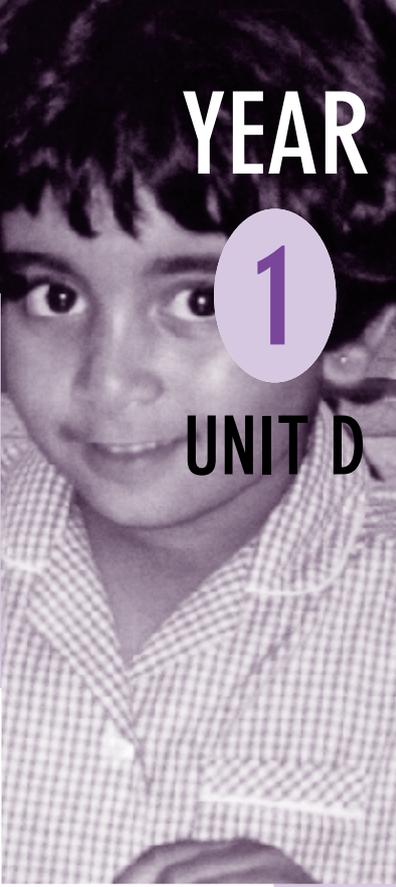


YEAR

1

UNIT D



ADVENT

ABOUT THE UNIT

This unit is designed to develop the children's understanding of Advent as a time of waiting and preparation for the celebration of the birth of Jesus and his coming again. The unit also develops the children's understanding of Advent as a joyful liturgical season and allows them to participate in a special liturgy.

WHERE THE UNIT FITS IN

The unit builds on previous learning in Reception about Advent.

PRIOR LEARNING

It is helpful if the children have:

- prior knowledge of Advent
- prior experience of making preparations for an event.

SKILLS

Brainstorming, art, selecting preferences, group work, recording information, prayer writing, interpreting symbols.

VOCABULARY

Advent, Jesus, waiting, preparing, celebration, Gaudete Sunday, Rejoice Sunday, candle, Advent wreath.

ASSESSMENT

At the end of this unit:

	A.T.1	A.T.2
Most children will understand that Advent is a time of waiting and preparation for the celebration of the birth of Jesus. They will know how the season is structured and will be able to explain some ways in which the season is celebrated at home, in the parish and in school. They will also be able to explain the importance of making preparations for the celebration of Jesus' birth and identify some ways of doing this. They will also understand that Advent is a time of joy and will be able to participate in a special liturgy to celebrate the season.	1a 1b	1a 1b 1d
Less able children will understand that Advent is a special time leading up to the birth of Jesus and that during this time we get ready to celebrate.	1a	1a
More able children will have a greater understanding of Advent as a time of waiting and preparation for the celebration of the birth of Jesus and his coming again. They will be able to identify ways in which they can prepare for the birth of Jesus.	2a 2b 2c	2a 2c 2d

PROGRAMME OF STUDY

TEACHING STRATEGIES

C4 Become familiar with some ways the Church celebrates major seasons of the liturgical year.

- Re-introduce the word Advent and explain that this is a new season and a special time in the Church's year.
- Make a classroom banner displaying the word Advent.
- Make a classroom calendar using 4 card candles with the days of the week on each. (NB 3rd one is pink) so that each day can be marked off.
- Revise and reinforce prior learning about Advent.
- Find out about some of the things that happen in church to celebrate the Season of Advent.
- Children to share some of their experiences of having to wait for something. Create a mind-map to record some of the children's ideas. Is it easy to wait for something? Why is it difficult?
- Explain to the children that during Advent Catholic Christians wait for two things: The birthday of Jesus at Christmas and for Jesus to come into the world again.
- If you were waiting for somebody important to come, what would you do to get ready? What things might Jesus expect us to do to prepare for him to come again?

- Brainstorm ideas about preparations they have experienced, e.g. going to school, getting ready for bed, getting their bedroom ready to be decorated, etc.
- Using baby catalogues get the children to cut out three things a newborn baby needs. Get the children to explain what they have chosen and why.
- Introduce the idea of Mary and Joseph having to prepare for the birth of Jesus by giving the children a basket of baby things both modern and available in Mary and Joseph's time. Children have to select those things Mary and Joseph would have had (very little).
- Create two pictures, one of a pregnant mother and the other of Mary. Each woman is holding a bag and saying "In my bag I have ...". The children can either write or draw to show the differences between then and now.

- Advent is a time when we prepare ourselves for the celebration of Jesus' birthday. Mary and Joseph had to prepare for Jesus' birth. During Advent, Christians try to do their best to live like Jesus as a preparation for the celebration of his birthday.
- Children to work in pairs or in small groups to come up with ideas about what they could do to make this season a preparation for Christmas. Ask the children to consider different preparations at school and at home.
- Create a preparation chart for the classroom and ask the children why they think the things they have chosen might be important as part of their Christmas preparation.

- Children to write prayers about the special preparation they are undertaking. Provide children with a writing frame and encourage them to use words about Advent being a preparing time and why they are committing themselves to certain preparations.

C1 Take part in celebrations which express thanks and praise.

- Children to think about the things that make them happy and filled with joy.
- Revise previous learning about the candles on the Advent wreath and the third candle representing the Third Sunday of Advent. Explain that this Sunday is called "Graduate Sunday" which means "Rejoice Sunday".
- Celebrate the 3rd Sunday of Advent by talking about the pink candle on the Advent wreath symbolising rejoicing because Jesus is near.
- Why is Advent a time of rejoicing? Why do you think Advent is a special time to rejoice? Ask the children to think about what it would have been like if Jesus had not come into the world. Would there be as much joy and happiness in our lives? Create a tape recording of the children's thoughts.
- Children to prepare and take part in a special liturgy to celebrate the third week of Advent and the joy that this season prepares us for, Create prayers of praise and thanks for this season of preparation and the joy that the celebration of Jesus' birth will bring.

RELATED SCRIPTURE

OTHER LINKS

Social development links: Lots of opportunities to explore issues of children living and growing up in poverty.

Home-school links: Encouraging parents to take part in Advent preparations with their children.

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

- Use the children's special prayers of preparation that they have written as part of their work.
- Learn and use a special "rejoice" song for the Third Week of Advent.
- Hold a blessing ceremony for the Advent wreath.

EVALUATION

What went well?

Which areas of planning need to be developed/adapted next time?

What needs to be revisited/developed in a later unit?