



Catholic Children's Society (Plymouth)

Putting All Children First

ADVENT APPEAL 2017 – Make Love Your Aim

Introduction

Thank you so much for participating in this year's Advent appeal for the **Catholic Children's Society Plymouth (CCSP)**. We are so grateful for your support!

The theme is '**Make Love Your Aim**'. We are asking schools to explore how CCSP helps local children and families in the diocese and how they can get involved while growing closer to Jesus ready for Christmas during Advent.

Easy to teach activities and a PowerPoint presentation are provided for each year group to introduce the CCSP to children at an age appropriate level. These lessons link directly with the differentiated learning outcomes and suggested activities from the **Advent teaching materials provided by the diocese and Unit 3 – Advent from 'God Matters'**. The planning is easy to follow, features engage, explore and express activities and also highlights AT1 and AT2 elements. All resources are free of charge and are available to download from our website: <http://ccsplymouth.org.uk/good-shepherd/> Please feel free to use or adapt the resources and activities as you see fit to support your teaching.

Fundraising

Our hope is that after learning about the CCSP, staff and children will feel inspired to help with our fundraising as part of their Advent preparation. Every child will get their own crib collection box to take home following their learning on the work of the Children's Society and how it links to Advent. Not only will it be a wonderful reminder of the true meaning of Christmas but it can be filled with current or previous currency, from this country or any other. Boxes will then be returned to school in time to celebrate at Epiphany. Any donations at all will be gratefully received by the CCSP. The charity has a crisis fund which provides emergency support for children, young people and their families who are having financial difficulties. It provides one-off grants to meet emergency needs such as essential white goods or clothing. Any head teacher in the diocese can access the fund for a family in need by completing a simple form stating the circumstances and needs of the family.

100% of the money you raise for the Catholic Children's Society Plymouth will go to supporting families living in Cornwall, Devon and Dorset.

Contact

If you have any questions please email Claire.Warren@prcdtr.org.uk or call Heather in our main office: **01364 645420**

Thank you so much for supporting CCSP this Advent!



Make Love Our Aim - Year 5

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| Learning Intentions | <p>God Matters learning Objective To know that Advent is a season when we celebrate the first coming of Jesus and get ready for Jesus to come at the end of time. To understand how we 'prepare a way for the Lord'.</p> <p>Working towards Age Related outcomes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pupils will be able to make links between the story of John the Baptist and our beliefs about the way we should prepare to celebrate Christmas. (AT1) <p>Age Related Outcomes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pupils will show understanding of both the words of John the Baptist by making links between the words and the way Christians behave (AT1) <p>Working in greater Depth</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pupils will be able to give reasons for their answer to the question - Are the words of John the Baptist "Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth;" Luke Ch. 3 v.5 relevant today? <p>Additional learning To know how CCSP helps local children through their services. To understand how we can help CCSP help local children</p> |
| Resources | <p>John the Baptist worksheet (attached) Enough Bibles for the children to share one between two or photocopies of Luke Ch3 4 -11. A range of Christmas advertising (paper or TV adverts) Nativity and figures</p> |
| Key questions | <p>What signs and symbols do you associate with Advent? How did John the Baptist tell people to prepare for Jesus? What does this mean for us when we are preparing for Christmas? Are the words of John the Baptist "Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth;" Luke Ch. 3 v.5 relevant today?</p> |
| Engage Activity | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Recap the details of Advent through a quick quiz. https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbbc/quizzes/advent-quiz (simple and quick) or https://catholic-link.org/how-much-do-you-know-about-advent/ (A challenge!)• Make a note of any additional information the children remember about the season of Advent. |



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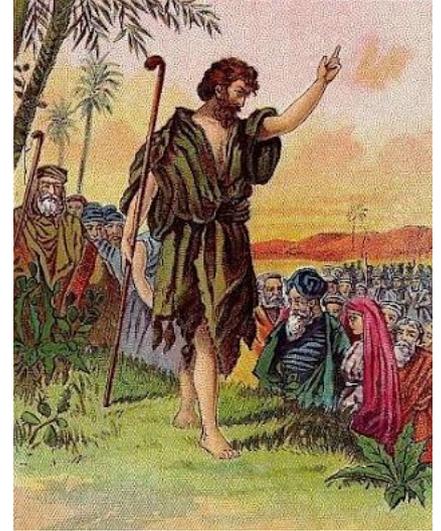
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| <p>Explore and Express Activities</p> | <p>John the Baptist Use the attached worksheet to explore his words. This can be given to the children to work through in pairs or used for whole class discussion.</p> <p>Independent work</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Children to respond to the question 'Are the words of John the Baptist "Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth" still relevant today? Ask children to explain in detail giving examples.- Write out John's words on preparing for the Messiah then illustrate to show their meaning. <p>Additional information: John the Baptist wrote, when he was talking about preparing for the coming of Jesus "Every Mountain shall be laid low, every Valley filled in". Well, if you stand behind a mountain, you can't see the way ahead and if you stand in a valley you can't see the way ahead either. John believed that some people build mountains out of all the stuff in their lives, because having things like lots of clothes, lots of toys etc. becomes the most important things in their lives; but some other people don't have enough to live and their problems weigh them down so it is like living in a valley. John went on to say that if you build a mountain out of stuff, or live in a valley it can be difficult to find God. He hoped there would be a time when people who had lots of things would be prepared to share with those who haven't anything so that everyone would then be close to God.</p> <p>Catholic Children's Society Appeal In Advent, Christians try especially hard to help those who are less fortunate by giving what they don't need away (Link to John the Baptist's advice for those preparing the way for Jesus' coming in Luke 3:11). This way, they are ready to give Jesus a wonderful 'gift' at Christmas. Share the PowerPoint with the children explaining the 'Make Love Your Aim' appeal and sharing the charity's work. Discuss the appeal and how they might be able to contribute.</p> <p>Note - Ideally you need to start this with an empty stable in view as you will see in the PowerPoint. The children can then add the people who should be present as they suggest them.</p> <p>Prepare the Way Posters Share some of the Christmas advertising with the children and ask them to discuss what John the Baptist would think. Create posters entitled 'Prepare the Way' to advertise how people might prepare for Christmas by doing things which follow the advice of John the Baptist.</p> |
| <p>Prayer</p> | <p>Lord Jesus, Light of the world, John told the people to prepare, for you were very near: As Christmas grows closer day by day, help us to be ready to welcome you. Amen</p> |



John the Baptist

John was a **prophet**. This is a person who has been chosen by God to say the things that God wants to tell people. He went out into the desert to preach. He went there rather than the synagogue because he felt that people only went to the synagogues for show. They might go and say the prayers but they didn't change their lives. People wanted to listen to John and they asked him, "What must we do to change to lead better lives?"



- **Find out what John told them by reading Luke Chapter 3 v.11**
What did he ask them to do? Do you think they would have found that easy? Give reasons for your answer.

Many people thought John might be the Messiah, the saviour they had been waiting for but John said no it wasn't him but the Messiah would come soon.

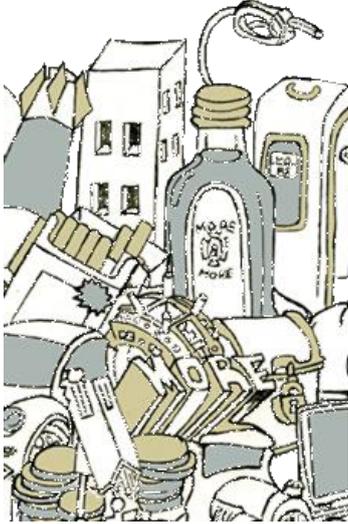
- **Find out what John told the people they had to do to prepare for the Messiah (Jesus) using the words of Isaiah (another prophet) by reading Luke Chapter 3 v.4-5.**



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What do you think Isaiah and John mean? They aren't talking about real mountains! Discuss your ideas.



Here are some clues as to what John might really be saying:

This is all stuff piled up. If you stood behind it could you see clearly? What would you have to do to see? What obstacles might get in the way of you being ready for Jesus at Christmas? What do you think John the Baptist would suggest we do in preparation for Christmas?



Make Love Our Aim - Year 6

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| <p>Learning Intentions</p> | <p>God Matters learning Objective To understand that Advent is a season of preparation for the Second Coming of Christ and a season of preparation for celebrating his Birth at Christmas.</p> <p>Working towards Age Related Expectations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pupils will be able to make links between the stories of Mary and Joseph and our beliefs about preparing in Advent. <p>Age Related Expectations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pupils will be able to describe and show understanding of different Biblical texts and explain how they inform the Christian understanding of preparing in Advent both to celebrate the presence of Christ in our World and the Second Coming of Jesus (AT1) • Pupils can explain what beliefs and values inspire and influence Christians to keep Advent as a season of preparation and penance. They will be able to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Independently use Biblical stories to justify conclusions and help answer the question. 2. Articulate their own views selecting appropriate reasons. 3. Draw on evidence from other sources (AT3) (Note - This could be 'Working at Greater Depth' if the response was well thought out and logical) Using the sources independently does not mean that you cannot help them achieve this by both scaffolding and suggesting sources. <p>Additional learning To know how CCSP helps local children through their services. To understand how we can help CCSP help local children</p> |
| <p>Resources</p> | <p>Internet and an interactive whiteboard Laptops/video recording devices (optional) Annunciation sheet (below) Joseph's Story sheet (below)</p> |
| <p>Key questions</p> | <p>What is the purpose of Advent? How should we prepare for Christmas? What do we mean when we say 'Christ will come again' and when we talk about the 'Second Coming'? How is what we know about Mary and Joseph relevant to our Advent preparation today? What inspires Christians to keep Advent as a season of preparation and penance?</p> |
| <p>Engage Activities</p> | <p>Quiz Recap the details of Advent. For example: https://catholic-link.org/how-much-do-you-know-about-advent/</p> |



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| Engage Activities | <p>Advent Preparation Watch the clip https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tVRnF8sg-RI How are people here encouraged to prepare during Advent? Is this wrong or right? Why? Watch the clip https://www.theguardian.com/media/video/2015/nov/06/john-lewis-debuts-2015-christmas-advert-manonthemoon-video Compare and contrast the difference between the two from a Christian perspective. How do Christians prepare during Advent? Note Ensure children understand that Advent, as well as being the season of preparation for celebrating Jesus' Birth at Christmas, is also a season of preparation for the Second Coming of Christ.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Children could use ICT to prepare posters or multi-media publicity materials advertising the message of the season of Advent. <p>What slogans would you use? Where could we look for inspiration? What important symbols or graphics would you use?</p> |
| Explore and Express Activities | <p>The Annunciation Read from the Annunciation sheet (below) or preferably watch the story of the Annunciation from the film Jesus of Nazareth. (http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k2Ah-SbugjQ) Why doesn't Anna, Mary's mother, see the Angel? Why do you think Mary is told about Elizabeth? How do you think Mary feels? Note You may need to explain that at the time Mary lived the penalty for being unmarried and pregnant was to be stoned to death.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Use the sheet below entitled 'Annunciation' to encourage the children to think more deeply about how Mary was affected by the news. It is very important here to makes links between ways she might have changed and prepared and the ways we still prepare during Advent.• Use the sheet below entitled 'Joseph's Story'. Read the Bible and poem extracts then use these to help answer the questions. <p>What inspires Christians to keep Advent as a season of preparation and penance? Discuss the meaning of the questions and where we can find evidence to support our ideas. Allow children time to discuss ideas and reasoning with a partner. Ask all children to respond to this question supporting their ideas with reasons and evidence from sources where possible.</p> <p>Catholic Children's Society Appeal Link Mary and Joseph's preparation to our own Advent preparation. To get ready for Christmas, Catholics try to become the best</p> |



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| | <p>person they can be in order to grow closer to Jesus. This can be done in a number of ways – prayer, saying sorry to God (confession) and good works. This can include any kind act, but often people look to help those less fortunate than themselves by giving to charity during Advent. Share the PowerPoint with the children explaining the 'Make Love Your Aim' appeal and sharing the charity's work. Discuss the appeal and how they might be able to contribute.</p> |
| <p>Prayer</p> | <p>This Advent-time we remember Mary and Joseph, giving thanks for their faithfulness, courage and obedience, stepping out into the unknown in the strength of your Spirit, playing their part in the fulfilment of your plan. We pray that their example might be the pattern of our lives, that when your gentle whisper breaks through the clamour of this world and into our small corner, we might be ready to listen, and having listened, to act. Amen</p> |



Annunciation

Luke 1:26 - 38

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David.

And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you." But she was deeply troubled by the message and wondered what the words meant. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. You will become pregnant and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."



Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be unto me according to your word."

- **Read through the passage and carefully underline or highlight words or phrases you think might be important. Explain why you think those are key words or phrases.**
- **The angel calls Mary by name. Do you think this is important?**
- **What do you think Mary is feeling? Why?**
- **How do you think Mary prepared for Jesus' birth? How might she have changed?**
- **How do you think Mary's preparation links to current day preparation during Advent (prayer, confession, and good works)?**



Joseph's Story

- **Read Matthew 1 v 18-24.**
- **Read this exert from larger poem called "A Christmas Oratorio". It is about the people around Joseph taunting him.**

Joseph you have heard
What Mary says occurred;
Yes it may be so
But is it likely? No.

Mary may be pure
But Joseph are you sure?
How is one to tell?
Suppose for instance...well.

Maybe, maybe not,
But Joseph you know what
Your world, of course will say
About you anyway.

- **What was Joseph's first reaction to the news about Mary?**
- **How do you think he felt?**
- **How did Joseph respond to God's messenger?**
- **What was life like for Joseph as he and Mary prepared for Jesus' birth? Do you think things changed?**
- **Do you think there are any similarities between the way we prepare during Advent and way Joseph would have prepared?**