

# St. Joseph's Family Activities



## November 2021

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### November: Month of the Holy Souls

With the celebration of All Souls shortly followed by Remembrance Day and Remembrance Sunday, November is a time of prayers for those who have gone before us. Whether you do this privately in the family or present a list at Mass, it's an important time for the family to help children to understand that those in heaven and those in purgatory are as much a part of the Church as we are here on earth.

Towards the end the pages there are some suggestions for how we can begin to prepare for Advent. Advent begins quite early again this year (on 28<sup>th</sup> November). This will help your children to better appreciate what Christmas is. If you have any tried and tested ways to help children prepare spiritually for Christmas, in the home or at school, may be from other cultures, please do share them with me.

Finally, there are only three Sundays covered this month as the Advent issue will (hopefully) be out by mid-November.

As ever, if you wish to see past copies of these sheets, please go to <https://www.stjosephsmalvern.org/j/> and then click on the dropdown box for past editions.

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

We begin this month with the solemnity of All Saints (celebrated on 31<sup>st</sup> October) and end with the celebration of St. Andrew, one of Jesus' first disciples. In between we pray for and remember all those who have gone before us. This is a picture of the Dome in Naples' Catholic showing the heavenly realms.



*The family is the "domestic Church" and if we are not able to gather in person with the parish, it's a good idea to set aside special times to pray with the family, even if it is just 10 minutes two or three times a week. These are graced moments. Light a candle and have a few moments' silence and remind everyone that they are in the presence of God who is Father, Son and Holy Spirit. These times are very precious and even if it is just a few minutes after a meal, it can be a fruitful time. Don't bite off more than you can chew! Start with just a few moments and build up the scope and variety of prayers slowly. Give everyone the opportunity to voice their own prayers as well as reciting traditional prayers.*

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

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

**Celebrating it in the Liturgy  
and the Sacraments**

**Christian  
prayer.**

**First reading and Gospel  
for Sunday 7<sup>th</sup>  
November: 32<sup>nd</sup> Sunday  
in Ordinary Time**

**Gospel: Mark 12:41-44**

Jesus sat down opposite the treasury and watched the people putting money into the treasury; and many of the rich put in a great deal. A poor widow came and put in two small coins, the equivalent of a penny. Then he called his disciples and said to them, 'I tell you solemnly, this poor widow has put more in than all who have contributed to the treasury; for they have all put in money they had over, but she from the little she had has put in everything she possessed, all she had to live on.'

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 a candle
- ✚ Make the Sign of the Cross
- ✚ Someone read the Gospel slowly

Some background: This is taking place in the Temple which was beautifully decorated with gold and other rich cloths, all for God's glory. The rich people gave a lot as they could afford to, and many gave from what they had left over after making sure that they had enough to eat and buy clothes, to give lavish parties and so on. The coins that the poor widow put into the treasury (collection box) were called "lepta" and were little more than shavings of copper, worth very little in comparison to the gold and silver that the rich were putting into the treasury. In addition, it was customary for the rich people to make it known that they had contributed a lot. This did two things; it won admiration from those around, and it showed that they were rich. It may also be worth checking that the children know what a widow is and explaining that at that time, widows could not go out to work and had to rely on either their children looking after them or other people giving them food and money. The widow in the story presumably had no children to take care of her, or her children were very young.

**Q: What did the rich people put into the treasury (in the Temple?)** (A: A lot of money.)

**Q: What did the poor widow put in?** (A. Two small coins.)

**Q: What did Jesus say that the widow had put in?** (A. More than everyone else)

**Q: What did Jesus mean by this?** (A: That the woman put in everything that she had, but the rich people put in what they had left over, or what they did not need).

**Q: How was the widow going to buy food now?** (A: She was going to have to trust God that He would inspire people to help her.)

**Q: Who do we know in the Bible trusted God?** (A: Various, e.g. the woman who was bleeding for 12 years, all those who asked Jesus to heal their sick children, most of all, Mary, when the Angel Gabriel asked her to be the mother of Jesus.)

**Q: We all have to learn to trust God. When can we trust God?** (A: When we ask Him for what we need, or for healing for other people who are sick, in our prayers.)

**Let us all ask Mary to help us to trust God more and more. Hail Mary.....**

Colour in the pictures and complete the prayers to these saints who trusted God



"God is full of compassion and never fails those who are ill and unhappy, if you trust in Him alone." Saint Teresa of Avila



St. Joseph, you trusted God when....

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St Joseph, Pray for us.

St. Teresa, help me to trust God when ...

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St. Teresa of Avila, Pray for us.



## Gospel for Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> November: 33<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time

### Gospel: Mark 13:24-32

Jesus said to his disciples: 'In those days, after the time of distress, the sun will be darkened, the moon will lose its brightness, the stars will come falling from heaven and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in the clouds with great power and glory; then too he will send the angels to gather his chosen from the four winds, from the ends of the world to the ends of heaven.

'Take the fig tree as a parable: as soon as its twigs grow supple and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near. So with you when you see these things happening: know that he is near, at the very gates. I tell you solemnly, before this generation has passed away all these things will have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

'But as for that day or hour, nobody knows it, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son; no one but the Father.'

The Gospel of the Lord

R/: **Praise to you Lord Jesus  
Christ**

## Discussion on the Gospel

- ✠ Light a candle
- ✠ Make the Sign of the Cross
- ✠ Someone read the Gospel slowly

*The Gospel's focus is on Jesus's coming in glory at the end of time. It is easy to think of it as something for the future, but it could be at any time. The questions focus on Jesus' saying that His words will not pass away, and lead to reflecting on the words of the Eucharist which is how Jesus is present with us at Mass.*

**Q: Jesus is talking about the end of time when He will come again. What will be the signs that He is coming?** (A: The sun and moon will grow dark, and the stars will fall [disappear].)

**Q: How is Jesus going to come back?** (A: Coming on the clouds with great glory.)

**Q: How is Jesus with us today?** (A: At Mass in the Eucharist. If the children say "bread and wine" remind them that after the consecration, we don't call it bread and wine anymore – it's Jesus who is here.)

**Q: What did Jesus say will not pass away?** (A: Jesus' words.)

**Q: What does Jesus mean by this?** (A: That somehow, everything that He has said will last for all eternity [for ever].)

**Q: If Jesus' words are so important, what can we do to remember them?** (A: Learn some by heart.)

**Q: What can you remember that Jesus said, e.g. when He was going about teaching and healing, or during His Passion, death, Resurrection and Ascension into heaven?** (A: Open – if none are forthcoming, may be give hints such as "what did He say to the little girl who He raised from the dead... etc.)

**Q: Which words of Jesus are repeated at every Mass?** (A: This is my Body... This is my Blood.)

**Q: What happens to the bread and wine when the priest says these words?** (A: They become the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ.)

**Q: Even though we can't see Jesus as a man anymore, whenever we see the Sacred Host and the chalice (cup) after the priest has said these words, we can see Jesus. How can we talk to Jesus face to face today?** (A: We can spend a few minutes in adoration in the church [on a Thursday at St. Joseph's] or even just pray in front of the tabernacle.)

**O Sacrament most Holy, O Sacrament divine, all praise and all thanksgiving, be every moment Thine**



## Colour in these words of Jesus which the priest says at Mass

Take this, all of you, and eat of it, for this is  
my body, which will be given up for you.

Take this, all of you, and drink from it, for this  
is the chalice of my blood, the blood of the new  
and eternal covenant, which will be poured out  
for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.  
Do this in memory of me.

# Learn these words of Jesus by heart this week

Day of the week	Jesus' words	Tick when learned
Sunday	But as for that day or hour, nobody knows it, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son; no one but the Father (Lk. 13:32).	
Monday	He who believes in the Son has Eternal Life (Jn. 4:36).	
Tuesday	You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and all your soul and with all your mind, and all your strength... and you shall love your neighbour as yourself (Mk. 12:30-31).	
Wednesday	Let the children come to me... for the kingdom of heaven belongs to them (Mt. 19:14).	
Thursday	Man (people) shall not live by bread alone but by every word that comes from the mouth of God (Mt. 4:4)	
Friday	<i>(When challenged by other people on our faith...)</i> Do not worry about what to say for the Holy Spirit will teach you what you ought to say (Lk. 12:12)	
Saturday	I am the bread of life, anyone who comes to me shall not hunger and he who believes in me shall not thirst (Jn. 6:35).	

## Children's liturgy of the word for this week



### **Gospel for Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> November: The Solemnity of Christ the Universal King**

**Gospel: John 18:33-37**

**Yes, I am a king**

‘Are you the king of the Jews?’ Pilate asked. Jesus replied, ‘Do you ask this of your own accord, or have others spoken to you about me?’ Pilate answered, ‘Am I a Jew? It is your own people and the chief priests who have handed you over to me: what have you done?’ Jesus replied, ‘Mine is not a kingdom of this world; if my kingdom were of this world, my men would have fought to prevent my being surrendered to the Jews. But my kingdom is not of this kind.’ ‘So you are a king then?’ said Pilate. ‘It is you who say it’ answered Jesus. ‘Yes, I am a king. I was born for this, I came into the world for this: to bear witness to the truth; and all who are on the side of truth listen to my voice.’

The Gospel of the Lord

R/: *Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ*

### **Discussion on the Gospel**

- † Light a candle
- † Make the Sign of the Cross
- † Someone read the Gospel slowly

*The solemnity of Christ the King was instituted by Pope Pius XI in 1925 to remind the Church of two things: 1) that ultimately, He rules over all creation and that 2) by our Baptism, we are commissioned to share in Christ's kingship. We do this by caring for the world which we have been given; the world itself and those who live in it.*

**Q: What is a king?** (A: Someone who rules and cares for the territory they rule over.)

**Q: Who asked Jesus if He was a king?** (A: Pontius Pilate.)

**Q: When did this happen?** (A: Jesus had been arrested and was “on trial” before His death.)

**Q: What kind of kingdom does Jesus have?** (A: Not of this world.)

**Q: What does Jesus mean by this?** (A: It means that He does not rule a country.)

**Q: Today's feast is called “Christ the Universal King.” What is the Universe?** (A: The whole of creation including all the stars and the planets.)

**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: Because we are joined to Jesus in Baptism, we share in His work of caring for others – how can we do this?** (A: Open....)

**Q: We also share in Jesus' work of caring for the universe (or part of it, the world) how can we do this?** (A: Open....)

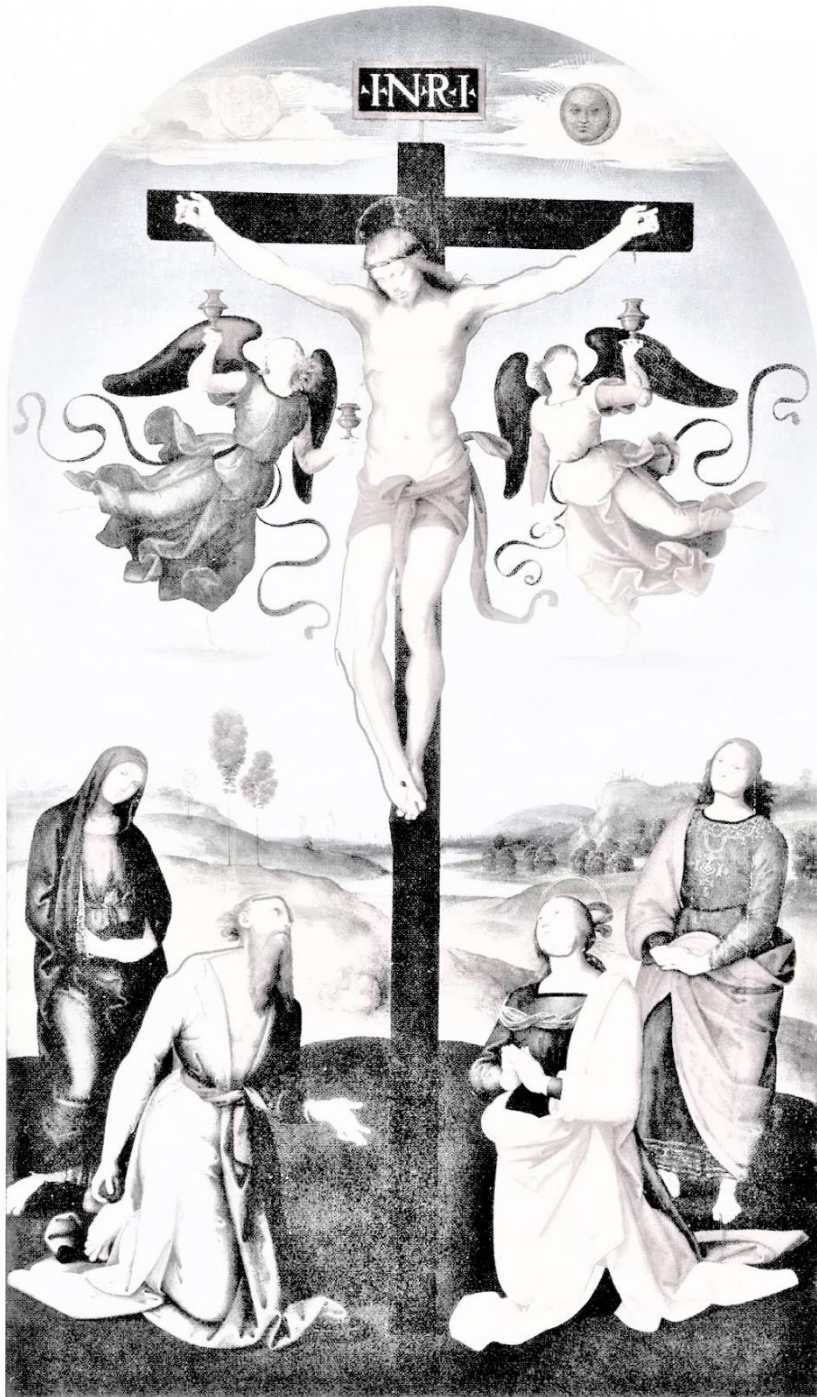
**Q: Most Kings and queens have thrones – what is Jesus' throne?** (A. His Cross).

**Q: If we are finding it difficult to be a king or queen like Jesus, what can we do?** (A. We can make the Sign of the Cross.)

**Lets now slowly make the Sign of the Cross and in silence ask Jesus to help us to look after other people and His world, by His grace.**



## Colour in this picture of Jesus on the Cross - His throne



1. Look at the Cross Jesus is on - it joins heaven and earth, Finish colouring it in at the bottom. Jesus came to earth to help us get to heaven.
2. The sky is blue - the colour of the "heavens" - this is also part of Jesus' kingdom. Colour in the sky blue and think about everything that is so beautiful that is under the sky.
3. The sun and moon are at the top of the picture - Jesus is king of the whole universe, including the sun and the moon.
4. All the figures are wearing some red (or pink) to show that they share in Jesus' death on the Cross, and so share in His kingship over creation - colour in all the red bits on each of
5. The earth is a very dark brown and the hills immediately behind the cross are bare and sandy. This shows that the world is full of sin. As you colour this in, think about the bad things that you have done and, in your heart, say sorry to Jesus on the cross.
6. The figure in the front left with the long beard is St. Jerome and He is kneeling in front of Jesus offering Himself to Him. As you colour his robes in grey, ask Jesus how you can be a better "king or queen" in our world.
7. St. Mary Magdalene is kneeling on right of the Cross and she was one of the first women to see Jesus after He rose from the dead. She told the disciples about Jesus. As you colour in her dress, ask Jesus to help you to tell other people about Him.
8. The angels are catching Jesus blood in chalices. When do you see a chalice? As you colour in the angels, reflect on the fact that Jesus comes to us at every Mass.).
9. The people standing are St. John and Mary. They are both looking out at us. St. John was the only disciple who stayed with Jesus in His crucifixion. Ask him to help us stay with Jesus in difficult times. Mary of course is Jesus' mother and prays for us. As you colour her in, pray a quiet Hail Mary, asking her to help us to love Jesus more and more each day.
10. Finally as you colour in Jesus, tell Him that you love Him because He is our True King.





# Some November Feasts and Commemorations



## 2<sup>nd</sup> November, All Souls

Today we pray for all those who have died, and this includes members of our own families.

Write a list of those family and friends you know who have died, and remember to pray for them this month. May be divide up the names and pray for one or two each day.

**Eternal Rest grant unto them O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them, may they rest in peace, Amen.**

## 6<sup>th</sup> November, All the Saints of Africa

Today we celebrate the feast of all the Saints of Africa who, down through the ages, have followed the Lord with courage, love and dedication. Many of these saints are unknown to us, while others are remembered in various countries on account of their exemplary life of discipleship. Their example and teaching remind us of our call to holiness, while their intercession makes it possible for us to achieve it, thanks to God's grace. The feast we celebrate today is a foretaste of the joy we shall experience one day in heaven. (from [www.universalis.com](http://www.universalis.com))

## 4<sup>th</sup> November, St. Charles Borromeo (1538 – 1584)

St. Charles was a nephew of the Pope and was made a cardinal when he was only 21. He was expected to live like a lord in a castle, but instead he worked very hard in Milan in Italy teaching the faith and training men to be good priests. He also helped with writing the first Catechism of the Church in 1566. He is patron saints of catechists and Seminarians (men training to be priests)

*St. Charles Borromeo is one of the saints featured on the reredos at the back of St. Joseph's Church.*

How many words with at least three letters, can you make out of the letters of:

**SAINT CHARLES BORROMEO**

*How many of these words reflect good/kind and loving actions?*

**Pray for all seminarians, that they may grow to love Jesus more and more each day.**

If you know someone from Africa (such as Fr. Naz in our parish in Malvern) ask them who their favourite African saint is and why.



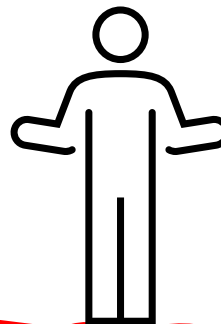
## 10<sup>th</sup> November, Pope St. Leo the Great

Today the Church celebrates the memorial of this great man who died in 461 AD. He taught a lot of very important things, and because of this, he is a "doctor" of the Church. (A "doctor" of the Church means someone who taught great things) the Catechism of the Catholic Church quotes some of the things he said, such as this lovely statement:

**"Christian recognise your dignity... remember who is your head and of whose body you are a member"** (Catechism, paragraph 1691).

St. Leo is reminding us that we have all been baptised. When we were baptised, we were joined to Jesus Christ and are now a part of His Body on earth. Jesus is the head, and we are the rest of the Body.

Activity:



Draw the outline of a person like this on a large piece of paper, and then write "Jesus" in the head shape and then write down the names of all the people you can think of who have been baptised, and this does not just mean Catholics - other Christians as well!

## 14<sup>th</sup> November, Remembrance Sunday



The second Sunday of November each year is normally a special one when parish communities remember those who have died from their parish in war.

### Make a poppy wreath to put on the table:

Cut out as many "poppies" as you can from red paper, (if you have a shop bought poppy, draw around it to get the shape right) or draw them on white paper and colour them in.

Cut out small black circles for the centre of each poppy.

Put the poppies in a circle and place a cross or crucifix in the middle.

## 11<sup>th</sup> November, Remembrance Day

At the 11<sup>th</sup> hour of the 11<sup>th</sup> day of the 11<sup>th</sup> month 1918, the guns fell silent to end World War 1. We also fall silent at 11 am to pray for all those who have died or been injured in battles, anywhere at any time. As you pray, in your mind see a soldier or another member of the armed forces who has been hurt or injured. Then imagine that Jesus is there with them, giving them a hug.



**Pray: Heavenly Father, help all soldiers and memners of the armed forces to be brave. Help those who are injured and those families of those who have died. We ask this through Jesus Christ by the grace of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

## 15<sup>th</sup> November, St Albert the Great (1206 - 1280)

He was born at Lauingen on the Danube, in Germany, and studied at Padua and Paris before becoming a Dominican Priest. He taught in a number of places including the University of Paris, where one of the Church's greatest teachers, St Thomas Aquinas, was one of his students.

At Albert was very interested in science and astronomy and his learning gave him the title, as a Doctor of the Church, of *Doctor Universalis*, the "Universal Doctor."

In 1260 the Pope made him Bishop of Regensburg, a post that he held for three years before resigning it, as he much preferred to be teaching about Jesus than organising a diocese. He died at Cologne in 1280.

### Science vs Religion?

Sometimes people think that science is opposed to religion, but the word "science" means "knowledge". Science is studying and exploring God's wonderful creation.

Think about the discoveries that scientists have made since St. Albert was on earth. What would you like to teach him about the world that he would not have known?

Pray for all scientists that they recognise God's creation and respect all people and creatures in their work.

## 16<sup>th</sup> November, St. Margaret of Scotland (1046 -1093)

She was queen of Scotland nearly a thousand years ago. She had 8 children and family life was always important to her.

### Begin a family advent calendar:

On a large sheet of paper (or on a door) stick or blue-tak 27 small envelopes with the flaps facing out.

Share out the envelopes so that each person is "in charge" of an equal share. Over the next couple of weeks, write out little prayers or bible verses and put them in the envelopes. May be decorate the envelopes with pictures of the Christmas story, such as Mary, a shepherd, wise man, baby Jesus etc. (If there is space Mum or Dad may be able to add a little sweet or chocolate.) When they are all filled, seal them and then add random numbers from 1-24,, 28,29 & 30. Then they are ready to begin to open on 28<sup>th</sup> November which is actually the first day of Advent this year.

Think of other ways to display the envelopes - e.g. on some branches of twigs which have been decorated with tinsel and stuck in a pot. May be each day as an envelope is removed, it is replaced with a Christmas bauble.

Send us photos of the results.



## 22<sup>nd</sup> November, St Cecilia

St. Cecilia was one of the early Roman Martyrs, but nothing really is known about her life and why she has become the patron saint of musicians in the middle of the 6<sup>th</sup> century, 200 years after her death.

Anyway, if you play a musical instrument, today you can ask St. Cecilia to pray for you and to help you in all that practice which needs to be done!

Even if you are not learning an instrument, you can still sing a hymn of praise to God. How about singing this hymn together!

**Seek ye first the Kingdom of God  
And His righteousness  
And all these things shall be added unto you  
Allelu Alleluia**

**Ask and it shall be given unto you  
Seek and ye shall find  
Knock and it shall be opened unto you  
Allelu Alleluia**

Seek Ye First lyrics © Universal Music Publishing Group

## 30<sup>th</sup> November, St Andrew the Apostle

St. Andrew was born in Bethsaida, in Galilee, and worked as a fisherman with his brother Simon (Peter).

St. Andrew appears very early on in John's Gospel as he is a disciple of John the Baptist. (A disciple is someone who learning and following someone.) John the Baptist points out Jesus and calls Him "the Lamb of God" which means that He is the one who was going to take away all our sins. Andrew and his friend decide to follow Jesus. Jesus turns and says to them "what are you looking for?" Andrew asked Jesus where He was staying and Jesus invited them to see and ended up spending the whole day with Him. After that, Andrew rushed off to tell his brother, Simon and introduced him to Jesus. Jesus re-named Simon and called him "Peter" which means "rock" and of course he became the first pope.

As one of the twelve Apostles, St. Andrew was widely venerated in ancient times. He became Scotland's patron saint because legend says that some of his bones were taken to Scotland and buried at the place where the town of St Andrew's now stands.

## What can we learn from St. Andrew?

1. St. John the Baptist pointed out Jesus to Andrew and Andrew pointed out Jesus to his brother Simon (Peter). We can make sure that we talk about Jesus to other people - as that is the only way they are going to know how much He loves them.
2. we can spend time with Jesus to get to know Him better. We can do this by finding time to pray, or to read about Him in the Bible.

## Getting Ready for Advent

Advent means "coming" and during the four weeks of Advent we are preparing for the coming of Jesus Christ at Christmas and again at the end of time. However, like all the Church's seasons, if we leave it until Advent, then we won't be able to make the full use of this special time.

### The Collect (opening prayer) for the last week of ordinary time:

Let us pray.

Stir up the will of your faithful, we pray, O Lord, that, striving more eagerly to bring your divine work to fruitful completion, they may receive in greater measure the healing remedies your kindness bestows. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

This prayer asks that we may be "stirred up" – such a great image! Let's be stirred up this year to make advent a time of real spiritual preparation for Christmas. See above for a suggestion about a family advent calendar. Do share other suggestions with me!

Perhaps you can pray this prayer every day and ask Jesus what He wants you to do – how you can be "stirred up" this week?

### Stir up Sunday.

Before the solemnity of **Christ the King** was moved to the last Sunday of the Church's year, the collect on the last Sunday of the Church's year was given the nick-name, "stir up Sunday." Because of this, it is the day on which Christmas pudding was traditionally begun, and all the family took turns to give it a stir.

### Make a Christmas pudding (or two).

Making Christmas pudding is not difficult, and if the fruit is well soaked in alcohol the night before and the pudding is given a "drink" of brandy once it is cold, it will keep well.

Maybe make a smaller one to give to someone you know who will be on their own this Christmas.

*The best Christmas puddings are steamed, and you can hide a little coin (wrapped in greaseproof paper) in the middle – but don't do this if you are going to microwave the pudding.*



### Make an Advent Candle wreath:

1. Get 4 candles (traditionally three are purple and one is pink but get what you can), and 4 candle holders, one for each if the candles. (If you don't have 4 candle holders you can securely place each candle in a jar filled with soil or sand, or even set them in clay or plasticine which is in a dish/flowerpot/plastic tray....
2. Make a circle with wire and twist or take the ends together. (An old wire coat-hanger is ideal).
3. Collect greenery from the garden or on walks.
4. Arrange the greenery around the wire circle, twisting it around and tying it with green string or twine.
5. Add in other decorations, such as baubles, ribbons or dreid pieces of orange or cinnamon sticks.
6. Light one candle each Sunday of Advent, beginning on 28th November. We light ours before meals as we say grace.



Plan your family prayer times for Advent by thinking about how you can make Advent extra=special this year.

See these suggestions:

- Pray a decade of the Rosary each day before bedtime
- 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 or to write a prayer each day....