

From Advent to Christmas

Linking School, Parish and Home

Autumn 2 2017



Religious Education

Key Ideas:

Students will explore the events, rituals and practices of Advent and Christmas, in time with the Church Liturgical Year.

Key Dates:

November

1 All Saints (School Mass in Church) 2 All Souls 3 St Winifrede 16 St Edmund of Abingdon, St Margaret of Scotland 17 St Hilda, St Hugh of Lincoln, St Elizabeth of Hungary 26 Christ the King 30 St Andrew

December

3 First Sunday of Advent 8 Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary 19 School Mass in Church

Learning opportunities include:

- Hearing the story of Christmas.
- Coming to know Jesus is God the Father's Son.
- Coming to know that Mary is the mother of Jesus.
- Experiencing that a Church is a special place where God's people gather to pray.
- Experiencing praying with others as a celebration.
- Experiencing liturgical celebrations in a variety of simple settings.
- Joining in simple prayers and hymns.
- Considering ways in which a Christian family and parish share and celebrate life, and show care for one another.

Affective and Spiritual Dispositions:

It is hoped that pupils will develop:

- An understanding that the stories of Jesus in the Bible link with the liturgical seasons of the church year.
- A familiarity with the Seasons of Advent and Christmas, during which we anticipate and celebrate the incarnation: God in our world.

Activities to try at home

Parents are the first educators of their child in faith. Students' learning in religious education occurs best when school and family are engaged in talking about the same topics. You could help your child by trying one or more of these activities while this topic is being taught:

- Talk with your child about Advent and Christmas – how it is celebrated in the Church and in wider society. Note the different cultural expressions of Christmas: cards in other languages, foods of other cultures, customs and celebrations of other communities. .
- Talk to your child about birth: their own, yours and other members of your family. Talk about your ancestors: grandparents and great grandparents. Think about your own family heritage.
- Read stories about Christmas. Remember there are two distinct stories in the Gospel: many picture stories amalgamate the two!

An idea for prayer at home



Prayer Activity

Have an Advent wreath as a focal point in your home.
 Light a candle for each week of Advent and pray
 'God of light, help us to be people who walk with you towards the birth of your son.'

