

**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.

