



St. Joseph's Parish



Family Activity Sheet



Advent week 1, 29th Nov-5th Dec 2020

Introduction:

Happy new year! Sunday marks the beginning of Advent and the beginning of the Church's liturgical year. The liturgical year, like any year, is a cycle of "ordinary" days feast days and other days of celebration and two seasons of preparation; Advent, preparing for the coming of Jesus Christ both at the end of time, and celebrating His coming at Christmas, and the season of Lent; preparing to celebrate Christ's work of saving us from our sins in His Passion, death, Resurrection and Ascension. Note that the heading is now in purple to reflect the change of liturgical colour.

There are Four Dimensions of the Faith which we can put around the cross, making sure that Jesus Christ is the centre of everything we do:

Speaking/Learning the faith
(which the Church calls
"professing the faith")


Celebrating it in the liturgy
and the sacraments

Living it (in Christ) – i.e. the
choices we make in everyday
life

Christian prayer.

These notes will use these colours to show the balance of activities – some of course reflect more than one dimension of the faith, but over the month, try to pick a variety of activities.

We would love any pictures of you doing these activities! If you have any, please send to the parish office. By sending them to the office please state if you are happy for them to be included in the newsletter (which is emailed to everyone and put on the website) and/or the parish Facebook page

Feast/memorial	Activity
<p data-bbox="412 252 1010 288"><u>29th November: 1st Sunday of Advent</u></p> <p data-bbox="651 296 768 333">Gospel</p> <p data-bbox="943 341 1178 378">Mark 13:33-37</p> <p data-bbox="239 394 1178 722">Jesus said to his disciples: ‘Be on your guard, stay awake, because you never know when the time will come. It is like a man travelling abroad: he has gone from home, and left his servants in charge, each with his own task; and he has told the doorkeeper to stay awake. So stay awake, because you do not know when the master of the house is coming, evening, midnight, cockcrow, dawn; if he comes unexpectedly, he must not find you asleep. And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake!’</p> <p data-bbox="239 799 1178 874">After discussing the questions here, decide as a family on two or three things that you can do to “stay awake” this advent.</p>	<p data-bbox="1368 252 1899 288"><u>Family reflection on the Gospel:</u></p> <ul data-bbox="1252 341 1912 424" style="list-style-type: none"> • Light a candle • Someone read this Gospel passage out loud  <p data-bbox="1205 432 1783 469"><i>Discuss together some of these questions</i></p> <ul data-bbox="1252 477 2040 711" style="list-style-type: none"> • What did Jesus ask His disciples to do? (Ans: Stay awake) • When the master left to go abroad, who has been left in charge? (Ans: His servants) • When will the master of the house come back? (Ans: nobody knows) <p data-bbox="1205 719 2063 879">In a parable, Jesus uses everyday situations for people in His time to represent a truth of our salvation in Him. This parable is looking at the fact that at the end of time Jesus will come again, but no-one knows when that will be.</p> <ul data-bbox="1252 887 2051 1401" style="list-style-type: none"> • Who do you think Jesus is referring to when talks about the master coming back at any time? (Ans: Himself) • What do you think Jesus means by “staying awake”? (Ans; being prepared for Him to come back) • Jesus does not mean that we cannot go to bed, so what do you think we can do to “stay awake? (Ans: We can pray regularly, we can read from the Bible regularly, we can remember to thank God who is Father, Son and Holy Spirit for everyday things, we can ask the Holy Spirit to help us each day to love Jesus more and more, we can help other people, as then we are helping Jesus as we learned in last week’s Gospel ...)

All week

Celebrating Advent:

This is the first week of the church's year, and as a family think about what "new year" resolutions you can make.

If you have not already done so, make an advent candle wreath: Light the first candle today and say a prayer for all those who are ill with Covid-19 and any other sickness.

In a family prayer time, ask our Blessed Mother Mary to help us to keep Christ in Christmas.

Decide what kind of prayers you will say as a family this advent, e.g.

- The Rosary,
- Read a sentence of the Christmas story each day
- Set up a crib scene bit by bit as a focal point for prayers (each day add another feature)



Each member of the family to choose a prayer each day

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 below 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

Saints this week: How can they inspire the way we live?

Monday 30th November: St. Andrew – brother of St. Peter, who told St. Peter about Jesus (see Jn. 35-42). Who can you talk to about Jesus this week? You never know where it might lead them!

Tuesday 1st December: St. Edmund Campion – Jesuit martyr of the English Reformation who refused to give up his faith, even though Queen Elizabeth I promised him jewels and money. St. Edmund Campion, pray for us!

Thursday 3rd December: St. Frances Xavier – Jesuit who went to India, and preached the faith there, especially in Goa and Malacca, before going to Japan and then China. Let us pray for Christians who are in the minority in these countries, that they can hold fast to Jesus Christ and witness to their love of Him in the way they live their lives.

Saturday 5th December: St. Birinus – Today is a feast day in our diocese as St. Birinus (bishop) was sent to England as a missionary in 634 and established his cathedral in Dorchester on Thames, which is now in the archdiocese of Birmingham. Let us pray especially for all the priests and bishops in our diocese, especially for our own parish priest, Fr Naz. They work very hard for us and need our love and support!

Christmas picture competition

See the attached paper on this. We would love to decorate the Narthex with your pictures/paintings/drawings of the Christmas story.

Choose a part of the story that is in Luke or Matthew’s Gospels (Luke 1:26-2:20, Matthew 1:18-2:23) and create a picture (not a model) to illustrate it. You can use any medium, paint, pencil, pen, crayon, collage etc, or a mixture. All pictures submitted will be put on display and there will be prizes for the different age categories, including an adult section. Submission must be no later than after midday on 6th December