

*The Alternative Advent Calendar*  
2020



*Our Lady of Grace*  
*and St. Edward*

## Welcome to our Alternative Advent Calendar

The word Advent is from a Latin word meaning 'coming'.  
Advent is a time to get ready for the birth of the baby Jesus at Christmas.

You can read a story on each day of Advent.  
You and your family can use it to spend some time with God  
and follow the path of His people as it leads us to the birth of Jesus.

Write a little prayer for each day,  
and draw a picture to represent the story.

There is other fun to be had too.  
We hope you enjoy it all!

Wishing you a Holy Advent and Happy Christmas!  
The Parish Children's Liturgy Group

*Sophia Andrades    Deborah Collopy    Clair Dwyer-White*

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# 1

In the beginning God created heaven and earth. He separated light from darkness and called the light "day" and the dark "night" - the first day. Then God separated the waters with a gap. He called the gap "sky", and there was the second day.

And God said "Let the waters under the sky gather together to let dry ground appear". He called the dry ground "land" and the gathered waters "sea". Then He said "Let the earth produce all kinds of plants". And there was the third day.

Then God made two larger lights, the sun to rule over the day and the moon to rule over the night. And there was the fourth day. Then God commanded "Let the waters be filled with many living creatures and let birds fly in the sky". He blessed them all and was pleased - the fifth day.

Then God created all kinds of animals, large and small. And He created man and woman, making them to be like him. He blessed them and put them in charge of all the other living creatures on earth - the sixth day.

And so the whole universe was completed. By the seventh day God had finished the work he had been doing, and so on that day He rested from all his work. He blessed the seventh day and made it holy.

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**My Prayer and picture for the day:**

### A Little Joke

What never eats at Christmas time?

The turkey, it's usually stuffed!

Create your own volcano and remember God created all things.

Make a lump of playdough into a mountain shape then stick your thumb in the top to make a long thin hole. Half fill the hole with baking soda and put a drop of food colouring. Top with vinegar or lemon juice and watch it erupt!

God made man out of the dust of the earth. Then God took one of the man's ribs and made into woman. They were called "Adam and Eve".

In one special place, God laid out a garden for Adam and Eve to live in. It was full of lovely plants and flowers. Sparkling streams bubbled up from the ground and every tree was covered with delicious fruit for Adam and Eve to eat.

So many different types of animals lived in the garden that it took Adam many hours to give each one a name...giraffe, gorilla, hare, hippo, horse, hyena...

Adam and Eve lived happily in the Garden of Eden, caring for it and the creatures that lived there. They had everything they needed.

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**My Prayer and picture for the day:**

A Little Joke

What does a cat on the beach  
have in common with  
Christmas?  
Sandy Claws

Visit the Christian Aid kids website:

[www.globalexplorers.org.uk](http://www.globalexplorers.org.uk)

And find out about other people in our world.

A special tree grew in the Garden of Eden. It was called the Tree of Knowledge. God made it very clear that this tree was very different from all the other trees. "You must not eat the fruit of this tree", He said. "You can eat fruit from all the others, but if you eat fruit from this one, bad things will happen."

But a cunning serpent lived in the Garden of Eden and one day it saw Eve by the Tree of Knowledge. It whispered softly, "Look at the lovely fruit." "I must not touch it," said Eve. "S-smell how s-s-sweet it is," hissed the serpent. "God told us to leave it alone," Eve protested. "Ha!" laughed the serpent. "God doesn't want you to know the things He does; the things that are good and evil."

Eve looked at the fruit and wondered what it would be like to know everything that God knew. She picked a fruit from the tree and took a bite, then gave it to Adam to try. From that moment on, things started to go wrong.

God spoke to Adam and Eve that night, and He knew what they had done. He was angry, and told them to leave the garden at once. While they had lived in the Garden of Eden, Adam and Eve had everything they needed, and they never grew old. Now that changed. They had to work hard and they knew that one day they would die. God's world was no longer perfect.

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**My Prayer and picture for the day:**

A Little Joke

Which of Santa's  
reindeers has bad  
manners?  
RUDE-olph

Make a rocky road and think about the rocky path away from paradise, which was filled with many good things too: Melt 100gm of chocolate, mix with 2 digestive biscuits broken into small pieces and mini marshmallows (you can use Smarties or raisins if you want). Shape into a square cake and leave to set. Then slice and share with family and friends!

As the years passed people grew more wicked. God looked at the world and saw that it was not as He had wanted it to be. He decided to put an end to it all. The world needed a fresh start. He would send a huge flood to wash every bad thing away. But He would save Noah, who was a good, kind man, and his family.

God gave Noah instructions to prepare for the flood. God told him to build an ark, then to gather two of every animal there was and all the food they would need. Everyone laughed at Noah, but he ignored them. When the ark was finished he filled it with two of every kind of animal and lots of food.

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**My prayer and picture for the day:**

A Little Joke

What goes 'Oh? Oh! Oh!?'  
Santa walking backwards!

Visit the kids section of the Water Aid website:

[www.wateraid.org/uk/get-involved/teaching/ks2-resources](http://www.wateraid.org/uk/get-involved/teaching/ks2-resources)

It rained for forty days and nights. The water spread across the earth until there wasn't a single mountain to be seen. The people and animals that had been left behind drowned beneath the waves. The world was a sad and lonely place.

God did not forget Noah. He made the waters subside. Noah sent out a dove and it came back. He waited seven days and sent it again. It returned with an olive branch. Then he sent it out again and it did not come back. The flood had gone.

God told Noah and his family to take all the animals out of the ark. "Never again will I destroy all living creatures by a flood," God promised. "Whenever you see a rainbow in the sky, remember my promise and know that I will keep it." And the descendants of Noah began to fill the earth again.

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**My prayer and picture for the day:**

A Little Joke

What is the most important  
part of your body at  
Christmas?  
mistleTOE

Make rainbow crayons.

Peel the wrapper off 4 or 5 wax crayons. Break the crayons so they fit side by side in a cupcake case. Put into the oven for about 5 minutes until the crayons have melted together. Cut in half while still warm. Allow them to cool and harden completely before using.

At this time all the people spoke the same language and they decided to build a monument to their own glory in a place called Babel. They would build the tower so high that it would reach to heaven. This did not please God. He confused their speech and made them speak different languages, and they could no longer understand each other. Then God spread them over all the earth.

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**My prayer and picture for the day:**

A Little Joke

What do snowmen eat  
for Christmas?  
Ice burgers!

See if you can make a tower using  
jellybeans and cocktail sticks (be careful  
with the sharp points!).  
Share the jellybeans with family and  
friends when you are done.



God watched the people of the world for many years to spot another fine and honest man like Noah. And it came about that one of Noah's descendents, Abraham settled in a place called Haran. Abraham was a good man, who believed in God. He and his wife Sarah were both quite old and had no children.

One day God told Abraham to leave Haran and move to a country called Canaan. "If you put your trust in me," God said, "I will make you the father of a great nation."

Abraham was amazed, but trusted and obeyed God. So he took Sarah, his nephew Lot, and all their flocks, herds and possessions and set off across the desert for the land of Canaan.

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**My prayer and picture for the day:**

**A Little Joke**

What did the packet of salt & vinegar say to the hoola hoops?  
Merry Crispmass!

visit the Oxfam webpage:

[www.oxfam.org.uk/oxfam-in-action/tackling-climate-change](http://www.oxfam.org.uk/oxfam-in-action/tackling-climate-change)

And find out more about deserts.

God promised Abraham that his descendants would be as many as the grains of sand on the earth and as many as the stars in the sky. He promised he would give them the land they travelled over. God promised He would be with Abraham's family forever.

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**My prayer and picture for the day:**

A Little Joke

Where do snowmen  
go to dance?

Snowballs!

Get some chocolate Milky Way Magic Stars and some sugar.

Melt a few of the stars (or some other chocolate) in a cup. Dip half a Magic Star in the melted chocolate, and the other half in the crunchy sugar. Remember the promise God made to Abraham.

Abraham was sad, because all he wanted was a child, but he and Sarah too old to have a baby. But God had said to him, "I will give you many descendents, and they will become a great nation and I will bless you." "I will bless the people who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse."

God blessed Abraham and Sarah with a son and they called him Isaac. Then God tested Abraham. And Abraham loved God so much that he was even prepared to give up his beloved son Isaac to Him. God said to Abraham, "Through your offspring all the nations on the earth will be blessed because you have obeyed me."

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**My prayer and picture for the day:**

**A Little Joke**

Why should you be careful at Christmas?

There are mince spies about!

**Make a sign in Sign Language asking for God's blessing:**

Make fists, and hold your fists in front of your chest, thumbs pointing out and towards each other. Then keeping that shape, bring both fists down together about 3 or 4 inches. This is the sign for asking for God's blessing.

When Isaac was grown, Abraham sent a servant to find a good wife for him. God led the servant to a young woman drawing water from a well for her family. She shared the water she drew with the servant. The young woman's name was Rebekah. She was good and kind, and Isaac loved her very much.

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**My prayer and picture for the day:**

A Little Joke

What is a mum's favourite  
Christmas carol?  
Silent night.

Show someone you love them by making something special.

Knead 2 spoons of flour and 2 spoons of salt with a little water to make a dough. Shape it into a heart shape. Bake in a low oven or leave to dry for a few days until hard. Then paint and give as a gift to a special person.

When Abraham died he left everything he owned to his son Isaac. Isaac wanted a son, so he prayed to the Lord that his wife Rebecca would have a child and she did. In fact, she had twins, and they were called Esau and Jacob. When they were grown, Esau was strong and good hunter and Jacob was a quiet man.

The brothers were not good friends so one day Jacob was sent to visit a relative of his mother. When sunset came he stopped for the night. He lay down to sleep and rested his head on a stone. He dreamed, and in his dream he saw a ladder reaching from earth to heaven with angels going up and down the ladder. Above the ladder stood God, and he said, "I am the Lord, the God of Abraham and Isaac. I will give you and your descendents the land on which you lay."

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**My prayer and picture for the day:**

A Little Joke

What do you get if you cross  
mistletoe and a duck?

A Christmas Quacker!

Make a ladder shape

out of mini chocolate finger biscuits or carrot sticks or breadsticks  
(or whatever you like). Think of God at the top of the ladder before  
you eat it.

Jacob had twelve sons. Jacob's favourite was Joseph, and he spoiled him. The other brothers disliked him because of this and were even more jealous when Jacob gave Joseph a beautiful coat of many colours.

Some merchants passed by on their way to Egypt. Seeing them Joseph's brothers had an idea. "Why don't we sell him as a slave?" So he was sold for 20 pieces of silver. Then the brothers killed a goat and smeared it on Joseph's coat, and showed it to Jacob. Jacob was heartbroken and believed that Joseph had been killed by wild animals. But God was with Jacob.

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**My prayer and picture for the day:**

A little joke

Who is impossible to overtake at  
Christmas?  
Three wide men!

Make many coloured canapés for your family and  
friends:

Butter a slice of bread and cut into small squares. Press  
the butter side into multi-coloured hundreds and  
thousands or sprinkles and serve.

Many adventures happened to Joseph while he was in Egypt, and eventually he became the Pharaoh's most trusted advisor. He saved the people of Egypt from famine. And when there was a famine in Canaan he saved his father and all his brothers and their families (the Israelites) from famine by having them come to Egypt.

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**My prayer and picture for the day:**

A Little Joke

What do you get if you eat  
Christmas decorations?

TINSELitus

Visit the World Vision website:

[www.worldvision.org.uk/what-we-do/](http://www.worldvision.org.uk/what-we-do/)

to find out about their work

After four hundred years the children of Israel had grown into a large nation living in Egypt. Pharaoh treated them harshly and made them his slaves. Despite his cruel treatment they still thrived and grew in numbers so the Pharaoh took drastic action. "Every baby boy born to the Israelites is to be drowned," he ordered his soldiers.

But one Israelite (Hebrew) woman hid her son from the Egyptians for three months. When she couldn't hide him any longer she put the child in a basket and placed it in the tall grass at the river's edge.

Pharaoh's daughter went to the river to bathe. She saw the basket in the tall grass. She opened the basket she saw a baby boy. She felt sorry for him. She knew he was a Hebrew baby and sent the servant to get someone to care for him. The servant got the baby's real mother to look after him. When the boy was older she took him back to the Pharaoh's daughter, who adopted him and gave him the name Moses.

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**My prayer and picture for the day:**

A Little Joke

What do you call Santa Claus' dog?  
Santa Paws!

Get a walnut shell, cotton wool, playdough, a bit of fabric:

Take one half of the walnut shell and glue cotton wool in the bottom. Make a snowman shape from the playdough and stick to the cotton wool. Stick a bit of fabric or kitchen roll to cover the body. Float your 'baby' and remember how God saved Moses.



When Moses was grown he left Egypt and travelled into the desert. One day he was tending sheep on the mountains of Sinai. Suddenly he saw flames leaping from a bush. Then he heard a voice calling, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham and Isaac and Jacob. I have seen the suffering of my people in Egypt, and have heard their prayers. It is time to rescue them from Egypt and give them the promised land of Canaan. I want you to go to Egypt and lead my people out of slavery." Moses was terrified but God told him "I will be with you."

Pharaoh wouldn't listen to Moses and let the Israelites go, so God sent many plagues on the people of Egypt, and then an even greater disaster. Finally Pharaoh said they could go. Moses and the Israelites left quickly. They didn't even have time to bake properly and left with flat, unleavened bread. But Pharaoh changed his mind and sent his soldiers to capture them and bring them back. Moses and the Israelites reached the Red Sea and were trapped, but God kept His promise. He parted the sea so they could cross and be saved. Then the water rushed back so the Egyptian soldiers could not follow them.

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**My prayer and picture for the day:**

A Little Joke

What is Rudolph's favourite day of the year?

Red Nose Day!

**Make flatbread:** Mix a cup each of wholemeal and plain white flour with a half cup of water and a few drops of oil. Add more water slowly until the dough can be shaped into a moist ball. Knead thoroughly and divide into ping-pong sized balls. On a floured surface roll balls into 3 inch circles. Brush with oil, fold and roll out again. Cook on both sides in a hot frying pan and eat while still warm.

After escaping from the Egyptians Moses and the Israelites travelled through the desert until they reached Mount Sinai, where God first spoke to Moses. All through the journey the Israelites had been grumbling and complaining and misbehaving. They set up camp below the great mountain. Moses went up the mountain to pray and listen to God.

God gave Moses Ten Commandments, to tell the Israelites, God's chosen people. These were rules about the correct way to behave. God engraved the commandments on large flat rocks called tablets and gave them to Moses. He told Moses that if the people obeyed the commandments they would live happily and peacefully with each other and with God, and that they would be blessed.

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**My prayer and picture for the day:**

A Little Joke

What hides in the bakery at  
Christmas?  
A mince spy!

**Make a rock cake:** Put 120gm of butter into 225gm self-raising flour. Rub into crumbs with your fingertips. Mix in 120gm caster sugar and 60gm of currants. Add one beaten egg and mix well. Shape into 10 rock-sized shapes and place on a greased baking tray. Bake at 175degrees until golden. Cool and eat and remember God's people in the desert.

The Israelites travelled for forty years before they reached God's Promised Land called Canaan. Moses did not live to set foot on Canaan. But God chose a brave man called Joshua to guide the people into Canaan. There they had to cross the River Jordan into a city called Jericho, which was surrounded by tall thick walls.

God told Joshua to get seven priests to carry the commandments of God to Jericho, and to walk around the city silently for 6 days. On the seventh day the priests would stop and blow trumpets and the people would join them by shouting. They did as God told them and the walls of Jericho tumbled down. God stayed with His people and gave them all the land that He had promised to Abraham.

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**My prayer and picture for the day:**

A Little Joke

What do you get when you cross a  
bell with a skunk?  
Jingle Smells!

Make a Jericho Wall Pudding: Line a pudding bowl with cling film. Spread rich tea biscuits generously with chocolate spread. Put in a layer on the bottom of the bowl. Spread whipped cream on top. Repeat in layers. Cover and refrigerate for 8 hours. Turn it out, remove cling film, cut into slices and serve.

Samuel was a special child. His mother, Hannah, had prayed to God for a baby for years and promised that if she had a baby, she would let him serve God in the temple. God heard Hannah's prayers and Samuel was born. When Samuel was boy he went to live and work in the temple. He helped the old priest Eli. One night he heard a voice calling him. He thought it was Eli, so he went to him. "I didn't call you," said Eli. "Go back to bed."

Samuel went back to bed, but he heard the voice again. He went to Eli. "Here I am. I heard you call me," said Samuel. "I didn't call you," said Eli. "Go back to bed." Samuel went back to bed, very puzzled. He was falling asleep when he heard the voice call him a third time. He ran to Eli. "You called me," he said. "I heard you." Eli realised that it was God calling Samuel. "Go back to bed," he said. "If you hear the voice again, say "Speak Lord, your servant is listening."

Samuel lay down again. God called Samuel. "Samuel, Samuel!" Samuel said, "Speak Lord, your servant is listening." God gave a message for Eli. It was the first message that Samuel heard from God. When he grew up he became a prophet, a messenger and would pass on the messages from God to anyone who would listen.

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**My prayer and picture for the day:**

A Little Joke

How do you scare a snowman?

You get a hairdryer!

Make your own Christmas wreath:

Cut out the centre of a paper plate. Paint or colour the ring green and decorate it. Hang your wreath on the door with some ribbon. Think about God whenever you go through the door.

The Lord said to Samuel, "I want you to go to Bethlehem, to a man named Jesse, because I have chosen one of his sons to be king. Take oil for anointing. You are to anoint the one I tell you."

When Samuel arrived in Bethlehem he blessed Jesse and his sons. He saw the oldest son, who was tall and good-looking. "He must be the one God wants," thought Samuel. But God said, "He is not the right one. You look at his appearance. I look at a man's heart. I know his thoughts and feelings. That is what is important to me."

So Samuel looked at all Jesse's sons who were present. But none of them was the one God wanted to anoint as king. "I have seen seven of your sons," said Samuel to Jesse. "Do you have any more?" "There is the youngest," Jesse answered, "but he is tending the sheep." Samuel asked for the youngest son to be brought to him. He was a handsome young man. The lord said, "Rise and anoint him; he is the one." So Samuel took the oil and anointed David. Immediately the spirit of the Lord was with David and stayed with him from that day on.

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**My prayer and picture for the day:**

#### A Little Joke

Why are Christmas trees very bad at knitting?  
Because they always drop their needles!

**Make a sweet sheep:** Mix equal quantities of icing sugar, desiccated coconut and condensed milk. Shape into balls to make sheep shapes (you can use marshmallows if you want). Push in bits of raisins for legs and eyes. Before eating, remember that God chose a simple shepherd boy to do great things.

The Philistines had set up camp with only a small stream separating them from the Israelite army. David's brothers had gone into battle, but David stayed at home to look after the sheep. He had to fight off the wild animals that attacked the flock. He began to use a slingshot and became expert with it.

The Philistines had a mighty champion in their army - Goliath. He challenged the Israelites to send him their champion. If he killed their champion then the Israelites would become slaves to the Philistines. But if their champion killed Goliath, then the Philistines would become slaves to the Israelites.

The Israelites were terrified and no one came forward. One day David was bringing food to his three brothers and he heard the taunts of Goliath. David said that he would go fight Goliath. God would protect David.

When Goliath saw him coming he laughed. David took a stone, placed it in the sling and took aim. The stone hurtled towards Goliath and struck him. Goliath fell down dead. When the Philistines saw their champion was dead they ran into the hills. The land of the Philistines now belonged to the Israelites.

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**My prayer and picture for the day:**

A Little Joke

What falls but never hurts  
itself?  
Snow!

**Make snowflake tree decorations:** Cut four pipe cleaners in half. Twist together in the middle. Spread out the eight arms and thread a few beads onto each arm. Bend the ends of each arm to stop the beads from falling off. Hang using colourful thread.

David ordered Solomon to be anointed king over Israel after him. The Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream and said, "What would you like me to give you?" Solomon said "Give me the wisdom to rule your people with justice and to know the difference between good and evil." The Lord was pleased with Solomon.

Later, two women came to King Solomon to ask him to settle an argument. The women lived in the same house and each of them had given birth to a baby boy. The first woman said that during the night the second woman's baby had died and that she had switched the children. The first woman said that the dead child was not hers. They argued about this before him.

Solomon said "Bring me a sword. Cut the child in two and give half to each of the women." The real mother said "Please your majesty, don't kill the child. Give him to her." The other woman said "Don't give him to either of us. Go ahead and cut him in two." Then Solomon said "Don't kill the child. Give him to the first woman - she is the real mother."

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**My prayer and picture for the day:**

A Little Joke

What do you call a snowman in the summer?  
A puddle!

**Give someone special a homemade cracker:** Decorate a sheet of A4 paper. Wrap it the long way around a tube from a loo roll. Stick down with glue or sticky tape. Tie tightly with ribbon on one end. Put in a sweet and a little riddle or joke. Tie the other end.

God sent many prophets to give messages to His people to stop doing wicked things, to remember and follow His commandments. The prophet Isaiah told of the coming of a wonderful boy child, from the family of David. He would not judge by appearance, he would judge the poor fairly and defend the rights of the helpless. He would be a great light, a bringer of peace, and His kingdom would spread and last forever.

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**My prayer and picture for the day:**

A Little Joke

Why did the elf keep his trumpet  
in the freezer?

Because he likes cool music!

Make a candle:

Cut an apple in half. Scrape out the core and place half a walnut upright into the hollow. Light the walnut (Have patience, and use a long match or taper). Think of the amazing baby to be born soon.



Mary lived in Nazareth, a small town in Galilee. She was engaged to be married to Joseph, who was a descendent of King David. One day she saw a stranger watching her. "I am Gabriel," he said. "Peace be with you, Mary. The Lord God has sent me with a special message for you. He has greatly blessed you." Mary stared at the angel. She wondered what he could have to tell her. "Do not be afraid," he said. "God loves you very much. He has chosen you to be the mother of His promised King. You will have a baby, God's own son and you will name him Jesus. He will be great and be called the Son of the Most High, and His kingdom will never end."

"How can I have a baby?" asked Mary. "I am not yet married." "The Holy Spirit will fall upon you and God's power will rest within you. The baby will be God's own son. Your cousin Elizabeth is having a baby too. She is old and thought she would never have children. You see, nothing is too hard for God." Then Mary knew that she did not need to ask any more questions. She just needed to trust in God. "I am the Lord's servant," she said. "May it happen to me as you have said." And the angel left her.

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**My prayer and picture for the day:**

A Little Joke

Who gives presents  
and bites people?

Santa Jaws!

Download this activity sheet:

[https://cafod.org.uk/content/download/54140/754430/version/1/file/Prayer childrens-liturgy 4th-Sunday-Advent-B-activity%20sheet.pdf](https://cafod.org.uk/content/download/54140/754430/version/1/file/Prayer%20childrens-liturgy%204th-Sunday-Advent-B-activity%20sheet.pdf)

Joseph was a descendent of the great King David. Joseph was a carpenter and lived and worked in Nazareth. He was happy, because he was going to marry a kind and gentle girl called Mary. However, before they got married she found that she was going to have a baby. When Joseph heard this he was greatly troubled. Joseph was a good man and did not want to disgrace Mary in public. So, he decided to quietly break off their engagement.

But before he had a chance to do this Joseph had a dream, in which an angel of the Lord spoke to him. "Joseph, son of David, do not break your engagement to Mary. She has done nothing wrong. She has been chosen to be the mother of God's son, and you will name the baby Jesus. He will grow up to save people from their sins." When Joseph woke up, he knew what he must do. He would marry Mary and look after the baby, as the angel had told him to do.

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**My prayer and picture for the day:**

**Knock Knock**

- Who's there ?

Oakham

- Oakham who ?

Oakham all ye faithfull... !

**Make a tree decoration:** Cut a sheet of paper into narrow strips. Think of all the people who are important to you. Write each name on a strip. Add a prayer or wish for each of them. Make the strips into a chain and hang it on your tree.

The Lord himself will give you a sign: a young woman who is pregnant will have a son and will name him Emmanuel ('God is with us').

A child is born to us!

A son is given to us!

And he will be our ruler.

He will be called, "Wonderful Counsellor", "Mighty God",  
"Eternal Father", Prince of Peace".

His royal power will continue to grow;

his kingdom will always be at peace.

He will rule as King David's successor,

basing his power on right and justice,

from now until the end of time. (Isaiah 7:14, 9:6-7)

And in the town of Bethlehem, in a stable because there was no room for them in the inn, Mary gave birth to a baby boy. God's angel announced the news that a saviour for all mankind had been born that day.

## GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST



