

Advent

This is what your child will be learn during the Advent unit.

Reception



This unit will introduce children to the idea of special times and seasons in the Church. They will think about Sunday being a special day and Advent being a special time when we get ready for the birth of Jesus. They will think about how we get ready and discover signs to remind us that this is a special time. For example: candles, Advent wreaths and the colour purple.

Help at Home

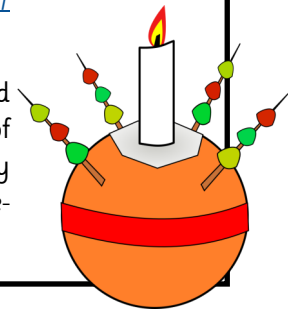
- Make an Advent calendar together and count down the days to Jesus' birth.
- At church, draw the child's attention to the Advent wreath and talk about why it is lit each week.

Year 1

The children will read about Mary discovering that she would have an important baby and will find out how she prepared with Joseph. They will also find out about some of the symbols used to help Christians prepare during Advent such as Christingles, Advent wreaths and Advent calendars. They will also describe how Christians prepare in special ways to celebrate the birth of Jesus.

Help at Home

- Make a Christingle together and talk about why different parts are included. There is a good tutorial here: http://www.bbc.co.uk/tees/content/articles/2007/12/05/christingle_feature.shtml
- Read again the story of Mary and Joseph preparing for the birth of Jesus and the journey that they made. Talk about how you prepared for your child's birth.



Year 2

In Year 2, the children will be finding out the origins of the Christmas Crib and looking at lots of different Christmas cribs. They will also be describing some symbols and customs used to prepare for Advent such as the use of Santons and Advent wreaths. In Year 2 the children will also be thinking about how and why Christians prepare for Christmas during Advent.

Help at Home

- Set up a crib together and talk about where the different figures should go. Talk to your child about what they learnt about St Francis and the very first Christmas crib.
- Write an Advent prayer asking God to help you to prepare for Christmas and try to say it together each day.



Year 3

The children will find out how people journeyed to Jesus and how we prepare for Advent. They will also make links between the stories of the Shepherds and the use of Santons in cribs. During this unit, the children will describe the meaning of the words Emmanuel and Incarnation and show how the belief in the incarnation affects the way people prepare for Christmas.



Help at Home

- Talk about journeys that you have made as a family and talk about what the journey to Jesus must have been like for the shepherds. What might they have talked about? What might they have been worried about? What do you think they did with their sheep?

Year 4

In Year 4, the children will learn to explain the stories of Jesus' ancestors and explain the purpose of the Jesse Tree. They will think carefully about how the Jesse Tree helps Christians prepare for Advent. During this unit, the children will also think about how stories of the past impact upon us today by reading the story of Amos and thinking about how we can be prophets today.



Help at Home

- Discuss what a prophet is. Think about how we can spread the word of God through our actions today and talk about the impact that will have on the people around us.
- Make a Jesse tree together using these printables. It also has some lovely information to read through together: https://www.catholicinspired.site/uploads/1/1/0/0/110088477/jesse_2.pdf

Year 5

During this unit, the children will learn about and explain the words of John the Baptist and Isaiah. They will then think about how those words help us with making choices today. Year 5 will also look at how the O Antiphons are used to show understanding about Jesus during Advent. During Advent, they will think about how we choose to behave, whether people become more selfish at Christmas time and give their opinions on what they think the reason for this may be.

Help at Home

- Think about those who may need extra help during Advent. What could you do to help them?
- Talk to your child about John the Baptist and how he wanted us to act. Make a list of good deeds your child could do during Advent.



Year 6

In Year 6, the children will describe and explain the Annunciation. They will look at artwork and think about how artists have portrayed this event and explain the way this informs Christian belief. During this unit, the children will compare and contrast how Christians and non-Christians might respond to important issues and explain what beliefs and values inspire and influence Christians to keep Advent as a season of preparation and penance.



Help at Home

- Read the story of the Annunciation together. Together think about some of these questions: Why was Mary afraid? What challenges did she have ahead of her? How would she tell Joseph?
- Write an Advent prayer together, asking God to be with your family as you prepare for a happy and holy Christmas.