

Date	Day	Colour	Theme
29th November 2020	1 st Sunday of Advent	Purple (violet)	Prepare for Christmas

Bible verse: - Mark 1:1-8

This week we think about preparing for Christmas during the season of Advent. Advent begins on the nearest Sunday to St Andrew's Day which is 30th November. This year Advent begins 29th November. There are about 4 weeks in Advent and 4 Sundays. The colour of Advent is purple. Purple is also used during the season of Lent. Sometimes Advent might be known as 'Little Lent' because, like Lent, Advent is a time to remember that we are not perfect, that sometimes we don't make great choices and end up doing things that aren't great. Advent is a time to say sorry for those things and get our relationship with God back on the right track. We have an opportunity everyday to do this, but Advent is a time a bit like Lent when we especially take time out to think about our relationship with God and other people. We might ask ourselves; - Do I spend enough time with God in prayer or am I trying to be the best person I can be eg., kind, patient, caring?

An Advent wreath can be seen in churches and in some homes. The candles around the Advent wreath represent hope, peace, joy and love. In some Churches like the Church of England each candle represents:- The Patriarchs, The Prophets, John the Baptist, Mary the Mother of Jesus and Jesus. Each Sunday in Advent one of the candles is lit until they are all lit on the fourth Sunday of Advent. Of course, the white candle in the middle of the wreath represents Jesus and is lit on Christmas Day. The wreath represents the crown of thorns that was placed on the head of Jesus when he was crucified. The evergreen leaves of the wreath stand for God's power over life-giving creation and the red berries represent Jesus' blood that was shed on the cross for the forgiveness of our sins.

Nowadays many people use Advent as a time to begin celebrating Christmas early. We can't change this I don't think but what we can do is remember to take some time away from the celebrations and think more deeply about what God means to us as well.

Further Activities

- 1) Watch the Children's Church video for this week. Read the story from the Bible.
- 2) Have you made a prayer corner yet?
- 3) Colouring sheet

4) Maybe you'd like to make an Advent wreath like the one in the picture below for your homes. Here is a link you can use to bless your Advent wreath at home.

<https://www.loyolapress.com/catholic-resources/liturgical-year/advent/about-advent/advent-links-to-explore-and-share/blessing-an-advent-wreath/>

5) I'd love to see photos if you're allowed to email them in. Ask your parents to help you. The address is:-
families@graftoncathedral.org.au



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