



Holy Cross Parent RE Newsletter

*One School Family, Achieving Together,
Anchored in the Love of Christ*



Our new RE topic is: **Advent**

What is Advent?

Advent is a time of preparation and waiting. At one level it is a time of preparation for Christmas. At another level it is a preparation for the coming of God. Yet both are connected because Christmas is about the coming of God! The coming of God now!

Celebrating Christmas is a way of specifically recalling, reliving and re-emphasising the continual birth of Jesus into our lives today. But for this to have an impact we need to prepare. Advent is the time of preparation. The better we prepare the more significant our celebration of Christmas and the deeper its effect upon us. Advent starts on the Sunday nearest to 30th November and ends on the fourth Sunday before 25th December.



“For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. 17 For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.”

John 3:16-17

Advent wreath:

The advent wreath is made up of:

- three purple candles
- one pink candle
- one white candle (which is not lit during Advent time)

The three **purple** candles will be lit on the first, second and fourth Sunday of Advent.

The **pink** candle will be lit on the third Sunday of Advent, known as Gaudete Sunday. Gaudete means ‘to rejoice’ and the readings on this Sunday focus on joy – rejoicing in the Lord and joy in what is to come.

The white candle is lit on Christmas day. It symbolises the birth of Christ and the change in the liturgical season.

How do we prepare?

There are many things we can do:

- use an Advent Calendar so that every day we can be reminded of doing something extra in preparation.
- spend more time in prayer during the 4 weeks. Maybe begin and end the day with a short prayer involving our children.
- Sunday Mass is taken for granted but can we go to another Mass also during the week?
- ask the question daily: **where is Jesus in my life today?**

Our main themes in the Advent topic are different for each year group. We will learn:

St Jude Class - Jesus came into the world and we remember his coming at Christmas. We need to get ready for Jesus by getting ready in our hearts through prayer and thinking of others.

St Mary Classes - We remember Jesus coming at Christmas. We can get ready for Jesus by following Mary's example and trusting in God. Advent is a time of rejoicing

St John Class - Mary accepted her vocation and responded in a positive way to the presence of Jesus. We can respond to the presence of Jesus by showing care and concern for others.

St Teresa Class - Jesus is the fulfilment of God's promise of redemption. Advent is a time when we celebrate the coming of Jesus and our redemption.

St Veronica Class - There are two parts to Advent, first to celebrate the first coming of Jesus and second through the inspiration of the Spirit to prepare for Jesus to come. Jesus was given many different titles to tell us something of his qualities and attributes.

St Michael Class - Advent is a time to prepare for the Second Coming of Christ and this season demands preparation from his followers. The two parts of the season of Advent, looking back and looking forward, are explored through parables, prayers and hymns of the Church.

We will be exploring Advent, through both our RE lessons and our daily collective worships. If you wish to support your child at home and help them understand further, you may like to read the following Bible extracts with them:

- Isaiah 7:14
- Luke Chapter 1 and 2
- Matthew Chapter 1 and 2
- Mark 1:1-8

