



St. Joseph's Parish



Family Activity Sheet



Advent week 2, 6th-12th December 2020

Introduction:

Today we hear John the Baptist inviting us to prepare a way for the Lord. What does this mean? It means getting ready to meet Jesus. This week there are a number of suggestions for how we can do just this in our families. Children who are preparing for their first Reconciliation and First Holy Communion are especially invited to do the activities marked with a star like this. The wise men followed the star and it led them to Jesus, and so by following the star we are led to Jesus. Let's all make Christmas 2020 a really memorable one, not because of what we cannot do, but because of it gives us an opportunity to focus more on its true meaning.



Finally, Pauline Kirton sent this link for children, explaining what Advent is:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YkixloTea8>

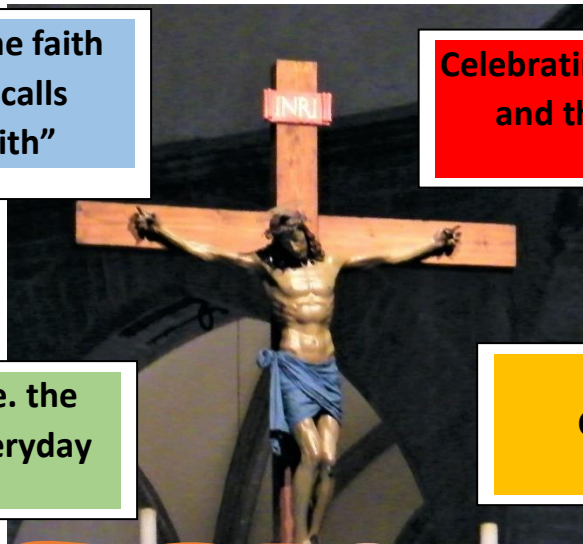
There are Four Dimensions of the Faith which we can put around the cross, making sure that Jesus Christ is the centre of everything we do:

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

6th December: 2nd Sunday of Advent



Gospel Mark 1:1-8

The beginning of the Good News about Jesus Christ, the Son of God. It is written in the book of the prophet Isaiah:

Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way.



A voice cries in the wilderness:

Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight.

And so it was that John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. All Judaea and all the people of Jerusalem made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. John wore a garment of camel-skin, and he lived on locusts and wild honey. In the course of his preaching he said, ‘Someone is following me, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to kneel down and undo the strap of his sandals. I have baptised you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.’

Activity

Family reflection on the Gospel:

- Light a candle 
- Someone read this Gospel passage out loud, beginning by saying “A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Mark”
- Everyone else says “Glory to you O Lord” and makes the Sign of the Cross on their foreheads, lips and heart. 

Discuss together some of these questions

- This is the beginning of Marks’ Gospel. What is the Good News? (Ans: Jesus is the Good News because He has come to lead us to His Father).
- Where did John the Baptist appear? (Ans: in the wilderness)
- What was he saying? (Ans: “prepare a way for the Lord, “someone is coming after me who is more powerful... will baptise with the Holy Spirit...”)
- Who is John the Baptist talking about? (Ans: Jesus)
- What will Jesus do? (Ans; baptise with the Holy Spirit)
- When do we receive the Holy Spirit? (Ans: We first receive the Holy Spirit when we are baptised and then at Confirmation this gift of the Holy Spirit is strengthened (made stronger) in us. However whenever we receive any of the Sacraments, the Holy Spirit comes to us. The Holy Spirit also helps us whenever we ask Him!)
- How does the Holy Spirit help us? (Ans: He guides us and helps us to be strong especially when we are tempted to do something that we should not do. He helps us to understand right from wrong, and to go out and do nice and kind things.

A prayer for this week:



Normally during Advent, the parishes locally make arrangements for Reconciliation services. This is not possible this year, for obvious reasons. However we can still take time to reflect on how we have not always been as loving to one another as we could be.

Both of these prayers refer to “grace”. Grace is the amazing “stuff” that comes to us in Baptism and all the sacraments, and grace is what helps us to live as Jesus wants us too. We pray “Hail Mary full of grace...” It was because Mary was full of grace that she could say yes to the Angel Gabriel and yes to the Father, and give birth to Jesus, the Son of God. Grace helps us to do amazing things.

Learn one of these acts of contrition by heart.

O my Jesus because you are so good, I am very sorry that I have sinned against you, and by the help of your grace, I will not sin again.

Father, thank you for loving me. I am sorry for all my sins, for not loving others and not loving you. By the grace of your Holy Spirit, help me to live like Jesus and not sin again.



The difference between a sin and a mistake.

Adults to ask the questions and children respond. The answers are given, but these are for discussion and do feel free to discuss these with your child.

Q. What is sin? A. *Sin is doing something that we know is wrong and it offends God and other people.*

Q. What was the first sin? A. *When Adam and Eve chose to eat the fruit that “looked good to eat” (Gen. 3:6) in the garden of Eden, even though they had been told not to by God.*

Q. What can we learn from this? A. *That we can be tempted to do something that looks good but is not good for us then.*

For example:

Q. Is eating good for us? A. *Yes of course.*

Q. is it always good for us? A. *No.*

Q. When is eating not good for us? A. *(examples could be: when we have been told not to eat something, when it is someone else’s food, when it is poisonous, when the food is too hot, when we have already eaten too much, when it is not ours to eat...)*

Teaching: Some actions are “good” or “bad” depending on the circumstance and who is doing it. A sin is when we do something that we know is wrong, or we don’t do which we know we should do. A mistake is when we did not do it on purpose.

For example:

Q. I see a pencil I like on the table; it's not mine but I take it. Sin or mistake? A. *Sin, because I knew that it was not mine and took it on purpose.*

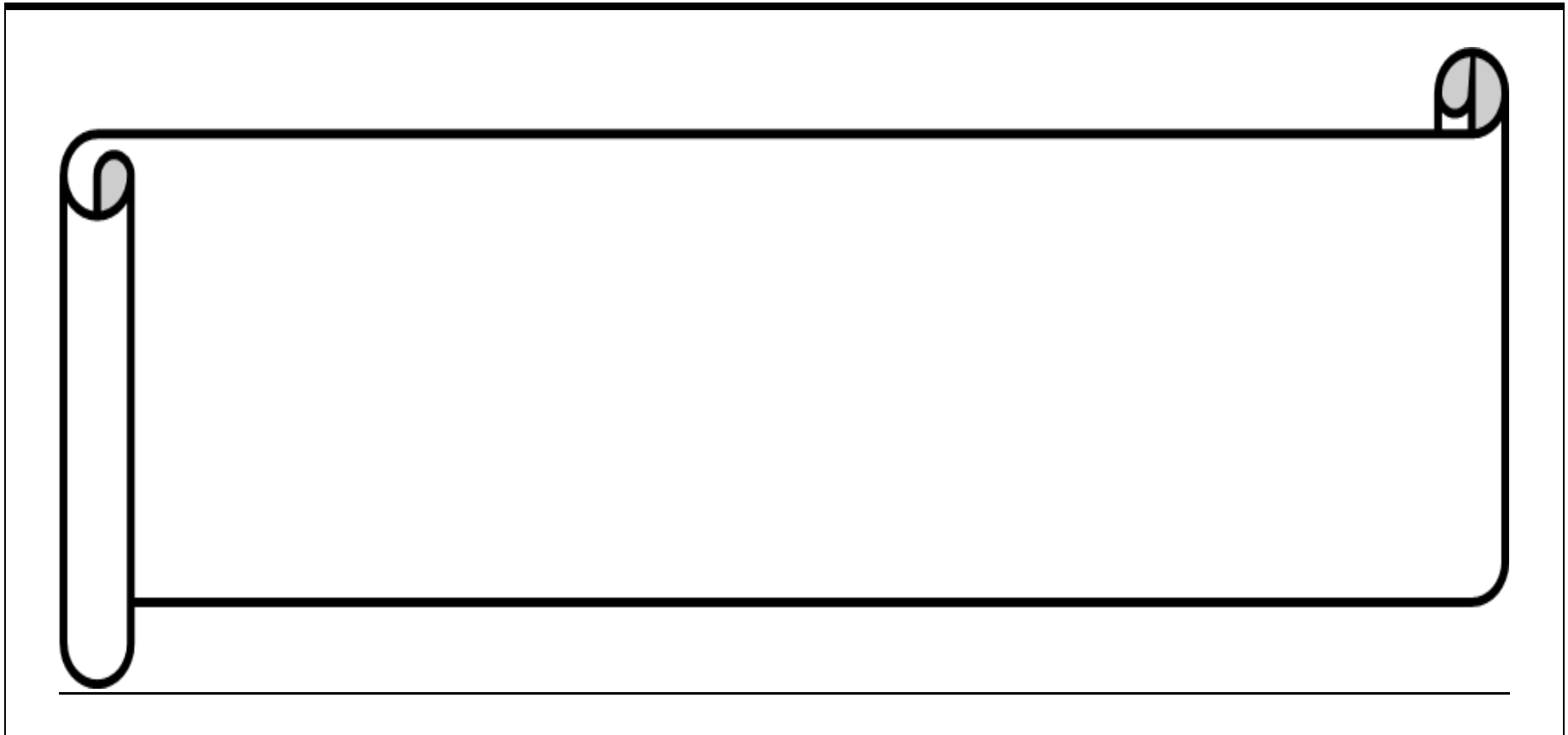
Q. I see a bag which looks just like mine and take it home. When I get home I realise that it is not my bag. Sin or mistake? A. Mistake as I did not realise that it was not mine.

Q. I accidentally bump into someone at school and they fall over and get hurt. Sin or mistake? A. Mistake because I did not mean to bump into them.

Q. I walk away and leave that person crying after bumping into them. Sin or mistake? A. Sin because I should have helped them.

Colour in these boxes: the sins in red and the mistakes in blue. Two have been done as an example. Then write a prayer in the scroll below asking the Holy Spirit by His grace to help you to resist temptation (be strong and choose not to sin. Please send completed papers to Sue (group A) and Carol Ann via the office (group B).

I forgot to brush my teeth in the morning	I yelled out because I bumped into the door and banged my arm	I tripped over and fell in a puddle when out for a walk and got all muddy
I shouted at someone in the family because I was cross with them	I completely forgot how to set the table and put everything in the wrong place	I knocked over a glass of juice on the carpet by accident
I found a toy that I liked and put it in my pocket without telling anyone	I would not share my toys with my brother or sister or a friend.	I did not make my bed after Mum asked me to
I could not remember how to do up my shoes	I took my friend's pencil because I liked it.	I forgot to bring my coat home from school
I got cross and slammed the door	I didn't realise that someone was behind the door and banged into them when I went through the door	I knocked over an ornament at home by accident, but didn't own up
I knocked over an ornament at home by accident	The door shut faster than I expected, and it slammed	I ate my brother or sister's sweets
I was asked to turn off the TV/iPad/computer, but carried on watching	I was told to stop playing but did not	I turned the music up loud when my mum had a headache



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

6th December – St. Nicholas. Patron saint of children. In many countries in Europe his coming marks the start of the Christmas celebrations, and traditionally he puts sweets in their shoes whilst they are asleep (like Fr Christmas fills stockings with toys and goodies on Christmas Eve). Why not surprise the children on the morning on the 6th December by arranging a visit from St. Nicholas?

8th December – feast of the Immaculate Conception. The Immaculate Conception is when Mary was conceived without sin in the womb of her mother, St. Anne. It is *not* about Jesus' conception in her womb which is celebrated at the Annunciation in March. Mary conceived without sin was therefore FULL of grace. Mary, Conceived without sin, pray for us.