

FAMILY ACTIVITIES after the BLESSINGS of the CRIBS CEREMONY Year B
using the Lectionary for Masses with Children

ADVENT WEEK 2

Readings: Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11
2 Peter 3:18-14
Mark 8:5-11

Read the Scripture readings above.

In the gospel, we are called to 'prepare a way for the Lord'

As a family how can we prepare for Jesus' birth?

Activity:

- Discuss exciting things that happen in families in preparation for Christmas (eg decorating the tree, Christmas cooking, presents).
- Draw or write these on strips of coloured paper.
- Divide family into two groups, and using a stapler or tape, join strips together to create a paper chain.
- Finally, talk about what really makes Christmas important i.e. Jesus' birth.
- Produce a strip with the word **JESUS** written on it.
- Use this to join the 2 separate paper chains together, with the word **JESUS** in the middle, to show that Jesus is at the very centre of our Christmas preparations.

ADVENT WEEK 3

Readings: Isaiah 61:1-2, 10-11
1 Thessalonians 5:16-24
John 1:6-8, 19, 28

Read the Scripture readings above.

In the Gospel, we see that John comes as a 'voice, in the wilderness' proclaiming Jesus.

As a family, how do we proclaim Jesus?

Activity:

- As a family, share a story about Jesus that is special to you.
- What example for living is Jesus showing us in this story?
(eg, is Jesus healing, forgiving, listening, welcoming, praying?)
- What might be some practical ways we can apply this to our own lives?

- Perhaps we might be able to do something as a family to make life a bit easier for someone else (e.g. offer to baby-sit for someone with young children, to give them the opportunity to do some Christmas shopping “child-free”. Wouldn’t that be “good news”?!)

ADVENT WEEK 4

Readings: 2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8-12, 14, 16
Romans 16:25-27
Luke 1:26-28

Read the Scripture readings above.

In the Gospel, we see how Mary accepted the angel’s astounding news that she was to ‘conceive and have a son’ (God’s Son). Even though unsure and afraid at first, she agreed to be the person through whom Jesus entered the world.

As a family, how do can we bring Jesus to the world today?

Let’s take this opportunity to share with our children the hopes and dreams we had for them when we learnt that we were carrying them and waiting for their birth.

Activity:

- As each Christmas gift is wrapped, and each Christmas card is opened and displayed, let’s pray especially for the recipient of each gift and the sender of each card.
- On cards or paper, write a prayer to Jesus about how you would like to receive him this Christmas. Share the prayers together as a family. Place them on or around our tree.

