

Advent At St Teresa's

The word Advent means 'to come' and originates from the Latin word Adventus. The season lasts for four weeks and starts on the fourth Sunday before or Christmas. This year Advent started on the 3rd December 2017 and finishes on Christmas Eve. Advent is the time when we prepare for the 2nd coming of Jesus.

Symbols of Advent

Advent Wreath

The Advent Wreath is the shape of circle which represents that God's love has no beginning and no end. The evergreen leaves represent that God will never stop loving and caring for us. There are five candles 3 are purple, 1 is pink and 1 is white. The first candle (purple) represents the hope of Jesus coming again. The second candle (purple) represents the peace that we will receive in heaven. The third candle (pink) represents the joy that Jesus gives us. The fourth candle (purple) represents the love of God that will never end. Then, finally there is the white candle that reminds us that Jesus was born on Christmas day.

Advent Calendar

The Advent Calendar is a way of counting down the days till Christmas. There are many different ways of counting down, like: walk with me calendar, secular calendars, religious calendars and some people use chalk on their doors.

Advent Giving Tree

The Advent Giving Tree is a tree that people put presents under for either the homeless or the soldiers. For the homeless, people leave: toiletries, blankets, woolly hats, woolly scarfs and gloves.

Jesse Tree

The Jesse Tree is a tree that has the symbol of Jesus' ancestors all the way up to John the Baptist. Each ancestor has a symbol that is hung a branch of the tree. Some of the ancestors include: Abraham, Moses, Noah and many more. These are all the people who waited or helped others prepare for the coming of Jesus.

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Two comings

On the first and second weeks of Advent we think of the second coming at the end of time when Jesus will come again and rescue us once again. During the last two weeks we focus on the first coming because we are nearer to Christmas, where we celebrate Jesus' birth. (the first coming).

Week 1:

All powerful God increase our strength of will for doing good that Christ may find an eager welcome at his coming and call us to his side in the Kingdom of Heaven. This means that we shall do good and no bad, which will influence other people to copy our example.

Week 2:

God of power and mercy, open our hearts in welcome. Remove the things that hinder us from receiving Christ with joy, so that we may share his wisdom and become one with him when he comes in glory. This means that we shall be sin-free and be able to let Jesus into our hearts.

Week 3:

Lord God may we, your people, who look forward to the birthday of Christ experience the joy of salvation and celebrate that feast with love and thanksgiving. This means that we should be happy and grateful that God sent His son Jesus to save us from sin.

Week 4:

Lord fill our hearts with love and as you revealed to us by an angel the coming of your son as man, so lead us through his suffering and death to the glory of his resurrection. This means that we should reflect on Jesus' first coming and be grateful that He was willing to die for us.

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I will prepare for Advent by putting up a crib in my house and reading the Christmas story from the Bible and praying more.

The Origins of Advent

A long time ago people from Germany would tally the days until Christmas with chalk on their doors all through Advent. In the 4th century, the Pope at the time (Gregory) shortened the time of Advent from 6 weeks to 4 weeks because it was too long for people to fast and pray.

Isaiah is an important man in the bible, he is one of the major prophets. This means that he got many calls from God unlike the minor prophets who only got a few. One of the most famous was when God called Isaiah and told him that a new king would be born. He would reign over other Kings, be the Prince of Peace and God's son. This then was told to all the people by Isaiah, but some did not believe and others which in a way was quite hard for him. A few years on, and Jesus was born. Isaiah is relevant to Advent because of his amazing predictions.

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