

December 2025

The season of Advent begins on Sunday 30 November; a time for preparing to welcome Jesus at Christmas and also get ready for when He comes again.

As this year draws to a close, we are also in the last few weeks of the Church's Jubilee Year, celebrating Jesus' message of hope and encouraging us to live as Pilgrims of Hope. Our Advent resources continue this theme - as we prepare, live and celebrate the hope that Jesus brings.

This newsletter shares some of the content children will experience in school throughout December, and suggests ways for you to engage with them about it. We hope it is a useful resource for your family prayer time.

PREPARE IN HOPE

The assembly for the first week in December introduces children to Advent season with a story of excitement and expectation. The beginnings of our preparations in the countdown towards Christmas are compared with a child's excitement as the family gets ready for the birth of a new baby.

In the Gospel (Matthew 24:37-44), Jesus tells His disciples to 'stay awake' and be ready for the day of the Lord's coming. Like with the coming of a new baby, we often don't know exactly when this event will take place so the time to get ready is right now!

With your child/ren, you may also like to ...

- *Put up an Advent wreath in your home or make one together, talking about the symbolism of the purple and pink candles and the circle of evergreen.*
- *Talk about ways as a family you can plan to get ready during Advent. You might choose to prepare in a different way for each of the four weeks.*
- *Watch the Lyric Video 'Come, O Long Awaited Jesus' with your child during prayer times which you can find on the [Online Parent Portal](#).*

Jesse Tree

Once again, our beautiful 'Jesse Tree' resource is available for schools and families at home. It's a bit like an Advent calendar and based on the Advent tradition of spiritual preparation through tracing Jesus' ancestry. We hope that parents and carers will take the opportunity to share children's excitement in discovering the daily stories about Jesus' family tree. You can access the 'Jesse Tree' through the [Online Parent Portal](#).

LIVE IN HOPE

In the assembly for the second week of December, children have the opportunity to reflect on how God's messengers, like John the Baptist, encourage us to live our journey of faith by helping us to listen, change our ways and live in the hope that God offers us.

With your child/ren, you may also like to ...

- *Talk about different messengers in the Bible e.g. angels and prophets, as well as saints who have helped us to grow closer to God.*
- *Share an example from your own life when you have placed your hope in God.*

SAINTS OF HOPE: ST LUCY

Our Advent series of daily prayers has the theme 'Saints of Hope' inspired by the stories of St Nicholas, St Lucy and Our Lady of Guadeloupe.

The prayers for the week beginning 8th December focus on St Lucy, a saint whose life was full of faith, courage and love for Jesus. Her light continues to inspire us today.

You may like to use this adapted prayer of St Lucy in your prayer time:

**Saint Lucy,
You did not hide your light,
you let it shine for all to see.**

**This Advent,
may we be inspired by you.**

**May the light and hope of Jesus
light up our work, our play, our friendships
and every corner of our day.**

**Saint Lucy,
Pray for us**