to help the people in those places as they go through their days. At school you could pray for the teachers and staff, that everyone might enjoy learning together.

At a park ask God to make it a happy place.

Pray for the shops in the street that the people work there will enjoy their work. Pray for those at the church, that they may indeed show God's love in everything that they do together.

If you have safe access to a high place with a view over the community, use it as a place from which to pray blessings.

Everyone writes a prayer request on a piece of paper. Put them in a jar and everyone then takes one out. Light a candle and then everyone prays someone else's prayer request.

Gather together lots of different candles and place a large one in the middle of a tray of sand. Light the central candle. Everyone then chooses their own candle and lights it from one already burning, placing their lit candle into the sand. *(Ensure that they go near to the original one, and work outwards, or hands may get burned.)* You could say a prayer aloud or in your head as the light grows.

Using masking tape, draw out a giant map of your community on a floor or outside. You could also mark significant places, or even participants' homes. Now walk around your area, and pray for all those who live and work in the part that you are walking over.

Use small candles and card rings – writing the things we would like to pray for on the card. Slowly light all the candles, from one original light. Now use them as a focus for prayers.

As well as personal things, try to include some of the dark things in the world. 'Lord, where there is darkness bring light.'

3D prayers. Make a shape that represents your prayer from play dough or modelling clay and place them all on a tray. These could be part of the Novena prayer diary.

## **WEDNESDAY 16 MAY: HELP**

Talk together about someone you might be able to help - at home, at church or at school.

Help someone you know with some gardening or some other domestic task.

Collect dry goods for a food bank. Someone could contact the food bank to find out what their particular needs are at this time.

If you are at school, deliberately look for someone who seems to be alone during break time. Later on, thank God for that person, and all that they bring to your community.

Gather together some up-to-date newspapers and magazines, then cut out stories and make a collage. This could be part of the Novena Prayer Diary.

# THURSDAY 17 MAY: ADORE

Parachute prayers from fresh expressions:  
[community.sharetheguide.org/guide/worship/adoration-children](http://community.sharetheguide.org/guide/worship/adoration-children)

Write a responsive psalm together and then use it.

Make some big colourful flags to wave in worship. These are best made from gauzy fabric - cheaper at your local market - and fix the fabric to gardening canes.

Build a prayer cairn of stones. This is simply a heap of stones - local DIY/gardening superstores will have them.

Take some letter tiles from a 'Scrabble' set and form words that mean 'Adore'. Talk about how they differ and what the word Adore really means.

Stand in a posture that 'Adore' suggests to you, and then hold silence for a minute together. How did that make you feel?

# FRIDAY 18 MAY: CELEBRATE

*NB: Please be careful about food allergies*

Have a celebration meal together.

Make or buy a celebration cake.

If you make it, decorate it with lots of bright colours. Now think together about all the good things that have happened through the week.

Or you could put candles on the cake - say a prayer of thanks as each candle is lit.

All say 'amen' and blow the candles out together. Now eat some!

Get some bread rolls or cakes and break and share them.

Write good things that have happened to us on red, orange and yellow flame shapes – ready for Pentecost. These can be part of the Novena Prayer Diary.

Ice biscuits using writing icing, drawing words and images that 'celebrate' suggests to you.

Take your favourite celebration song and devise a dance that you can do together.

# SATURDAY 19 MAY: SILENCE

*Some people find it easier to be silent if they have a visual focus, so light a candle for those people to look at as you explore silence together.*

Encourage everyone to close their eyes and imagine that they are standing in a forest along the side of a stream.

Explain that when a thought comes into their minds, they can imagine the thought landing on a leaf, floating down onto the surface of the stream and away until it's out of view.

[www.illustratedchildrensministry.com/2017/ways-to-pray-with-kids](http://www.illustratedchildrensministry.com/2017/ways-to-pray-with-kids)

Sit in silence, then read the line such as 'When I am afraid; I will trust you.' Ask everyone to repeat that in their head as they sit in silence together.

Sit in silence for 2 minutes, and make a list of every sound you hear, perhaps divided into two groups – natural and man-made.

Cut up a map of your community into pieces. Each have a piece and spend time looking at it, then quietly assemble them together.