

Advent

Advent is one of the liturgical seasons of the Church that includes the four Sundays leading up to Christmas.

The other seasons are Ordinary Time, Lent, Easter and Christmas.





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Bethlehem

Mary and Joseph needed to travel to Bethlehem because of the Roman Census.

Mary gave birth to Jesus in a stable because there was nowhere for them to stay.





Carols

Carols have become an important part of our preparation for Christmas.

Advent carols focus on preparing ourselves for Jesus.

What's your favourite carol?





Decorations

Advent is a time when many people start to prepare their homes for Christmas.

Did you know the Christmas fir tree symbolises everlasting life with God?





Emmanuel

One of titles of Jesus found
in the Book of Isaiah and
again in Matthew's Gospel.

It means 'God with us.'

Did you know the birth of Jesus
was prophesised hundreds of
years before it happened?



Isaiah

...during the reigns of Uzziah, Jo-

Listen, O earth!
Thus spoken:
and brought them up,
rebelled against me,
aster,

er's manger,
stand."

Journal

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New Moons, Sabbaths and convocations—
I cannot bear your evil assemblies.
Our New Moon festivals and your appointed feasts
my soul hates.
I have become a burden to me;
weary of bearing them.
You spread out your hands in prayer,
hide my eyes from your offer of many prayers,
fill of blood;
turn yourselves clear.

...do right
...the oppressed -
...the cause of the wronged
...the cause of the wronged

[illegible]

Faith

Advent is a great time to reflect on our own faith.

How can we let the love of Jesus change our lives and make a difference to those around us?





Gifts

Many people associate Advent with shopping and buying presents for Christmas.

How can we spend time preparing our hearts for the greatest gift of all: Jesus?





Hope

One of the candles on the Advent wreath represents hope.

It reminds us that hope is like a light shining in the dark and of the hope we have in Jesus.



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Innkeeper

- Mary and Joseph had to search for somewhere to stay and bring Jesus to the world.

We are all invited to make room for Jesus, just like the innkeeper.





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Joy

One of the candles on the Advent wreath represents joy.

We are reminded that Advent is a time to share the Good News with others.





Kings

King Herod sent the Three Kings (or Magi) to see the baby Jesus, they followed a star to Bethlehem.

They gave Jesus gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.





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Love

One of the candles on the Advent wreath represents love.

It reminds us of Jesus' purpose here on Earth. Love is an important part of being a Christian; love of God and love of neighbour.





Mary and Joseph

- During Advent we reflect on the 'yes' that both Mary and Joseph said to being part of God's great plan and the difficult journey they took to bring Jesus into the world.

How can we give our own 'yes' to God during Advent?





Nativity

The birth of Jesus changed the world! Which is why so many schools and churches re-tell the story of the nativity.

Have you ever been part of a Nativity play?

Which character were you?



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O Antiphons

The 'O Antiphons' are a series of prayers said by the Church in the 8 days leading up to Christmas.

Each one highlights a title of Jesus, the Messiah, found in the Book of Isaiah.





Peace

One of the candles on the Advent wreath represents peace.

The angels sang 'peace on Earth' when Jesus was born. During Advent we reflect on the peace that God can bring to our lives.





Quiet

Advent can be a very busy time, but it is important that we take some quiet time with God in prayer.





Rejoice

The third Sunday of Advent is known as Gaudete Sunday, it takes its name from the Latin word for 'rejoice'.

Advent is a time for us to wait in joyful expectation for Christmas.





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Shepherds

An angel appeared to the shepherds to tell them about the birth of Jesus and said:

‘Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people.’





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Tree of Jesse

Jesse Trees are an Advent tradition first started in Medieval times, they help tell the story of the Bible.

Ornaments are hung on the tree to symbolise different events in the Bible, the tree itself reminds us of new life and new beginnings.





Universal

Did you know that the word Catholic means universal? There are many different Advent traditions across the world.

In Mexico, children dressed as angels lead processions thorough villages. While in Croatia, Christmas Eve is celebrated with eating traditional dried cod!





Voice

* During Advent we hear the story of John the Baptist who cried out like a 'voice in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord, make His paths straight.'

How can we help others prepare for Jesus?





Wreath

* Many homes and churches have an Advent wreath. The circle shape represents God's endless love and mercy. The greenery reminds us of hope and eternal life.

* There are 5 candles, one lit each Sunday and one on Christmas that represent hope, peace, love, joy and Jesus.





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Xmas

* We see this abbreviation a lot during Advent, but did you know its Catholic roots?

The X stands for the Greek letter 'Chi', used in the word 'Christ' and 'mas' for the celebration of Mass, so literally meaning Christ's Mass.





Yule

Yuletide was a winter festival season dating before Christianity but some traditions still remain, such as the Yule log.

This was a large log burned on the fire to light the house, now many families still have a yule log cake at Christmas.





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Zechariah

We hear about Zechariah in the Church readings in Advent.

He was told by an Angel that his own son, John the Baptist, would be filled by the Holy Spirit and bring many people to God.



