

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION – HOME LEARNING UNIT

Topic: Advent

Target Year Groups: **Years Three and Four**

Please note this work is designed to cover a two-week period.

Activity	Resources
<p>Look at Busted Halo Video introducing the Season of Advent.</p> <p>From the Busted Halo video write down 4 things they will try to do better during Advent to help them prepare for the coming of Jesus at Christmas, and two things they will try not to do.</p>	<p>Busted Halo ‘Advent in 2 minutes’</p>
<p>Make their own Advent Calendar</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This could be on squared paper, with a prayer or kind act written on each square. Acts to be linked to Advent themes of Peace, Hope, Joy and Love. - Alternative – place 24 activities in a jar and select one at random each day to carry out. - Alternative – place 24 short prayers in a jar and select one at random each day to say as a family at the start/end of the day. 	<p>See examples of Spiritual Advent Calendars for ideas</p> <p>Squared paper</p> <p>Jar</p>
<p>Advent can seem a long time, and it can be hard to keep going with the promises we have made. Can they remember a time when they wanted to do something/go somewhere - it was difficult but they got there in the end? What helped them when they were ready to give up?</p> <p>Now ask members of their family if they can remember a time when things were difficult but they managed to keep going and got through it.</p> <p>Write a letter to someone who is finding it difficult to keep going at something they are finding difficult or tiring. What advice would you give them, can you think of a story or passage from Scripture to share with them to encourage them?</p>	<p>Access to a Bible</p>
<p>When someone does something kind to us without being asked it can really lift our spirits. Try to carry out at least one random act of kindness each day for a week during Advent.</p>	<p>See examples below</p>
<p>Read/watch/listen to the Christmas story up to the point</p>	<p>Find a suitable video clip.</p>

<p>when Mary and Joseph arrive at the stable.</p> <p>Find out about what the journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem might have been like in the time of Jesus' birth. How far was it? What was the countryside like? How long do you think it took them? What dangers might they have faced?</p> <p>Write an account of their journey from either Mary or Joseph's point of view.</p>	<p>Access to a Bible</p> <p>Article on 'A long, cold road to Bethlehem' Year Three children may need help with the article as it is written for an older audience.</p>
<p>What can make it difficult to keep going during Advent, to keep our Advent promises? Where can we get help to support us during our Advent journey?</p> <p>Design a poster encouraging others to join in the Advent season and include reference to how we can be helped on our journey by our family, friends, parish community, school community, prayer, example of others etc., particularly when it is difficult.</p>	<p>Materials to design and make a poster.</p>

Additional Activity

If at home around **11th December** read the story of **St Damascus**

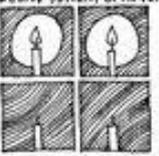
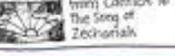
(<https://www.loyolapress.com/catholic-resources/saints/saints-stories-for-all-ages/saint-damasus-i/>).



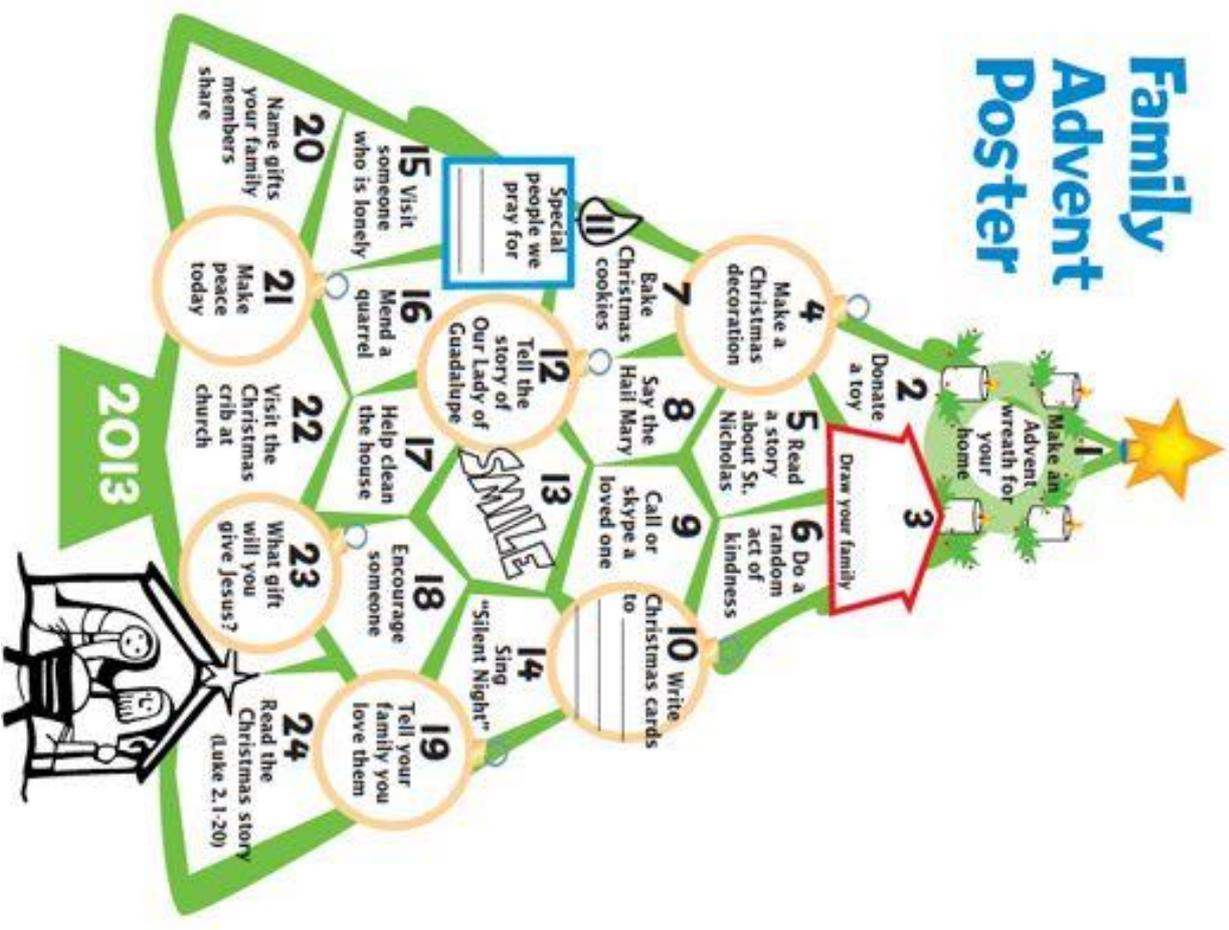
Damasus was a Pope during the 4th century. Pope Francis has just issued a special message about listening and understanding those who are different to us. How would you explain to someone who isn't a Christian who Jesus is?

Slow down. Quiet. It's Advent!

Twenty-eight days to grow in following Jesus

<p>FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT</p>  <p>NOVEMBER 27</p>	<p>NOV 28 MON</p>  <p>Let "keep awake" from Mark's gospel be your slogan this Advent. Watch for signs of God's stirring work in the world and in your life.</p>	<p>NOV 29 TUE</p> <p>Advent: a good time to get serious about prayer. Set aside some time each day. It can be a little or a lot of time. Try it. See what happens.</p>  <p>INCLUDE MY NEEDS. (Prayer requests)</p>	<p>NOV 30 WED</p> <p>Today is the feast of St. Andrew. You have to wonder if this first disciple knew what he was getting into when he followed Jesus. Do you?</p>  <p>Follow me. I will make you fishers of men.</p>	<p>DEC 1 THU</p>  <p>Today is World AIDS Day. Pray for all those living with AIDS and for those who care for them.</p>
<p>DEC 2 FRI</p> <p>Get ready for this coming Sunday. Read the gospel ahead of time. It's Mark 1:1-6.</p>  <p>It introduces you to John the Baptist who brings real meaning to the word "evangelist."</p>	<p>DEC 3 SAT</p> <p>Make your Christmas gift list. Not what you'll ask for, but what you'll give. Include handmade gifts. Include people who will be totally surprised to be on this wonderful list.</p> 	<p>SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT</p>  <p>DECEMBER 4</p>	<p>DEC 5 MON</p> <p>Make the following time commitment. Let courtesy and patience be your watch-words this season. It won't be easy. It's never easy waiting.</p> 	<p>DEC 6 TUE</p> <p>Today is the feast of St. Nicholas, a good day to remember children in need around the world. Pray for them. Make a gift of money to help them. Volunteer with a ministry that supports and encourages them.</p> 
<p>DEC 7 WED</p> <p>Natural disasters, violence and political turbulence have driven many people throughout the world from their homes. Pray for them.</p> 	<p>DEC 8 THU</p> <p>Wake up to joy and laughter. They are God's gifts. Make someone smile today.</p> 	<p>DEC 9 FRI</p> <p>Get ready for this coming Sunday. Read the gospel ahead of time. It's John 1:4-6, 19-28. Imagine that you were asked the question: "What would you have to say?"</p> <p>WHO ARE YOU?</p>	<p>DEC 10 SAT</p>  <p>This year in church, we read the Gospel of Mark. It has 16 chapters. If you read one chapter each day, you'll finish in Christmas which will be a gift to yourself.</p>	<p>THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT</p>  <p>DECEMBER 11</p>
<p>DEC 12 MON</p>  <p>Alarmed by environmental challenges? Pray for the good earth God has given us. Ask for his wisdom and will to preserve it. Act on your prayer.</p>	<p>DEC 13 TUE</p> <p>Worried about world hunger? Here's what Mother Teresa said:</p> <p>If you can't feed a hundred people, then just feed one.</p> 	<p>DEC 14 WED</p> <p>This is a lovely season for many. Visit or write or call someone you know who is alone.</p> 	<p>DEC 15 THU</p> <p>Cultivate hospitality. So much more than food and decor, it's an open welcoming heart.</p> 	<p>DEC 16 FRI</p> <p>Get ready for this coming Sunday. Read the gospel ahead of time. It's Luke 1:24-38. Think about what it means for Mary to say "I am the servant of the Lord."</p> 
<p>DEC 17 SAT</p> <p>It's a noisy season and a noisy world. Find a quiet place in your home, or out-of-doors, or at church, and sit in silence.</p>  <p>See if you can still what Buddhists call the "monkey mind."</p>	<p>FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT</p>  <p>DECEMBER 18</p>	<p>DEC 19 MON</p> <p>It's tempting to try to box God into a tiny corner—grace for five meals, or hours on Sunday morning. Wake up to God's presence in all aspects of your life, even and especially the messy ones. We all have them.</p> 	<p>DEC 20 TUE</p> <p>Psalm 57:1, stanza 5 flow shall we leap for joy hidden. Being. If we love not the world which things lust made? Find us in finite ones love for better seeing. My Word made flesh, and in a manger laid. Thy kingdom come, O Lord. My will be done. —out by Katherine Tegen</p> 	<p>DEC 21 WED</p>  <p>Today is the feast of St. Thomas of doubting. Some are you struggling with questions? Follow the advice of Blake the poet: Let things, and live the answers instead.</p>
<p>DEC 22 THU</p> <p>Take five minutes to ponder this Advent thought: In the tender compassion of our God, the dawn from on high shall break upon us. (That would be about) to shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death (That would be a) from Isaiah 9:1. The Song of Zechariah.</p> 	<p>DEC 23 FRI</p>  <p>Be awake to beauty today—in the world and in the people around you.</p>	<p>DEC 24 SAT</p> <p>Visit us with thy Salvation, the words we sing in hymns. O' Lord, Christmas Eve, think about what it means to greet such a guest.</p> <p>WELCOME!</p>	<p>O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord!</p> 	

Family Advent Poster



Examples of Random Acts of Kindness

RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS

Free Bingo Card

ACTS OF KINDNESS

LEARNINCOLOR.COM

Leave someone a kind note	Give a compliment	Hold the door open for someone	Do a chore for a sibling	Create care packages
BRING DINNER TO SOMEONE	Donate old books	SMILE	Support a small business	Leave a snack and note for the mailman
Tell a family member how much you love them	Weed/rake leaves/shovel snow for a neighbor	FREE SPACE	PICK UP LITTER	Give a hug
LET SOMEONE GO AHEAD OF YOU	VOLUNTEER	Leave change at a vending machine	do a chore without being asked	Bake cookies for firefighters or police
Give a friend or the new kid a snack	ASK OTHERS TO PAY IT FORWARD	WRITE A THANK YOU LETTER	Visit a nursing home	Donate to a food bank

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