

St. Joseph's *Children's Liturgy of the Word*

Avent (Year C)

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St. Joseph is the patron saint of the family, and the family is the “domestic Church.” These sheets were originally developed to support my parish of St. Joseph in Great Malvern, Worcestershire, but they are now used by parishes and schools not just in the UK, but some are sent to contacts abroad as well.

There are Four Dimensions of our Faith, and the activities all reflect one or more of each of these dimensions.

Professing the faith
(speaking about it and
learning the faith)

Celebrating our faith in
the liturgy and the
sacraments



Living the faith in Christ
(making choices by the grace
of Jesus Christ)

A prayer-filled life where
the Our Father takes
centre stage

Advent – New beginnings

A very happy new year to you all! The first Sunday of Advent is the first Sunday of the Church's year. And as it's a “new year” there are changes afoot. First, we are getting used to a new lectionary, which had a much more accurate translation of the Bible. However, some of the phrasing in the readings takes getting used to and so I encourage you to read the Gospel carefully before your session, to familiarise yourself with the format of the words.

Behaving liturgically:

When the children come out for the Children's Liturgy of the Word, remind them that they are still at Mass, and help them to keep in mind that they are still in the presence of Christ who is present in His Body gathered together. Invite them to stand for the Gospel reading. Introduce the Gospel with the liturgical introduction “**A reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. N**”. Teach the children to make the Sign of the Cross on their forehead, lips and hearts (Christ be in my thoughts, speech and heart). And then invite the children to respond with “**Glory to you O Lord.**” Then they can sit for the question-and-answer session.

Advent – Christ is coming!

Advent is about coming – the coming of Christ. The first part of Advent looks forward to the final coming of Christ, before we turn to reflect on Christ's first coming in a stable in Bethlehem. The best preparation for Christ's final coming is preparing prayerfully to celebrate His first coming.



Children's liturgy of the word for this week

Discussion on the Gospel

✠ Light the first candle on your advent wreath

This is new year's day! The first Sunday in Advent is the start of the Church's year. The Church begins the year by looking to Christ's future coming in glory. No one knows when that will be; the message is to live as if Christ is coming today, and then we will not be caught unawares. The words in bold may be easier for young children.

Q: Jesus is telling us to be ready for when He comes back again at the end of time. What will be the signs that He is coming? (A. Signs in the sun, moon and stars and Jesus will appear on a cloud.)

Q: What did Jesus say that we should do to be ready for Him to come again? (A. Watch ourselves, stand up straight hold our heads high.)

Q: What did Jesus mean by this? (A: That we need to be aware of what we are doing, that we need to make sure that we do as we are told, are honest [upstanding] and that we need to look out for other people, [help them].)

Q: What does "redemption" mean? (A: Salvation/going to heaven.)

Q: What does Jesus mean by "staying awake" – does He mean that we don't need to go to bed? (A: He means that we need to keep alert and always be aware of not getting into bad habits.)

Q: This is the beginning of the Church's new year. What do we normally do at the beginning of the new year? (A: Make a new years' resolution.)

Q: What "new years' resolutions can we make at the beginning of this Church's year? (A: Open.)

Q: Who will help us to be strong and keep to these "new years" resolutions? (A: the Holy Spirit.)

Finish by playing this song to the Holy Spirit; "Holy Spirit light divine" (The words are below if you want to join in). <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6iaLo3CEkxw>

Gospel for 1st Sunday of
Advent Year C
Luke 21:25-28, 34-36

At that time: **Jesus said to his disciples:**

'There will be signs in the sun and moon and stars, and on the earth distress of nations in perplexity

because of the roaring of the sea and the waves, people fainting with fear and with foreboding of what is coming on the world.

For the powers of the heavens will be shaken.

And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory.

Now when these things begin to take place, straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.

'But watch yourselves lest your hearts be weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and cares of this life, and that day come upon you suddenly like a trap.

For it will come upon all who dwell on the face of the whole earth. But stay awake at all times, praying that you may have strength to escape all these things that are going to take place, and **to stand before the Son of Man.'**

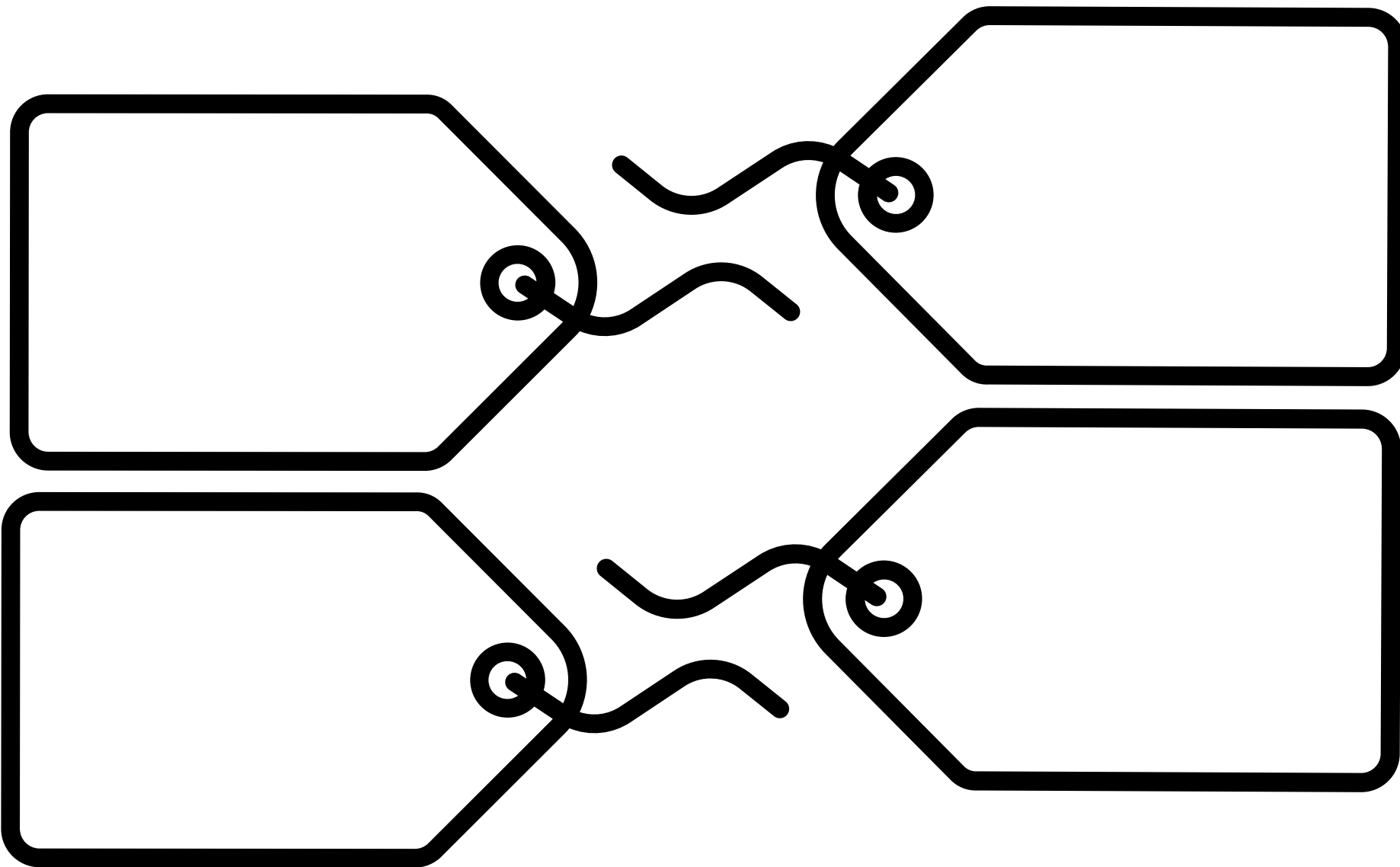
1. Holy Spirit, light divine,
Shine upon this heart of mine,
Chase the shades of night away,
Turn my darkness into day.

2. Holy Spirit, power divine,
Cleanse this guilty heart of mine;
Long has sin, without control,
Held dominion o'er my soul.

3. Holy Ghost, with joy divine,
Cheer this saddened heart of mine,
Bid my many woes depart,
Heal my wounded, bleeding heart.

4. Holy Spirit, all divine, Dwell within this heart of mine,
Cast down every idol throne, Reign supreme, and reign alone.

Accessed from: <https://sdahymnal.net/sda-hymnal-268-holy-spirit-light-divine/> 14/11/21



Here are four labels - write or draw a resolution on each one - one for each week of Advent and cut them out. Stick them up somewhere where you will see them to remind you!

Gospel for 2nd Sunday of Advent Year C

Luke 3:1-6

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judea, and Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the wilderness.

And he went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet, 'The voice of one crying in the wilderness:

"Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.

Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall become straight, and the rough places shall become level ways, and all flesh shall see the salvation of God."

The Gospel of the Lord

R/: *Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ*

Children's liturgy of the word for this week

Discussion on the Gospel



✠ Light the second candle **of your advent wreath**

This week, the Gospel is referring to the coming of John the Baptist. He is urging us to prepare a way for the Lord – to prepare for Christ. This is what advent is all about.

Q: What did John the Baptist proclaim (announce)? (A: Repentance for sins.)

Q: What does repentance mean? (A: Being sorry.)

Q: What is a sin? (A: Something that we do on purpose that we know we should not do, or something that we don't do that we know we should do.)

Q: Give me some examples of things that we might do on purpose that are sins? (A: Open.)

Q: A mistake is not a sin – what are things that we might do by mistake? (A: Open)

Q: John the Baptist is telling us to prepare for Jesus' coming so that we might see God's salvation. What does "salvation" mean? (A: Being set free from our sins so that we can live with the Father in heaven for ever and ever.)

Q: What can we do to prepare, to get ready, for Jesus coming? (A: Open but you could suggest, saying extra prayers, children who have made their first Confession can receive that Sacrament....)

Q: At Mass we say sorry to Jesus for the sins (bad choices) we have done at the beginning of Mass. How does that prayer begin? (A: "I confess ... or children may respond "Lord have mercy".)

Finish by praying the "I confess" together, slowly and thoughtfully.

I confess to almighty God
and to you, my brothers and sisters,
that I have greatly sinned,
in my thoughts and in my words,
in what I have done and in what I have failed to
do, *(Strike your breast three times as
you say...)*

through my fault,
through my fault,
through my most grievous fault.

Therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin,
all the Angels and Saints,
and you, my brothers and sisters,
to pray for me to the Lord our God. Amen

Make a mini John the Baptist to have at home to remind you that Advent is preparing for Jesus' coming.



coming.

Instructions:

You will need:

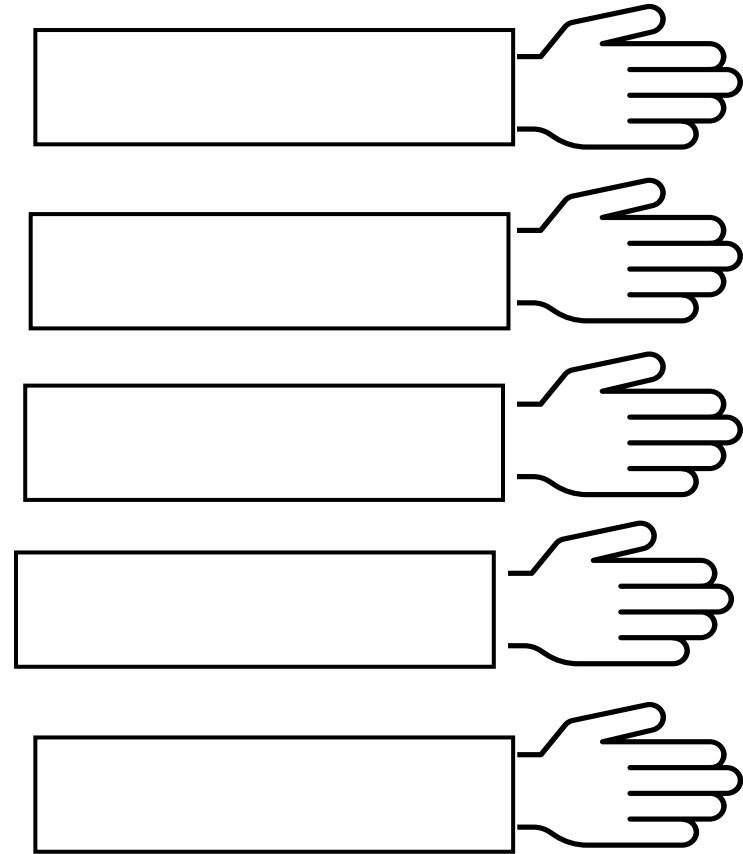
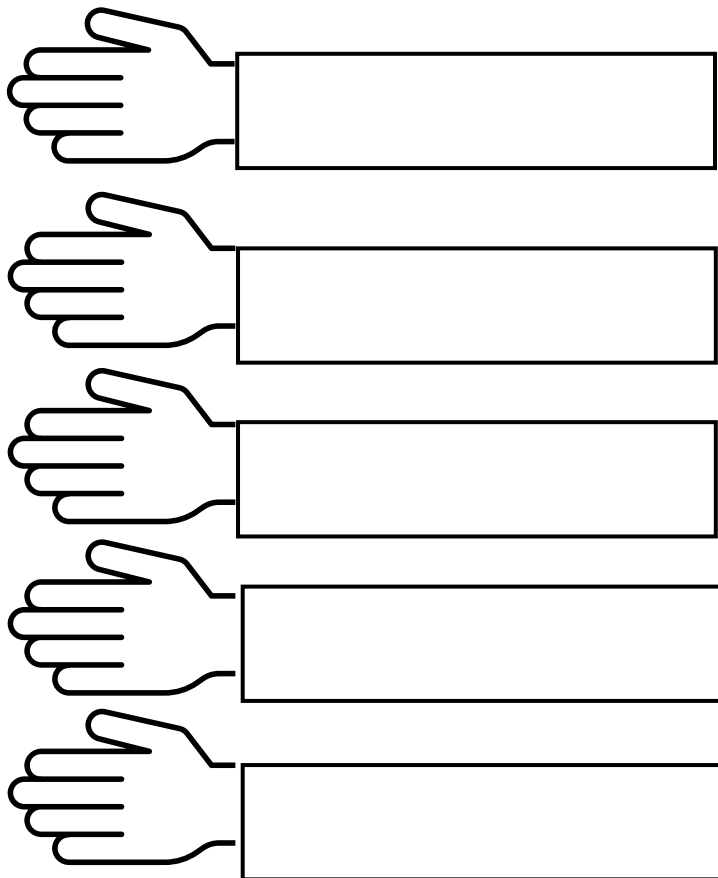
- Cardboard roll
- Round or oval disc for face
- Two strips of paper/card for arms
- Cloth for the "dress" cut long enough to wrap around the tube
- "Hair" made from cloth cut with strips either side but a solid section in the middle to cover top of tube
- Label saying "get ready for Jesus" (Older children can write their own which will drive the message home more, younger children may need it ready printed).

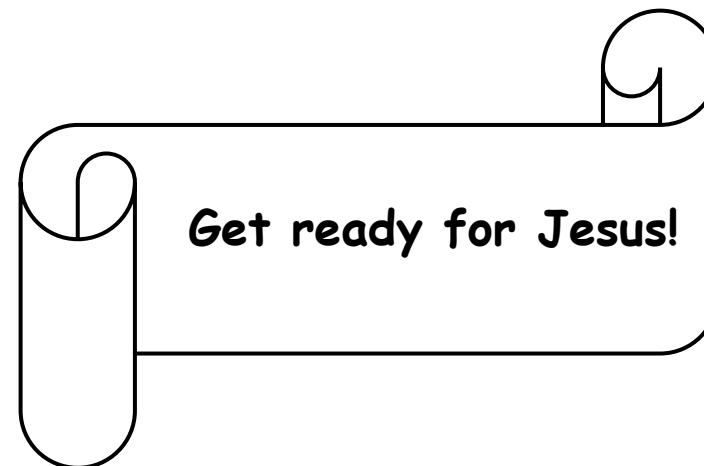
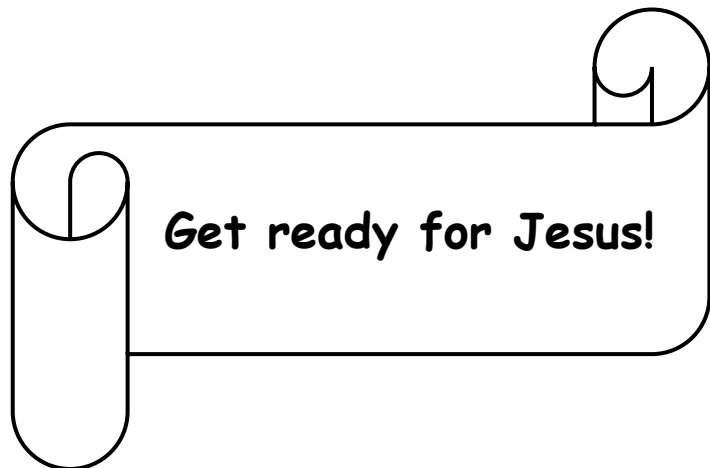
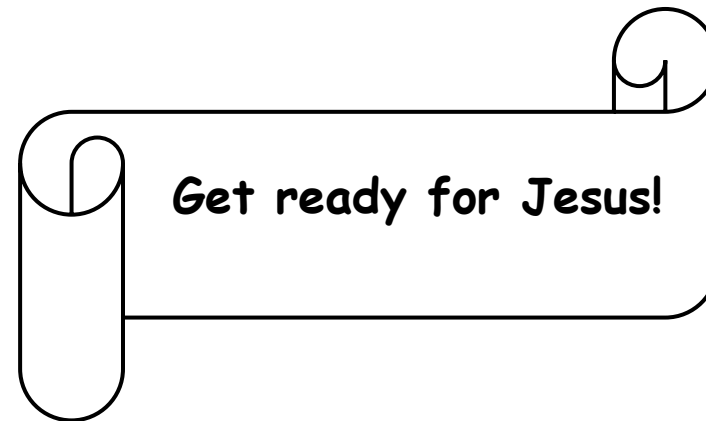
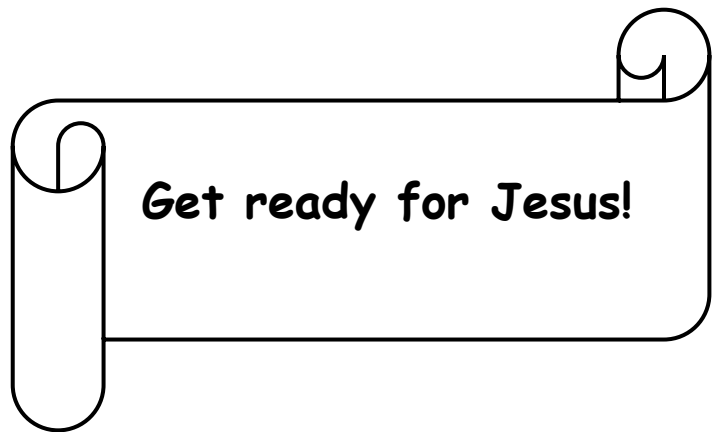


1. Roll the cloth for the "dress" around the cardboard tube to make the body, tucking excess up underneath the tube. Glue in place.
2. Draw eyes and an open mouth on the circle for the face.
3. Put some glue around the top of the tube, including along the top of the face.
4. Stick the "hair" in place.
5. Put glue on one end of the arms and stick in place either side of the body
6. Write the message on the label and stick to the other ends of the arms.

Your John the Baptist is now ready to display, to remind you that advent is about getting ready for Jesus.

Faces, arms and labels (on the next page) if you need them.





Gospel for 3rd Sunday of Advent Year C

Luke 3:10-18

At that time: The crowds asked John,
'What, then, shall we do?'

And he answered them,

'Whoever has two tunics is to share with him who has none, and whoever has food is to do likewise.'

Tax collectors also came to be baptised and said to him,

'Teacher, what shall we do?'

And he said to them,

'Collect no more than you are authorized to do.'

Soldiers also asked him, 'And we, what shall we do?'

And he said to them,

'Do not extort money from anyone by threats or by false accusation and be content with your wages.'

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Christ, John answered them all, saying,

'I baptise you with water, but he who is mightier than I is coming, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.'

So with many other exhortations he preached good news to the people.

The Gospel of the Lord

R/: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

Children's liturgy of the word for this week

Discussion on the Gospel

✠ Light the third candle of your advent wreath

This week, in the Gospel we hear how we can prepare for the coming of Jesus Christ and also some ideas of what Jesus will do when He comes.



Q: What did the crowds ask John the Baptist? (A: What could they do to prepare for the coming Messiah.)

Q: What can we do to prepare for Jesus' coming? (A: Give away what we don't need, not to be greedy and treat everyone fairly.)

Q: Who did the people think that John the Baptist was? (A: the Messiah/the Christ [that is, God's expected saviour])

Q: What did John the Baptist say when he realised that people thought that He was the Christ [the Messiah]? (A: He told them that he was not, but that someone was coming after him who was more powerful than he was.)

Q: Who did John the Baptist mean? (A: Jesus.)

Q: What is Jesus going to do? (A: He will baptise with the Holy Spirit and fire.)

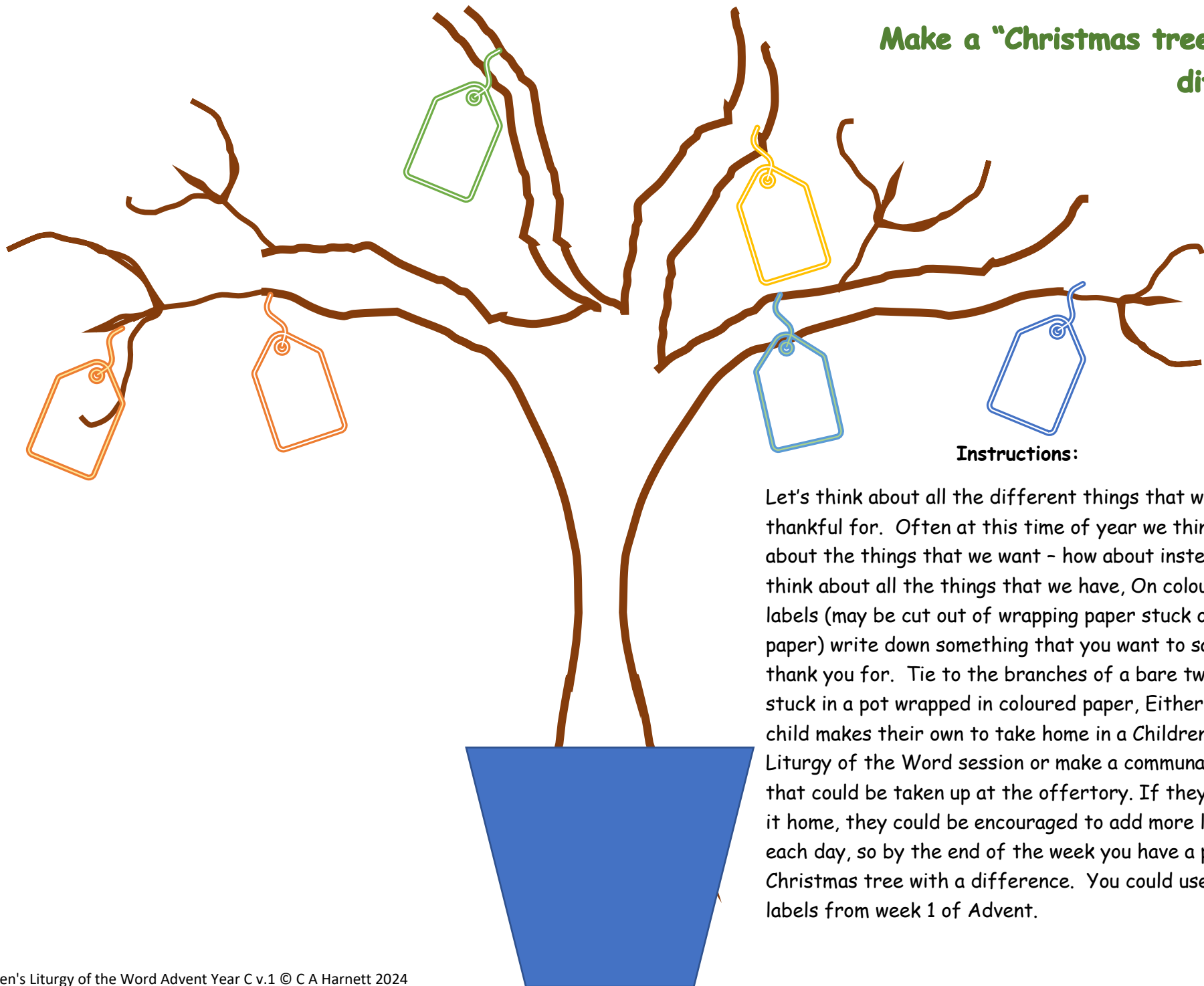
Q: When do we receive the Holy Spirit? (A: First of all in Baptism, then the gift of the Holy Spirit is strengthened in Confirmation, and also in all the sacraments [especially Holy Communion and Confession] the grace of the Holy Spirit is renewed in us.)

Q: Part of "ruling" is to look after the place a king/queen/government rules. How does Jesus rule? (A: Jesus takes care of us when we turn to Him. He looks out for us and asks His Father in heaven to give us what we need [not always what we want – there is a difference!])

Q: The Holy Spirit can also guide us in our everyday lives by helping us to tell other people about Jesus. A lot of people think that Christmas is just about presents and food. What can you say to people about Christmas to help them realise that it's about welcoming Jesus into our lives? (A: Open....)

Let's now ask Mary, who is Jesus' mother and our mother in heaven, to pray for us so that can do something each day this week to prepare spiritually for Jesus' coming. Hail Mary.....

Make a "Christmas tree" with a difference



Instructions:

Let's think about all the different things that we are thankful for. Often at this time of year we think about the things that we want - how about instead think about all the things that we have, On coloured labels (may be cut out of wrapping paper stuck on plain paper) write down something that you want to say thank you for. Tie to the branches of a bare twig stuck in a pot wrapped in coloured paper, Either each child makes their own to take home in a Children's Liturgy of the Word session or make a communal one that could be taken up at the offertory. If they take it home, they could be encouraged to add more labels each day, so by the end of the week you have a pretty Christmas tree with a difference. You could use the labels from week 1 of Advent.

Gospel for Sunday 4th Sunday of Advent

Luke 1:39-45

In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth.

And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, and she exclaimed with a loud cry, 'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb!

And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me?

For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy.

And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her from the Lord.'

The Gospel of the Lord

R/: *Praise to you Lord Jesus
Christ*

Children's liturgy of the word for this week

Discussion on the Gospel



✠ Light the fourth candle of your advent wreath

Today's Gospel comes from immediately Mary has heard from the Angel

Gabriel that she is to become to mother of the Son of God, but also, she has learned that her relative, Elizabeth who is older and has not had any children, is now six months pregnant. Mary's first thought is that she might need some help. Zechariah is Elizabeth's husband, and they are the parents of John the Baptist who has featured in the last two Gospels.

Q: Where did Mary go? (A: To a town in the hill country/Zechariah's house....)

Q: Whom did Mary greet? (A: Elizabeth, who was Zechariah's wife)

Q: What did the baby in Elizabeth's womb (tummy) do when Mary greeted Elizabeth?
(A: He Jumped in Elizabeth's womb.)

Q: Let's think about why the baby did this. Who did that baby in Elizabeth's womb turn out to be? (A: John the Baptist.)

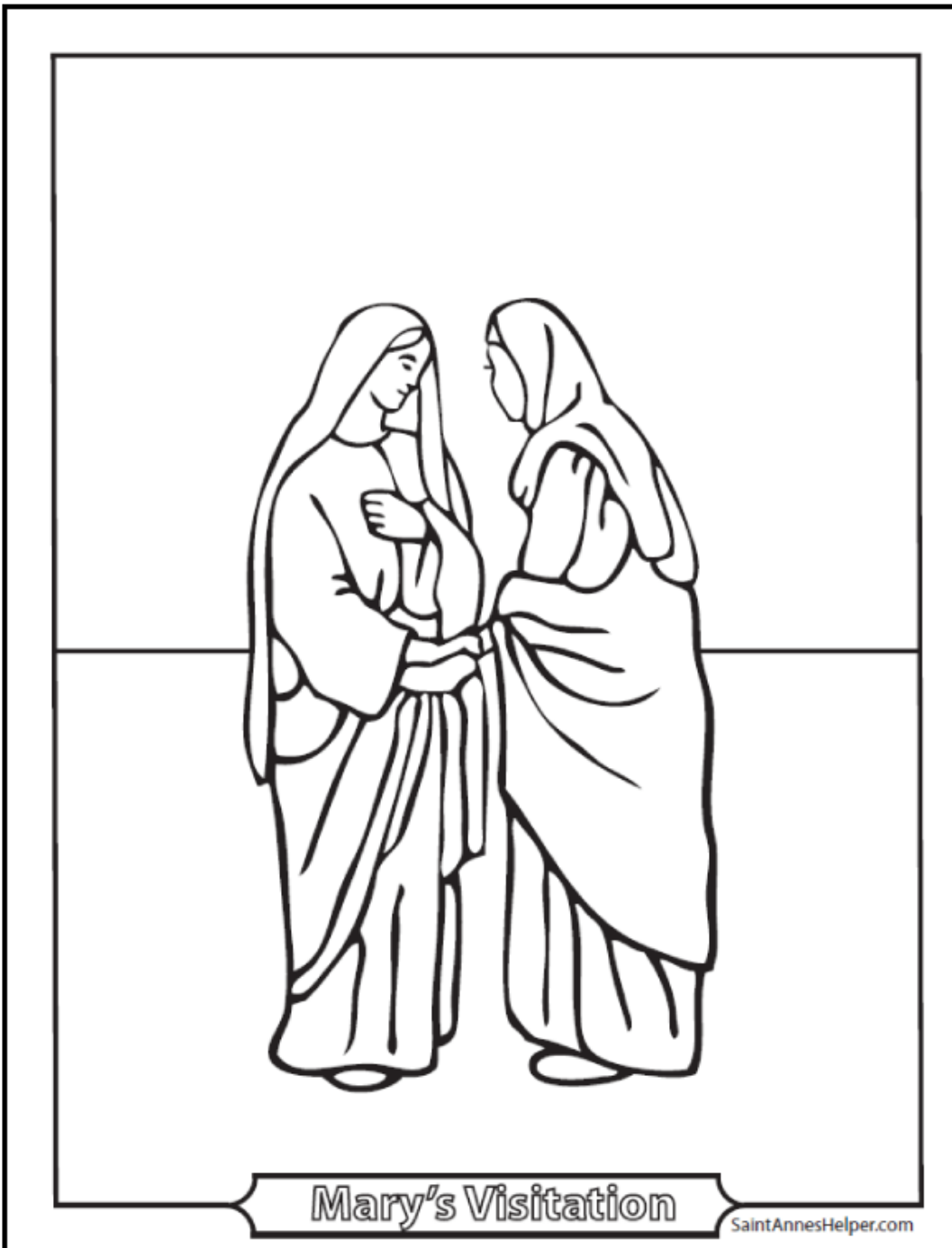
Q: Who is in Mary's womb [tummy]? (A: Jesus.)

Q: When Mary arrived, she brought Jesus with her, in her womb. Jesus is also God and because He is God, He brought the Holy Spirit as well. So, when Mary arrived, John the Baptist was "baptised" by the Holy Spirit before he was born. How was the Holy Spirit going to help John the Baptist? (A: He was going to help him to preach and teach and proclaim that Jesus is coming, as we heard in last week's Gospel.)

Q: Who helps us to talk about Jesus to other people? (A: The Holy Spirit. The children may also refer to parents and teachers and you could ask who helps them? Basically, it goes back to the Holy Spirit who inspires the Church to proclaim Christ.)

Q: Elizabeth said that Mary is blessed because she believed. What did Mary believe?
(That she would have a baby who was the Son of God).

Let's now ask Mary, who believed the Angel Gabriel to help us to believe Jesus when He is teaching us. Hail Mary.....

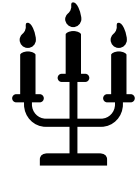


Finish and colour in this picture according to the instructions

1. Draw a halo around the head of each woman and colour it in gold or yellow. Halos are drawn around the saints to show that they are shining bright with the light of Jesus.
2. Draw Elizabeth and Zechariah's house behind Mary and Elizabeth. Add a window with a cross bar in the wall to show that Jesus came to die on a cross.
3. Colour the window in yellow to show a warm welcome for Mary and to show that she is carrying Jesus, the light of the world to this house.
4. Draw some hills behind the house because the house was in the hill-country.
5. Colour Mary's dress in red, as red is the colour of motherhood.
6. Colour Mary's shawl in blue as that shows that she is chosen by God to be the Mother of God (Blue is the colour of the heavens).
7. Colour Elizabeth's dress and shawl in orange or brown as this shows her humility.
8. Draw a vase of lilies (white flowers on green stalks) beside Mary as lilies are a sign of purity.
9. Draw a few small flowers beside the house to show that Jesus' coming is the flowering (start) of a new era for the world.
10. Colour in the house.
11. Colour in the ground brown or grey and leave it plain. Bare ground is the sign of sin, and this shows that Jesus came to save the world from its sins.
12. Colour in the frame in your favourite colour.



Some Advent Activities



Why was the Son of God born?

This is what is called the History of Salvation: Read this out and then cut out the pieces on the next page and put in the right order.

God created (made) us so that we could have a very close and loving relationship with Him - closer than with any person on earth, but our first parents (Adam and Eve) sinned by disobeying Him, by eating the forbidden fruit, and that meant death. They could not live with God and were sent out to the garden of Eden. Before this, God told Eve that one of her descendants would crush the devil. (God was talking about His own Son, but they did not know that then).

God spent thousands of years preparing His people to be ready for the coming of His Son, Jesus Christ. He sent prophets and other wise people who spoke about God. God made promises to care for His people, with Abraham, Moses and King David. He gave a set of rules (the Ten Commandments) and even His Holy Spirit inspired men to write about Him (the Bible). Eventually the Angel Gabriel told Mary that she was going to have God's Son and was to call Him Jesus. The Son of God was born as a tiny baby in a stable in Bethlehem. God had now become one of us! Jesus grew up and taught people about His Father and about the Holy Spirit who would help us to love God and one another. He died on the cross (remember the death promised to Adam and Eve?) but because Jesus is God, He could not stay dead and rose on what we call Easter Sunday. He ascended into heaven and sent the Holy Spirit so that we could all love His Father and have a perfect relationship with Him, here on earth and for ever in heaven. Jesus promised that He would come again, and we are still waiting - but we don't know when He will come. So, we have to "stay awake".

Jesus promised that He would come again	Jesus died on the cross	God created Adam and Eve
Adam and Eve disobeyed God	God made promises with Abraham, Moses and King David	We need to "keep awake" and prepare for Jesus to come again.
Jesus taught people about His Father and the Holy Spirit	Jesus is born in Bethlehem	God prepared His people for His Son to come
God promised Eve that one of her descendants would crush the devil	Jesus rose from the dead and ascended into heaven	The Angel Gabriel told Mary that she would have baby

Christmas crib

Set up a Christmas crib if you have not done so already,

How about making Christmas crib figures out of plastic bottles? Scrunch a ball of newspaper, cover with a neutral cloth and tie to the neck of a plastic bottle half filled with water (for stability). Wrap more cloth around the body and then add a head-covering and facial details. You can make as many figures as you like - you can also use cardboard rolls for the figures as with the John the Baptist figure, or you can cut out pictures from old Christmas cards and put them on little cardboard stands.

Do send us photos of your own home-made cribs.



Heres' a fun Quiz: Questions in black, answers in red!

1. In the advent carol "The Angel Gabriel from heaven came" how is Mary described at the end of each verse? **Most highly favoured lady.**
2. In the medieval carol "Gaudete" what does *Gaudete Christus est natus* mean? **Rejoice, Christ is born. (1 point for each correct word).**
3. Why did Mary and Joseph travel to Bethlehem? **2 possible answers: 1. Because there was a census and Joseph needed to be enrolled in Bethlehem. 2. Because Joseph was of the line (a descendant of) David and his home town/city was Bethlehem.**
4. Who called a census? **Caesar Augustus (Lk. 2:1).**
5. What is the other name given to Bethlehem in the Gospel? **City of David (Lk. 2:4, 11).**
6. What does "Bethlehem" mean? **House of bread.**
7. What comes next in this verse of "O little Town of Bethlehem": "And praises sing to God the King, and peace to men on earth"? **For Christ is born of Mary and gathered all above....."**
8. How many inns did Mary and Joseph call at before they found a place to stay? **The correct answer is, we dont know, it only says that there was no place for them at THE inn.**
9. Who wrote the tune for "Silent Night" **Franz Gruber.**
10. Which of the 4 Gospels tells us about the visit of the shepherds? **Luke's, (chapter 2).**
11. Which carol is this from? "He came down from earth to heaven, who is God and Lord of all"? **Once in Royal David's City.**
12. How did the angel who appeared to the shepherds, describe Jesus? **A Saviour who is Christ the Lord (Lk. 2:11).**
13. What prayer at Mass quotes from the Christmas story? **The Gloria (Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to people of good will - c.f. Lk. 2:14).**
14. What was Mary's reaction to the visit of the shepherds? **She kept these things and pondered in her heart (Lk. 2:19)**
15. Where in the Bible will we find mentioned the ox and the ass (donkey) that is so common in the stable scene? **Isaiah 1:3: "The ox knows its owner and the donkey it's master's crib, but Israel does not know, my people does not understand."**
16. In the carol "In the Bleak mid winter," what would the shepherd bring? **A lamb.**

17. What are the words of the verse of "O Come all ye faithful"? that is only sung on or after Christmas? *Yea Lord we greet thee, born this happy morning, Jesu to thee be glory given. Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing....*
18. What date does the Church traditionally celebrate the feast of Epiphany when the magi/wise me/kings arrived? *6th January.*
19. Which Gospel has the account of the visit of the Magi? *Matthew's, (chapter 2).*
20. How many Kings are mentioned in the account of the visit of the Magi? *Two: King Herod and Jesus, the new baby King. We do not know how many wise men/kings there were, the number 3 arose because of the 3 gifts.*
21. What are the three gifts brought by the Magi? *Gold, Frankincense, Myrrh (Mt. 2:11).*
22. What is the Latin title of "O Come all ye faithful"? *Adeste fidelis.*
23. In the carol "We Three Kings" in what verse are the words "Myrrh is mine, it's bitter perfume" sung. *Verse 4 (out of 5).*
24. Of all characters mentioned in the Christmas stories, who actually worshipped Jesus? *The wise men (Magi) who "when they saw the child, with Mary His mother... they fell down and worshipped Him" (Mt. 2:11).*
25. What are the different ways in which Jesus is described in "Hark the Herald Angels Sing"? (1 point for each). *New born King; Christ; By highest heaven adored; Everlasting Lord; Offspring of a virgin's womb, Godhead (veiled in flesh); Incarnate Deity, Emmanuel; Prince of Peace; Sun of Righteousness; Bringer of light and life; Risen; born to raise mankind. (You may interpret more!)*



I wish you a most blessed Christmas. I will keep you all in my prayers, and please do say a prayer for me.

Carol Ann Harnett