



Diocese of Westminster

AGENCY FOR EVANGELISATION

THE MEANING AND VALUE OF THE NATIVITY SCENE CUTS THROUGH THE DARKNESS OF THIS WORLD EVERY YEAR

Advent 2020: journeying to the crib with hope & faith; peace; love & joy

A light that shines in the darkness

ADVENT WREATH – this can be a simple drawing to colour, or make something more elaborate. The wreath is a sign of God’s unending love for us and each candle represents stages on the journey to the light of Christmas: Christ. The lighting of candles (safely), recalls the journey of salvation, our journey to towards Christmas, and Christ’s return to us: offer a prayer, a song, reflect on the Gospel during this Advent.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FOwLEzLxMHY/>
<https://www.pathwaystogod.org/resources/ignatian-insight/4-ways-celebrate-advent-home-your-family>

Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger

PREPARING OUR NATIVITY SCENE – ‘I wish to encourage the beautiful family tradition of preparing the nativity scene in the days before Christmas’ – Pope Francis Admirabile Signum 2019.
http://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/apost_letters/documents/papa-francesco-lettera-ap_20191201_admirabile-signum.html

What will we use & where will we place our nativity scene: in a prayer corner; by the tree; at the table; in our heart? What has our journey to the crib been like this year? Full of fears & worries? What do we need to bring for healing, or and thanks?



A BLESSING OF THE CRIB (for all to say) – “God of all creation, in our need you sent your Son Jesus, born of Mary, to be our Saviour, who brings us peace and joy. Lord, bless all who gaze upon this crib. As we recall his humble birth may we always raise our thoughts to him, our Emmanuel, who lives and reigns for ever. Amen”

Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight

ADVENT PRAYER CORNER – particularly at this time, a small space set aside at home can help the whole family prepare for Christmas; with a crib, an Advent candle, pictures and symbols, photographs of family, a couple of cushions. For a few minutes, perhaps just before bedtime, we can gather to light the candle and pray: “God bless.....”

Immaculate Conception Novena -
<https://www.divinemercyapostolate.co.uk/copy-of-divine-mercy-sunday-2>

Resources - for more ideas, activities for Advent see: <https://www.loyolapress.com/catholic-resources/liturgical-year/advent/>

HOW GREEN IS YOUR ADVENT? – Inspired by *Laudato Si* here are a few ideas on how to care for our ‘Common Home’ this Advent.....

<https://www.pathwaystogod.org/sites/default/files/Ecological%20Advent%20Calendar.pdf>

CHRISTMAS TREE BLESSING (for all to say)
 “Lord God, we praise you for the light of creation – sun, moon and stars; we praise you for the light of Israel – Law, prophets and Scripture; we praise you for Jesus Christ our everlasting light. As we light our tree, may our hearts be filled with joy, and may all who delight in this tree be brought to the light of knowledge and the joy of Salvation, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen”.

PRAYER: GRACE AT THE CHRISTMAS TABLE – “Love brought Jesus to the stable and love brings us around this table. As we give thanks for the gift of this meal and each other, may this day be filled with joy, prayer & gratitude. Amen.”

‘When we stop and give thanks to God before and after meals. I ask all believers to return to this beautiful and meaningful custom’. – Pope Francis – *Laudato Si* 226.

Why not place the Christ-child at the centre of the table as we give thanks for all we receive?

For Advent

Jesse Tree - a fun way for the whole family to learn about the Biblical characters, events and prophecies leading to the birth of Jesus. *ORDER FREE RESOURCE*
<https://www.godwhospeaks.uk/the-god-who-speaks/education/advent-jesse-tree/>

CaFE course for Advent

THE JOY OF HOPE - Scripture, prayer, Church teaching, meditation and discussion. Free download or DVD for limited period, contact: 0845 050 9428/ tim@faithcafe.org

Also: **BAPTISM** 'A modern, fresh and very enjoyable approach to Baptism preparation.' with free download with every parish course purchased to share with team& parents by email or Zoom. tim@faithcafe.org

Sycamore - Advent Course 4 weeks Searching for God in life – a renewal of faith
<https://www.sycamore.fm/pathways/b-formation-pathways/advent-course/>

Proclaim Westminster - resourcing Missionary Parishes
<https://rcdow.org.uk/faith/evangelisation/proclaim-westminster/>

'The House of Good' - from foodbanks to credit unions: church as place of worship and essential centre of community, serving those in need.
<https://www.houseofgood.nationalchurchestrust.org/>

'The God Who Speaks'

Year of Mark Copies of **Mark's Gospel** can be ordered your [here](#). Buy in packs of 10 for £15, with discounts on bulk orders.

- **The Bible and Mental Health** - explore how the Scriptures can help us sustain our mental health. <https://www.godwhospeaks.uk/the-god-who-speaks/focus/the-bible-and-mental-health/>
- **Journeying with the Bible** – online talks with Fr Javier Ruiz-Ortiz PhD and Sr Monica Cardona STL. Register with: Catadmin@rcdow.org.uk
See: <https://rcdow.org.uk/faith/evangelisation/the-god-who-speaks/journeying-with-the-bible/> - 24th Nov – Deuterocanonical Books
- **Nativity** - Reflections by Cardinal Vincent Nichols on 'The Nativity at Night' by Geertgen tot Sint Jans <https://www.godwhospeaks.uk/the-god-who-speaks/art-and-culture/nativity-at-night/>

Wintershall Nativity Winter Walk 18 - 21 Dec 2020

Join Mary and Joseph travelling to Bethlehem at Wintershall this Advent. <https://www.wintershall.org.uk/nativity-winter-walk>

Marriage and Family Life Information, News, Resources

Encounter | Marriage Enrichment | Relationship | Marriage Stress | Loss
See website <https://rcdow.org.uk/marriage-and-family-life/>

Caritas St Joseph's – for people with learning disabilities who need support with First Holy Communion and Confirmation Programmes, do please keep in touch:
<https://www.caritaswestminster.org.uk/st-josephs.php>



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