

ADVENT

Stop and look both ways...



Waiting is not a passive thing.

Christ has come. Christ is risen. Christ is coming again. He's given us work to do in the meantime.

Advent is a time of remembrance and looking ahead. The fact that Jesus became flesh means that darkness has lost out to light. But our lives are not yet free from all sin, Peace and justice are not everywhere, hunger is still present and we continue to hurt our earth and each other.

By looking into the past, we're reminded of all that Christ has done and by looking to the future, we're expectant of all Christ will do.

Advent helps us remember that we've got work to do while we wait, this is a partnership. We love because "God first loved us" (1 John 4:19). This Advent ask yourself: How are we living, selfishly or selflessly? Are we



Reverse Advent Box

How about putting something **in** a basket every day of advent to give away Christmas.



Advent Gift Reminder

Try focussing each day on a different quality to work on: Perseverance, Courage, Kindness, Honesty, Determination, Humour, Helpfulness, Self-Respect, Respect for Others & Earth etc.

1

HOPE

Things are not as they should be in our world, but our hope in the Good News is that one day they will be put right.

2

LOVE

If we all let God's love be through us, if we could see Christ in ourselves and others we would be so much closer to God's vision for us.

3

JOY

Joy comes from knowing we are loved unconditionally by God. "A life of intimacy with God is characterised by joy." Oswald Chambers

4

PEACE

Is not the absence of trouble but the presence of Christ.

Sheila Walsh

caring for our world? Are we loving our God? Are we loving our neighbours?

This time of Advent waiting, is less like watching a sunrise and more like preparing for a guest; the house must be tidied, the meal prepared, the bed made up.

Advent Blessing Jar:

Try a new tradition this Advent. It's basically just popsicle sticks in a Jar,

Step One: Choose a charity

Step Two: Write one different blessing your family could voice gratefulness for.

Step Three: Each day pull a popsicle stick, read the blessing, and count how many of that blessing you have in your home.

Step Four: Now put that many coins into your jar. Remember to talk about how fortunate you are and how other people may not be in the same position.

Places to get clean water (tap x4, shower x2, bath, laundry, sink, hose), shoes, devices, cans of food, beds, bikes, lights, rooms, appliances, dolls, bathrooms, stuffed toys, blankets, doors, family members, books, windows, ways to cook food, chairs, cars, ways to heat the home, music instruments, different things to drink.



A Gift that won't break:

Imagine that one of your presents was from Jesus ...

Wrap a box and put it under the Christmas tree the night before Christmas, with love from Jesus.

Talk about what this gift would hold if it was from Jesus.

Now discuss what gifts God has already given us. It could be fresh water, food, family, Jesus, creation, life, bugs, the list is endless.

Discuss what gifts you think Jesus would like to receive from us? Would it be lego, iPads, etc? Jesus wants the best for us, to be happy and at peace. We can do this by showing kindness, care for our world, care for each other, the acceptance of each of our individual gifts etc.

SAINT OSCAR ROMERO

May 23rd 2015

Was the fourth Archbishop of San Salvador. He was well known for his radio sermons and he regularly spoke out against poverty, social injustice, assassinations and torture.

In a country torn apart and suffering political repression and human rights abuses he was a voice for social justice and human rights. In 1980, Oscar Romero was assassinated while offering Mass in the chapel of the Hospital of Divine Providence.

