

Year 1

ADVENT/CHRISTMAS – LOVING

Teacher's page

EXPLORE

Gifts, given and received, are a sign and expression of love.

- Q Which of the gifts you have received do you treasure most?
- Q Why do you treasure them?
- Q When have you experienced someone giving of themselves to you?
- Q Reflect on times in your life when you give of yourself to others?
- Q How does this feel?

REVEAL

Advent is a time when we appreciate the love in our lives and prepare to celebrate love becoming a reality in the person of Jesus. Christians at Christmas celebrate the gift of Jesus, given by God as a sign and expression of God's love. Giving and receiving reflects the truth that all life is given by God and life is given meaning through the gift of Jesus.

Word of God

"This is what love is: it is not that we have loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the means by which our sins are forgiven. Dear friends, if this is how God loved us, then we should love one another. No one has ever seen God, but if we love one another, God lives in union with us, and his love is made perfect in us." (1 John 4: 10-12)

Catechism of the Catholic Church

"Christ's whole earthly life – his words and deeds, his silences and sufferings, indeed his manner of being and speaking – is *Revelation* of the Father. Jesus can say: 'Whoever has seen me has seen the Father', and the Father can say: 'This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!' Because our Lord became man in order to do his Father's will, even the least characteristics of his mysteries manifest 'God's love ... among us.'" (CCC516)

- Q In what ways are you aware of how others are affected by your giving?

RESPOND

- Q How do the children and staff experience Jesus in the daily events of the school?
- Q How do you give the children experience of being valued and of valuing others?

Prayer and Reflection

*Today a Saviour is born!
In the stillness of the night God enters human history
through the birth of his only Son.
He is our peace and hope.
In him we praise God for his
goodness to us in giving us so great a gift. Amen.*

ADVENT/CHRISTMAS – LOVING: WAITING – TOPIC OVERVIEW

YEAR 1 FOUNDATION 1 - 4 WEEKS | Advent a time to look forward to Christmas

TEACHERS' NOTES		
<p>Advent is a time of waiting in joyful hope for Jesus; it encourages believers to wait for Christ who comes each day and who will come in a special way at the end of time.</p> <p>Scripture: John 3:16 <i>For God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son.</i></p> <p>Catechism of the Catholic Church 422: . . . <i>'But when the time had fully come, God sent forth his Son born of a woman . . . ' God has visited his people. He has fulfilled the promise made to Abraham and his descendants. He acted far beyond all expectation – he has sent his own 'beloved Son'.</i></p>		
ABOUT THE TOPIC		
<p>Prior learning: Advent: looking forward to Christmas, the birthday of Jesus</p> <p>This Topic: learning outcomes</p> <p>Know and understand:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • About the times that it is necessary to wait and the use of that time – Explore • That Advent is a time of waiting to celebrate Jesus' coming at Christmas – Reveal <p>Acquire the skills of assimilation, celebration and application of the above – Respond</p>		
SCRIPTURE	TRADITION	
<p>Luke 1: 26-31, 38 – <i>God's Story 2</i> page 55</p> <p>Luke 1: 39-45 – <i>God's Story 2</i> page 56</p> <p>Luke 2: 1-7 – <i>God's Story 2</i> page 58</p> <p>Luke 2: 8-20 – <i>God's Story 2</i> page 59</p>	<p>Advent, Advent wreath, Jesus' coming, The Nativity</p>	
SOME QUESTIONS OF MEANING & PURPOSE	CORE VOCABULARY	
<p>How do you feel when you are waiting for something you like?</p> <p>What do you find difficult about waiting?</p> <p>What can you do to make waiting easier?</p> <p>How can we best prepare for Christmas?</p>	<p>waiting, preparing, messenger, visit, celebrate, Advent, Jesus, Mary, Elizabeth, Joseph, shepherds, angels, Christmas, Bethlehem, manger, worship, wreath</p>	
RESOURCES	CROSS CURRICULAR LINKS	
<p><i>God's Story 2</i></p> <p><i>Church's Story 2</i></p> <p><i>Advent wreath</i></p> <p><i>CAFOD/Misso advent calendar</i></p> <p>http://www.widgit.com/resources/classroom/i_call_you_friends</p>	<p>Literacy, Art, Music, Drama, Science, RSE</p>	
COME & SEE WEBSITE	STANDARD INDICATOR	
<p>Interactive Advent Wreath</p> <p>Interactive Nativity scene</p>	<p>Learning about religion</p> <p>Beliefs, teaching & sources</p> <p>Celebration and ritual</p> <p>Social & moral practices & way of life</p> <p>Learning from religion</p> <p>Engagement with own & others' beliefs & values</p> <p>Engagement with questions of meaning</p>	
RE CURRICULUM DIRECTORY	LITURGICAL/PRAVERS LINKS	SONGS/HYMNS TO SING
<p>Area of Study 1: Knowing and loving God, the Scriptures, Jesus Christ, Son of God</p> <p>Area of Study 2: What is the Church? One and holy</p> <p>Area of Study 3: Liturgy, prayer</p>	<p>Hail Mary</p>	<p>See John Burland Grid</p>
POINTS TO REMEMBER		
<p>Add an Advent wreath to the prayer focal area to reinforce a time of waiting.</p>		

EXPLORE

About the times that it is necessary to wait and the use of that time

STANDARD INDICATOR

Some children will be able to **talk about** their experience and feelings about waiting.
Some children will be able to say what they **wonder** about waiting.

Some children will **begin to ask and respond** to questions about their own and others' experiences and feelings of waiting.

Some children will **begin to ask and respond** to questions about what they and others wonder about and realise that some of these questions are difficult to answer.

KEY WORDS

waiting, preparing

RESOURCES

- Magazine pictures of people waiting
- A story about waiting
- Wrapped post box

LEARNING INTENTION: The times it is necessary to wait and how we use that time.

WHOLE CLASS CORE INPUT

Prepare a 'wrapped post box'. Show the children the parcel and tell them that it cannot be opened until a whole minute has passed. The children have to sit and wait. After a minute has passed ask the children to make suggestions as to what is in the parcel. Now open the parcel. Ask the children what do they think the post box is for? Tell the children it is to post cards to each other. Ask the children how they felt whilst they were waiting for the parcel to be opened? Make a list of all the different words (excited, worried, anxious, nervous, tingly, giddy etc.).

Talk about the times in our lives when it is necessary to wait and how we have used that time. Find or make up a story about waiting. Share with the children an experience or personal story from your own experience of waiting.

SOME KEY QUESTIONS

- Q Can you think of a time in your life when you have had to wait? (At home or at school. e.g. waiting for a birthday or a holiday.)
- Q Can you think of a time that as a family you have had to wait for something?
- Q How did you feel?
- Q Was there anything special you did whilst you were waiting? Were other people involved? If so, who and how?
- Q What opportunities does waiting give you?

ADULT DIRECTED GROUP ACTIVITY

- Invite the children to draw a picture of themselves waiting for an event. Underneath it write:
I am waiting for...
I feel...
- Set up opportunities for children to play 'hide and seek' inside or out – Discuss how it feels to be the person who is waiting.

CONTINUOUS PROVISION

- Provide lots of opportunities for children to experience waiting e.g. sand timers, stop watches, clocks etc.

REFLECTION ON SIGNIFICANCE

Gather around the display or focus. Have a quiet moment to reflect on and appreciate times of waiting. Wonder about the joys of waiting and the times when it might be difficult.

REVEAL

Advent: a time of waiting to celebrate Jesus' coming at Christmas

CONTENT: scripture – tradition – prayers

STANDARD INDICATOR

Some children will be able to **recognise** that Advent is a time of waiting to celebrate Jesus at Christmas.

Some children will be able to **recognise** the Advent wreath, calendar, the colour purple and the Crib as religious signs and symbols.

Some children will be able to **use** some religious words and phrases about Advent and waiting.

Some children will be able to **retell** the story of the birth of Jesus.

Some children will be able to use religious words and phrases to **begin to describe** some religious traditions and symbols of Advent and Christmas.

KEY WORDS

Messenger, visit, celebrate, Advent, Jesus, Mary, Elizabeth, Joseph, shepherds, angels, Christmas, Bethlehem, manger, worship, wreath

RESOURCES

- An Advent calendar, see CAFOD or Missio websites
- A purple cloth for the prayer focus
- *Church's Story 2*
- *God's Story 2*
- Widgit symbols of the Nativity story for special needs
- http://www.widgit.com/resources/classroom/i_call_you_friends

LEARNING FOCUS 1: Advent is a time of waiting.

CONTENT | WHOLE CLASS CORE INPUT

Use *Church's Story 2* page 52 to show the children the cycle of the liturgical year and that now we are in the time of Advent. The word Advent means 'coming' or 'arrival' it is a time of waiting for the birthday of Jesus.

Discuss with the children how they prepare whilst waiting for Christmas. Show the children a religious Advent calendar and explain how we use it during this time of waiting. We open a different door each day as we wait. See either CAFOD or Missio.

Look at the prayer focus and notice the purple cloth – the colour used by the Church in Advent. Purple is a sign of penance as God's people patiently await the arrival of Jesus.

SOME KEY QUESTIONS

- Q What can we do during Advent to prepare for the birthday of Jesus?
- Q What are the signs of Advent?
- Q How does an Advent calendar help us understand that Advent is a time of waiting?

SOME SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES | ADULT DIRECTED GROUP ACTIVITY

- As a class design and make an Advent calendar and design and decorate the numbers for the doors. Ask the children to make suggestions of ways they can show their love during Advent. Use the suggestions in the Advent calendar each day.
- Compose an individual/class prayer about waiting during Advent.

CONTINUOUS PROVISION

- Use IWB materials – creating Advent calendars or wreaths by drag/drop

LEARNING FOCUS 2: The Advent wreath helps us as we wait for Christmas.

CONTENT | WHOLE CLASS CORE INPUT

Display an Advent wreath. Talk to the children about the significance of the Advent wreath with the four candles representing the four weeks of waiting during Advent. Each week another candle is lit until Christmas.

As each candle is lit it reminds us that we are waiting for Jesus, who is the Light of the World.

SOME KEY QUESTIONS

- Q How does the Advent wreath help us to wait for Christmas?
- Q How many candles are there and why?
- Q What does the lighted candle remind us of?

TEACHING POINT

Check with your local parish about the colour used for the candles

SOME SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES | ADULT DIRECTED GROUP ACTIVITY

- Using the various elements of an Advent wreath, children can assemble their own.
- Use IWB resource bank on the Come and See website to create an Advent wreaths by drag/drop. Print it off and label the parts

CONTINUOUS PROVISION

- Continue to use IWB as above.

LEARNING FOCUS 3: During Advent, we remember that Mary had to wait for the birth of Jesus.

CONTENT | WHOLE CLASS CORE INPUT

Read or tell the story of the Annunciation, based on Luke 1: 26-31, 38, in *God's Story 2 Mary's baby* page 55, use the picture on page 54 on the IWB. Explain how Mary loved God so much that she agreed to be the Mother of Jesus, the Son of God.

SOME KEY QUESTIONS

- Q Who visited Mary?
- Q How do you think Mary felt?
- Q What was the message?
- Q What was her response?
- Q What do you think Mary did whilst she was waiting for Jesus, God's Son, to be born?

SOME SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES | ADULT DIRECTED GROUP ACTIVITY

- Re-tell the story showing how Mary loved God so much that she wanted to please God by saying yes to God. Invite the children to record this in some appropriate way.
- Talk about the things Mary would have to do whilst she was waiting for the birth of Jesus.
- Make wooden spoon, paper bags or finger puppets of the characters, use them to retell the story.

CONTINUOUS PROVISION

- Role-play the story of the Annunciation.
- Use small play figures to act out /tell the story.

LEARNING FOCUS 4: Mary helped Elizabeth while she was waiting for the birth of her baby.

CONTENT | WHOLE CLASS CORE INPUT

Read or tell the story of the Visitation based on Luke 1: 39-45

Mary visits her cousin Elizabeth and talk about how Mary loved her cousin so much she wanted to help Elizabeth as she waited for her son John to be born. *God's Story 2* pages 56-57. Use the picture on page 57 on the IWB.

SOME KEY QUESTIONS

- Q Who told Mary about her cousin Elizabeth?
- Q Why did Mary visit Elizabeth?
- Q What was Elizabeth waiting for?
- Q What was the name of Elizabeth's baby? (John)
- Q Describe how both Mary and Elizabeth felt.
- Q How do you think Mary helped Elizabeth whilst she was waiting?

SOME SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES | ADULT DIRECTED GROUP ACTIVITY

- Retell the story using a story board, recognising how Mary visited Elizabeth because she loved her so much she wanted to help her.
- Draw/paint a picture of Mary and Elizabeth greeting each other. Include speech bubbles.

CONTINUOUS PROVISION

- Use small play figures to act/tell the story.

LEARNING FOCUS 5: The birth of Jesus.

CONTENT | WHOLE CLASS CORE INPUT

Ask the children to tell you what they remember about the story of Jesus' birth. (They may have been part of a Nativity play in early years.) Share Luke's story of the birth of Jesus *God's Story 2*; pages 58 – 59, Luke 2: 1-7, *Luke's story of the birth of Jesus and The Shepherds*, Luke 2: 8-20.

SOME KEY QUESTIONS

- Q Why was Jesus born in Bethlehem?
- Q Why was he put in a manger?
- Q Who was with Jesus?
- Q What happened to the shepherds?

SOME SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES | ADULT DIRECTED GROUP ACTIVITY

- Talk with a partner about your favourite part of the story.
- As a class or in groups re-enact the story of the Nativity.
- Make a Christmas card to send to someone you love.
- Make a simple 3D Nativity scene, to take home.

CONTINUOUS PROVISION

- Use small play figures to re-enact the story of the Nativity.
- Use the wooden spoons made earlier to retell the Nativity story.

LEARNING FOCUS 6: The story of Christingle, sharing our love.

CONTENT | WHOLE CLASS CORE INPUT

A long time ago a Bishop called John De Watteville wanted to find a way to tell the children in his village about Jesus, and about God's promises. He prayed and God gave him a very good idea. Indeed, it was such a good idea, that it is still used around the world. The next time Bishop John went to see the children in his village, he took an orange. He showed the children how round the orange was and full of goodness. He explained to the children that it was like the world that God had made – big and round and full of goodness.

Then John pressed four little sticks into the orange to be the four seasons of the year – spring, summer, autumn and winter – and onto the sticks he pushed some sweets and fruits and nuts. He explained to the children that these lovely things remind us of all the gifts God has given us in the world. Next John took a small candle and pushed it into the top of the orange. He told the children that the candle tells us that God sent his son, Jesus, to be the Light of the World – to shine God's special light into all the places and hearts that were dark. Carefully he lit the candle so the children could see that God's light really does make a difference in our dark world. This was the first Christingle.

Explain to the children that the Christingle helps us to understand God's love and why he sent Jesus to be the light of the world. Look at lots of examples of different types of Christmas cards and how they depict God's love in sending his son Jesus.

RESOURCES

All that is necessary to make Christingles, oranges, cocktail sticks, sweets candles, ribbons.
www.childrenssociety.org.uk

Religious Christmas cards

SOME KEY QUESTIONS

- Q What does the orange remind us of?
- Q What does the candle remind us of?
- Q What ways we can share our love at Christmas?
- Q What gift of love can we give to others?
- Q What could the four sticks represent for us?

SOME SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES | ADULT DIRECTED GROUP ACTIVITY

- Everyone could make their own Christingle (check allergies).
- Make a Christmas card to show your love at Christmas – think of someone other than your family that you would like to send it to, use the postbox from *Explore* to put it in.

CONTINUOUS PROVISION

- Continue role-play as before.

RESPOND

Remembering, celebrating and responding to the times when it is necessary to wait and the use of that time

Advent: a time of waiting to celebrate Jesus at Christmas

Remember

Start the session with a moment of quiet reflection. Provide each child with the opportunity to engage with questions of meaning and purpose related to the experience of 'Waiting'. Using the display, children may be able to recognise the following by use of discussion, role-play, drama, art, cue cards etc.

Ask the children if there is anything they wonder about

- How we feel when we are waiting.
- Why waiting can be difficult at times.
- Others can help us as we wait.
- How we can help others.

Provide the opportunity, possibly by one of the means above, for the children to remember

- Advent is the time of waiting.
- How we can use the time of Advent to help us wait for the birth of Jesus at Christmas.
- Some Advent customs: for example, wreath, calendar.
- The story of how Mary heard the message of Jesus' birth from God.
- Mary's visit to Elizabeth.
- Jesus was born on Christmas Day in Bethlehem.

Rejoice

Remember to plan an end of topic class celebration. (*Download the Rejoice and Gather Form from the Come and See website.*)

Renew

The teacher helps each child to make an individual response, to what they have understood and celebrated from their own experience and of the experience of the Church community.

Apply their learning

How do I use the time of waiting to prepare for Christmas?

Some suggested ideas

After a time of quiet reflection and prayer invite the children to:

- Make a Christmas card for a family which shows the true meaning of Christmas.

Teacher evaluation

This is ongoing and will inform future teaching and learning, which will include assessment for learning.

STANDARD SUMMARY

Some children will be able to **talk about** their experience and feelings about waiting.

Some children will be able to say what they **wonder** about waiting.

Some children will be able to **recognise** that Advent is a time of waiting to celebrate Jesus at Christmas.

Some children will be able to **recognise** the Advent wreath, calendar, the colour purple and the Crib as religious signs and symbols.

Some children will be able to **use** some religious words and phrases about Advent and waiting.

Some children will **begin to ask and respond** to questions about their own and others' experiences and feelings of waiting.

Some children will **begin to ask and respond** to questions about what they and others wonder about and realise that some of these questions are difficult to answer.

Some children will be able to **retell** the story of the birth of Jesus.

Some children will be able to use religious words and phrases to **begin to describe** some religious traditions and symbols of Advent and Christmas.

CHURCH TEACHING

This is an outline of the teaching of the Church covered in **WAITING**:

- Some aspects of the liturgical season of Advent: a time of waiting to celebrate Jesus' coming at Christmas.
- The Advent wreath and its symbolism.
- The Annunciation.
- The Visitation.
- The Nativity.
- The beginning of an understanding of the Incarnation.