

ADVENT 2025

Family Pack

Dear Families,

Life can be so busy. There can be so many calls on a parent's time, and that's without the Christmas holidays!

Advent is a time that the Church sets aside to help us make space for Christ, to become attentive and ready spiritually – both for Christmas, and also for the time when he will come again, as he promised he would. Pope Francis encouraged us to be attentive:

"As we approach Christmas, may the Virgin Mary help us so that we do not allow ourselves to be distracted by external things, but make room in our hearts for the One who has already come and wants to come again to heal our illnesses and to give us his joy." (2019)

But how can we do this with so much going on?
We have created this pack to help you.

Choose whatever works best for your family. As Advent begins, children could set up a nativity set or make an Advent wreath. You could include an Advent prayer after evening meals. If your family enjoys games and art, swap in Advent themed ones from this pack. Plan a family movie night, pop some corn and choose one of the suggested videos. However you decide to focus on Christ this Advent, may you be blessed with his joy and peace as you journey towards Christmas.

We are praying for you.

The CELEBRATE team.

**Advent begins on
Sunday 30 November 2025**



All clickable links to resources are shown as lighter, bolder text.



Please help us this Christmas to raise much needed money for our work through Give as you live – as no extra cost to yourself!
[JOIN HERE](#) and use the link to buy your Christmas gifts. Thank you!

Our thanks to Helena Judd and Maria Quinn for their support in developing this year's Advent pack.

DO

Click on the **bold link text** to check out the resources

Advent Bingo

Download this digital version of **Advent bingo** to play in families, schools and youth groups. Have fun whilst learning more about Advent such as the O Antiphons and Advent saints.



10 Attitudes for Advent

Read through **10 Attitudes for Advent**. Discuss together these questions as a family: Which one is the most important? Which is the most challenging? Which is the easiest action to do? Tell each other what you think and why. *Good for teens.*

Calling ALL Parishes!

Why not host a BIBLE CELEBRATION afternoon at your church for families to encounter the joy of the Nativity? To find out more download the free CELEBRATE Trust **Nativity plan** and resources including interactive drama, hilarious games, giant cracker pull, prayerful reflection and more.



Get Creative

Young children might enjoy painting this **Advent Wreath** using their handprints.

Family Nativity Set

Invite your children to set up a nativity set at home, and take the baby Jesus to a Baminelli service (see the Pray page) for a blessing if there is one near you.



visit the CELEBRATE Trust website

find CELEBRATE Trust on social media



DO

Click on the **bold link text** to check out the resources

Grow in Kindness

Help children and young people develop in virtue with the CELEBRATE Trust **Advent Matchbox Manger**. Place a piece of straw in the manger for every kind or sacrificial act to help prepare their hearts for Jesus this Christmas.



Jesse Tree Fun

Tanglewood Atelier has some lovely resources that help families learn about the family tree of Jesus during the days of Advent - check out their new colouring book, printable pack (mini colour-in ornaments, colour ornaments plus reflection booklet), and sustainable wooden Jesse Tree ornaments for your Christmas tree!

Toddler Christmas Crafts

Download **ideas for toddlers** and toddler groups from the Bible Society for Christmas baubles, an action song, dressing up and interactive prayer to go with the We're on our way to Bethlehem book - find it on our books page.



Sustainable Christmas

Create your own wrapping paper by painting christmas images onto brown paper with finger paints, sponges, potato prints or cookie cutters of stars, holly or Christmas trees. **Here is one idea.**

Don't forget to recycle after Christmas.



Christmas Music

Fill your home with music that signposts beyond the Christmas glitz to celebrate Christ's birth. Try: **Emmanuel: Christmas songs of worship** by Grammy Award winner Chris Tomlin, or **traditional Christmas Carols** by Kings College Choir.



Advent Wreath Prayer Focus

Why not set up a prayer focus during Advent for the family using an Advent wreath? Use three purple candles for weeks 1, 2 and 4, and 1 pink candle for week 3. Light the first purple candle on Sunday of week 1 and pray an **Advent wreath blessing**. Children might enjoy this **Light the Advent Candle activity sheet** and singing the Advent carol – **here is the tune!**

Pray the O Antiphons!

Each night of the octave, the Church prays the O Antiphons – these are different names for Jesus starting with 'O' such as 'O Emmanuel'. You could use this resource to pray and reflect each day as we wait for the Nativity of Our Lord. **Download the PDF** to use with families, teens or schools.



Advent Family Prayers

CAFOD's **prayer resources** encourage us to look to God as we prepare for Christmas, but also to take notice of the world around us. There will be new activity sheets for Church Year A developed for each week of Advent.



Baminelli Sunday

Instituted by St Pope John Paul II for Gaudete Sunday (Third Sunday of Advent), many parishes encourage children to connect their Nativity set to their local church. Following the blessing at church, take your 'Bambinelli' home, wrap and open it as a family on Christmas morning where the youngest can place it in the crib.



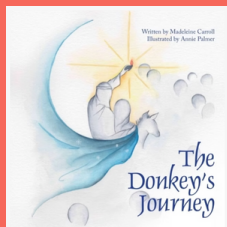
visit the CELEBRATE Trust website

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BOOKS

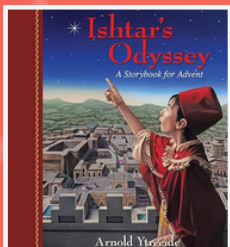
Click on a book cover to find out more and order online



The Donkey's Journey

The Donkey's Journey invites children to follow in the hoof-prints of a humble donkey as he travels to a star-bright stable in Bethlehem for the birth of a very special baby boy.

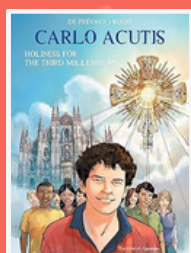
FOR YOUNG CHILDREN



Ishtar's Odyssey

An exciting Advent adventure book following the ten-year-old son of a Persian wise man as their caravan follows a star across the desert. Disasters and dangers challenge his courage but Ishtar finds strength he never knew he had as he follows the search for the newborn king.

FOR KS2 CHILDREN UPWARDS.



Carlos Acutis - Holiness for the Third Millennium

A comic-style story of Carlo's short life. Like other boys he loved video games and football, but he also loved the Mass, and had a deep concern for others around him. Made a saint on 7 September, 2025, Carlo has become an example of faith, hope, and love.

FOR OLDER CHILDREN/TEENS.



Encountering Emmanuel

Embark on a transformative journey this Advent with Heather Khym, as she extends a heartfelt invitation to embrace stillness and silence amid life's chaos, allowing God to dwell in the depths of your being.

FOR ADULTS; SEE FILMS SECTION FOR THE INTRODUCTORY VIDEO.



The Amazing Advent-ure

Join Rose and Sam on their hunt to find the true meaning of Christmas in their super special, surprising Advent calendar!

FOR PRIMARY SCHOOL AGE CHILDREN; ALSO AVAILABLE IN BULK FOR SCHOOLS AND PARISHES FROM BIBLE SOCIETY.



We're on our way to Bethlehem!

Angels shining, shepherds and sheep running, wise men riding, chickens and cows skipping, and Mary and Joseph rocking. They all know that the news is true but what will our little ones find out when they arrive at Bethlehem?

FOR YOUNG CHILDREN; ALSO AVAILABLE IN BULK FOR SCHOOLS AND PARISHES FROM BIBLE SOCIETY.



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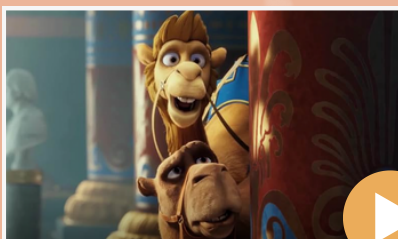




Legend of the Candy Cane

Enjoy the story of how a special visitor helps the Candymaker find a way to share the real meaning of Christmas. This tender story of a grandfather and his granddaughter explains all the symbols of the Candy Cane.

FOR PRIMARY SCHOOL CHILDREN.



The Star

After finding out that the unborn king is in danger, Bo the donkey embarks on an exciting adventure with his animal friends in an imaginative retelling of the Nativity Story. Will Bo and friends reach the expectant parents in time?

*FOR PRIMARY AGE CHILDREN.
AVAILABLE FOR STREAMING FROM
SEVERAL COMPANIES.*



St Nicholas and the Secret Gift

A wonderful, rhyming story told on Instagram, using images from the digital download of the story, available from Faithful Labours.

*FOR YOUNG CHILDREN AND EARLY
PRIMARY SCHOOL AGE.*



The Bible Project - Advent

explains scripture in dynamic, new ways through animation – explore the themes of biblical hope, peace, joy and love.

FOR TEENS AND ADULTS.

Mark 10 Mission and The Redeemed

Videos for a fresh and inspiring journey through Advent for children and teens. *Click the logos to find out more...*



FILMS

Click on a play button to find out more and watch online



Hey Mary

A short, gentle video for little ones that introduces the Nativity story with an original music track and early years toys.

FOR YOUNG CHILDREN.



Encountering Emmanuel

This Advent, pull back from the hustle and create space for our Saviour to come into every area of your life –to transform and heal it through his love. See associated book in this pack.

FOR ADULTS.



visit the CELEBRATE Trust website

find CELEBRATE Trust on social media





15 - 19 August 2026

A perfect Christmas gift for your family!

A faith treat for yourself and the family!

Book on to the CELEBRATE festival with your children and grandchildren next year from 15-19 August 2026. Set in the beautiful countryside of West Sussex, join us in the Big Top and school campus for a festival to remember!

Brilliant groups for children and young people that provide fun and friends, whilst helping them grow close to Jesus. Look forward to amazing speakers, beautiful masses and worship, adoration in Worth Abbey, time for prayer and confession, inspiring workshops, relax at the Cafe and enjoy family fun. We also had sports and games, storytelling, face painting, films and crafts last year. Camp in our festival field, stay in Worth school accommodation or travel in each day. All ages welcome.

Join us for the CELEBRATE festival 2026!

Visit celebratetrust.org for more information and to book.



visit the CELEBRATE Trust website

find CELEBRATE Trust on social media



What is CELEBRATE?



visit the CELEBRATE Trust website

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CELEBRATE inspires, equips and connects people of all ages to live an authentic Christian life in the power of the Holy Spirit in support of the family, to form the next generation and encourage local community.

This resource is free to download but not free to produce, so we would be very grateful for a donation or regular gift this Christmas to enable us to continue to create resources and help families flourish.

MAKE A DONATION



We would love to hear from you! Join the CELEBRATE community on Facebook or Instagram, and please subscribe to our email list to receive more information and free CELEBRATE resources.

SUBSCRIBE HERE

