

The Season of ADVENT

- Advent begins on the Sunday closest to the feast of St Andrew the Apostle (30 November). There are four Sundays before Christmas and it ends on December 24
- It is the season to prepare for Christmas, when Christ's first coming is remembered
- It is a time for devout and joyful expectation

Liturgical colour: purple – symbolises joyful waiting, renewal & expectation.

Display Ideas: Bible; Advent wreath; Jesse Tree; a small plant or flower in bud to represent 'waiting' for the birth of Christ; an empty crib.

Wording: Welcome as we journey through Advent to prepare to celebrate Christmas. We are getting ready to rejoice in the birth of Jesus.

Scripture Phrases:

'Get the road ready for the Lord; make a straight path for him to travel' *Adapted from Luke 3:4*

'Show a gentle attitude toward everyone. The Lord is coming soon. Don't worry about anything.' *Adapted from Philippians 4: 5*

The Season of LENT

- Begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Thursday in the evening
- The season to prepare for Easter
- It is a time for spiritual growth, for discerning and doing good
- For us Lent begins in winter and ends when the new life of spring begins

Liturgical colour: Purple – symbolises penance; a time of reflection on wrongdoing.

Display Ideas: a cross made out of wood or branches draped with a purple cloth; a crown of thorns/sticks; sand and pebbles, sandals and footprints; bowl of bulbs; vase of bare twigs; on Ash Wednesday – a bowl of ashes.

Wording: We are journeying together through Lent to prepare ourselves well to celebrate Easter. We are trying to be better followers of Jesus. We are trying to live up to God's law of Love one another.

Scripture Phrases:

'The time has come,' he said. "The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!" Adapted from Mark 1:15

'Human beings cannot live on bread alone, but need every word that God speaks.' Adapted from Matthew 4: 4

Holy Thursday

- The beginning of the Easter Triduum – meaning the three days of Passover
- We prepare for the Easter Vigil with the washing of feet

Liturgical colour: White and Gold- symbolises joy and triumph

Display Ideas: Bible opened at John 13; a cross; bowl and jug of water; white towel, sandals, artist impression of washing of the feet e.g. Sieger Koder; Del Parson

Wording: Jesus gave us the best example by the way He lived His life. We try to follow him. God asks us to be loving and giving. We are trying to follow Jesus' law of love and service

Scripture Phrases:

'I have set an example for you, so that you will do just what I have done for you.'

Adapted from John 13: 15

'My commandment is this: love one another, just as I love you.'

Adapted from John 15: 12

Easter Season

- **Begins on Easter Sunday and ends 50 days later on Pentecost Sunday**
- **The Easter Season in the heart of the Christian faith**
- **The Paschal candle is lit during this season to show Jesus is alive**

Liturgical colour: White and Gold- symbolises joy, triumph and Resurrection, (that is why it is often used at funerals)

Display Ideas: Bible; Large white candle; bowl of water, 'Alleluia' banner; cross draped with a white and/or gold cloth; any symbols of new life e.g. eggs, spring flowers, chicks hatching, bulbs about to flower.

Wording: We are an Easter people and 'Alleluia' is our song! Join us! Jesus is alive. Alleluia! We want to spread the Good News of Jesus.

Scripture Phrases:

'God raised Jesus to new life'

Adapted from Ephesians 1: 20

'We know He is alive for we have seen Him'

Adapted from Acts 2: 32

'Tell the people everything about this new life'

Adapted from Acts 5:21

PENTECOST

- Pentecost Sunday is 50 days after Easter Sunday – from the Greek word fiftieth
- Jesus made it clear to His Disciples that it was important to carry on His mission
- At Pentecost Jesus fulfilled His promise by sending the Holy Spirit
- Pentecost is called the ‘birthday’ of the Church

Liturgical colour: Red - symbolises fire, the symbol of the Holy Spirit

Display Ideas: Bible open at Acts 2: 1-43; artists’ impressions of Pentecost/Holy Spirit; red/orange/yellow flowers; one large candle surrounded by 12 smaller ones.

Wording: With the strength of the Spirit we can go out and proclaim the Good News to everyone. Holy Spirit help us and guide us. The Holy Spirit leads, guides and strengthens all the friends of Jesus.

Scripture Phrases:

‘They were all filled with the Holy Spirit’

Adapted from Acts 1:4

‘I give you the Holy Spirit to help you’

Adapted from John 20: 21

‘Let the Holy Spirit guide all that you say and do’

Adapted from Galatians 5:16

Feasts of Mary

- **May is the Month of Mary**
- **In October we are encouraged to pray the Rosary**
- **There are six major feasts to honour Mary**

1 January – Mary Mother of God

25 March -The Annunciation

31 May - The Visitation

15 August – The Assumption

8 September – Mary’s Birthday

8 December – The immaculate conception

Liturgical colour: white is used for vestments, although blue is traditionally associated with Our Lady

Display Ideas: Bible opened at an appropriate scripture ref; Icons –Mary Mother of Jesus; Rosary; flowers; candles.

Wording: Mary the Mother of Jesus has a special place in the life of our school. Like Mary we sing happy songs and give praise to God.

Scripture Phrases:

‘ Rejoice, Mary, God has blessed you and is very close to you’ *Adapted from Luke 1:27*

‘Mary was so happy she sang a song of praise to God ‘ *Adapted from Luke 1:46*

‘God is so good. My heart is full of joy’ *Adapted from Luke 1:39-58*

Ordinary Time

Ordinary Time comprises two periods: one beginning on the day after the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, (the end of the Christmas season) and ending on the day before Ash Wednesday, the other beginning on the Monday after Pentecost, the conclusion of the Easter season, and continuing until the Saturday before the First Sunday of Advent. These periods of time combined are the longest time in the liturgical year.

The weeks of Ordinary Time are numbered.

Liturgical colour: Green – symbolising growth, life and hope

Display Ideas: Bible; follow the theme of ‘growing’ using objects from nature; craftwork; pottery; schoolwork; artwork.

Wording: We are reminded during Ordinary Time that God is always there to help us live as Christians. We are exploring Christ’s earthly mission.

Scripture

The Gospels used on Sundays in ordinary time follow a 3 year cycle.

Cycle A the Gospel used is Matthew

Cycle B the Gospel used is Mark

Cycle C the Gospel used is Luke