



All Hallows Catholic High School

ADVENT BE PREPARED



Word of the Week

A voice of one calling:

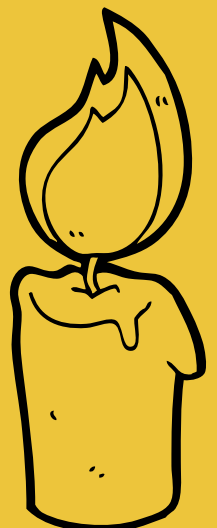
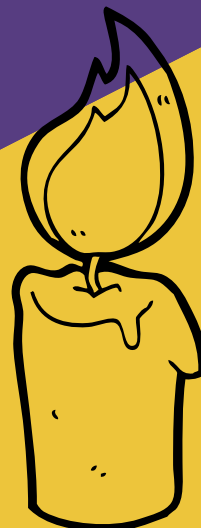
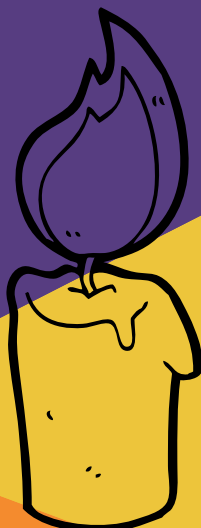
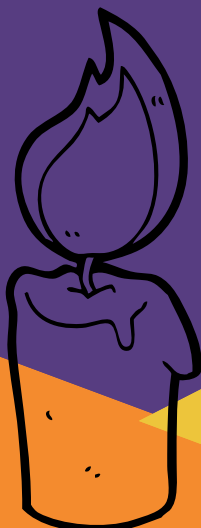
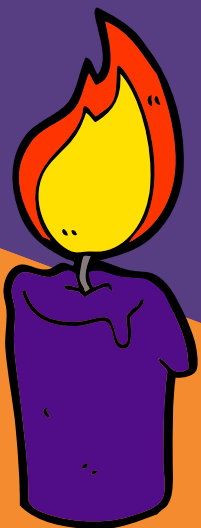
'In the wilderness prepare the way for the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low; the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain. And the glory of the Lord will be revealed, and all people will see it together. For the mouth of the Lord has spoken.'



Prayer for the Week

Jesus, as we prepare to welcome you again this Christmas, speak your words into our hearts and lives, that by our preparation for your birth, we might proclaim what still needs to be made ready if our world is to become more like your Kingdom. Soften our hearts, calm our fears, and give us courage to proclaim your coming into our broken world.

Amen



Something to think about...

Advent is a time of preparation. But in order to start our preparations and know what we are preparing for, we need to know what advent is all about.

Advent is a period of four Sundays and weeks before Christmas.

Advent means 'arrival' in Latin.

And there are three arrivals to look at during Advent.

The first, and most thought of, happened about 2018 years ago when Jesus arrived into the world as a baby to live as a man and die for us. The second can happen now, as Jesus wants to arrive into our lives now. And the third will happen in the future, when Jesus arrives back in the world as King and Judge, not a baby.

So how can we prepare for all three of these arrivals?

1. Remember Jesus born 2018 years ago: We might want to make time to read the story of Jesus' birth. There are lots of places in the Bible where Jesus' birth is talked about. Why not pick one each week of Advent to remind us of the true meaning of Christmas, especially when preparing for other parts of the Christmas celebration seem to take over.

2. Be open to Jesus in our lives today: This one requires us to think about preparing our hearts and maybe our minds too. Jesus wants to have a relationship with us and at times it can be strong and at other times it may feel like it doesn't exist at all. Why not make a promise to yourself this Advent to invite Jesus into your life every day. Every day during Advent say to Jesus, in a moment of quiet: "Jesus I know you love me and you want what is best for me, be with me today and show me you are there." Invite Jesus into your life, to guide you and look out for you, each day of Advent.

3. Prepare for Jesus arriving again as King and Judge: This requires us to take a look at ourselves and again think about preparing our hearts for Jesus, who will come again. Each Friday think about the week that has been, think about all the good things you have done and thank God for them, but also think about the times when we haven't been our best selves and ask for God's forgiveness. During Advent there will be days when one of our parish priests will be in school to hear peoples confessions. If you would like to have a chat with a priest or receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation keep an eye on the screens around school for dates and times.

Something to do...

Form Advent Calendar




In your form folder you have a Form Advent Calendar. This Advent we are challenging each form to put together their own Advent Calendar. This isn't one that includes chocolate or any kind of sweet treat. But instead each day we would like you, as a form, to come up with one challenge the whole form has to do to prepare their hearts and lives for Jesus. This might be smiling at everyone you see today, this might be having lunch with someone that is sat on their own, or it might be spending some more time with your family in the evening after school. Each day think of a challenge and write it on that day of your Advent Calendar. This Advent Calendar of challenges is a great way to prepare ourselves for Jesus this Christmas and spread some Christmas cheer throughout school. Be as creative, festive and fun as you like!



Something to talk about...

We are going to do this a little differently during Advent. When we are invited to talk about something each week in form time prayer, this Advent I invite you to talk to God instead, rather than the person next to you.

Prayer is simply talking to God. We may think it has to be fancy words and words we don't understand or prayers we have learnt in school but actually prayer is talking to God like we would a friend. Therefore I invite you now in a minute of silence to ask God a question or for advice about your life. Maybe you are not sure what to do in a certain situation, with a friend or family member, or you are worried about something. Tell Jesus and then sit, in silence and listen to what Jesus' answer is. We might not hear it straight away, but God will give you a sign, it might be in a day or a week or even longer. It might not be a booming voice from heaven but it might be in the words or actions of a friend or even a stranger. Ask God for help and listen!

	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
 2 December FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT	3	4	5	6	7	8	
 9 SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT	10	11	12	13	14	15	
 16 THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT	17	18	19	20	21	22	
 23 FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT	24	25					

