



ADVENT BE PREPARED



Word of the Week

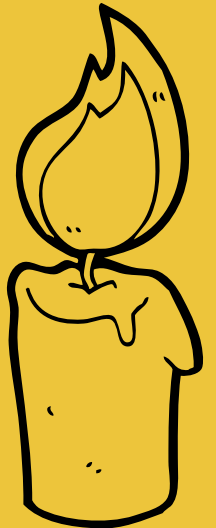
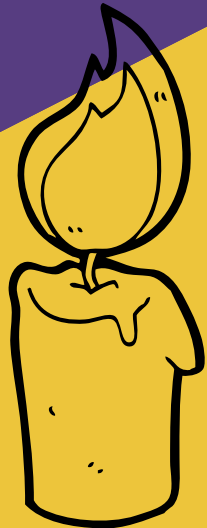
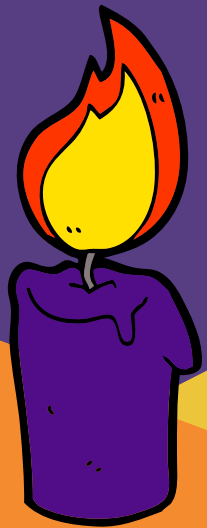
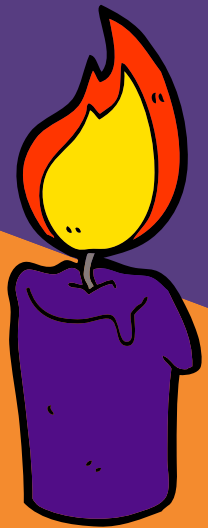
"Someone is shouting in the desert;
'Get the road ready for the Lord;
make a straight path for him to travel!
Every valley must be filled up,
every hill and mountain levelled off.
The winding roads must be made straight,
and the rough paths made smooth.
The whole human race will see God's Salvation."



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 over 2000 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 over 2000 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. See Kate if you would like a copy of each of these readings.

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.



Advent Appeal: Mary's Meals

This year we are supporting a charity called Mary's Meals to help provide a meal a day for as many young people as we can. We also are collecting backpacks full of school supplies. How many items from this checklist have you brought in? Do you still have an old backpack at home that you could donate? Write somewhere in your diary items that you think you could bring in to remind yourself of our appeal.

Head over to the shared drive and take a look at the videos about Mary's Meals to help remind you why we are collecting for them this advent.

This week why not make a tally of the number of items on the checklist you use in a day or even a week. It might surprise you how many of these items we take for granted.



Time to talk...to God.

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!

MARY'S MEALS BACKPACK PROJECT

<input type="checkbox"/> NOTEPAD	<input type="checkbox"/> SOAP
<input type="checkbox"/> PENCILS	<input type="checkbox"/> TOWEL
<input type="checkbox"/> CRAYONS	<input type="checkbox"/> SPOON
<input type="checkbox"/> ERASER	
<input type="checkbox"/> RULER	
<input type="checkbox"/> SHARPENER	
<input type="checkbox"/> PENCIL CASE	
<input type="checkbox"/> SMALL BALL	
<input type="checkbox"/> SHORTS OR SKIRT	
<input type="checkbox"/> TSHIRT OR DRESS	
<input type="checkbox"/> TOOTHPASTE	
<input type="checkbox"/> TOOTHBUSH	