

ADVENT

WHAT THE CURRICULUM SAYS ABOUT ADVENT AT LEVEL 3 AND 4

Much of the focus of the curriculum on Advent at Levels 3 and 4 is found in the Liturgy and Prayer strand and centres around developing an understanding of the Church Year, its seasons, colours and practices. The origin of the crib is explored in Level 3 and the Jesse Tree is used as a tool to develop a deeper understanding of salvation history at Level 4. As part of the Christian Faith Strand the children's understanding of Mary is deepened and Advent is an opportune time in which to do this.

Scripture stories connected to the birth of Jesus are explored in the Word of God Strand. The following knowledge and concepts are to be found at Levels 3 and 4.

LEVEL 3

CHRISTIAN FAITH STRAND

- Mary is God's Mother and Our Mother (GS 22, LG 52-3, 60-2; CCC 744, 963, 968, 971, 973-75, 495, 508-10).
- Mary always leads us to Jesus (MC 57).
- Mary was specially preserved by God from all sin (LG 55; CCC 411, 491, 493: Immaculate Conception).

WORD OF GOD STRAND

- Mt 1:18-25. Birth of Jesus.
- Mt 2:1-12. Wise men.
- Lk 1:5-25. Elizabeth and Zechariah.
- Lk 1:26-38. Annunciation.
- Lk 1:39-45. Visitation.
- Lk 2:1-20. Christmas.

LITURGY AND PRAYER STRAND

- The Liturgical year is celebrated in seasons as follows: Advent, Christmas Season, Ordinary Time, Lent, Easter Season.
- Throughout the liturgical year our Church recognises and celebrates the lives of the martyrs and saints (CCC 1173).
- The colours of Church vestments used for the Sundays in different seasons of the liturgical year are: Green – Ordinary Time; Violet – Advent and Lent, Sacrament of Reconciliation; Red – Good Friday, Pentecost, Palm Sunday, Confirmation Masses; White – Christmas, Holy Thursday, Easter, Weddings, Baptisms.
- Ordinary time: What and when it is. History (based on the word ordinal: refers to the Sundays of the year).
- Advent and Christmas: The Church's seasons of preparing for and celebrating the birthday of Jesus.
- The people of God waited in hope for the coming of God among them.
- The Season of Advent (four weeks) is the beginning of the Church year.
- The Advent Calendar.
- The custom of the crib and the story of the first Crib (St Francis in Greccio).

LEVEL 4

CHRISTIAN FAITH STRAND

- God the Father so loved us that he sent his Son, Jesus, to be human like us in all things but sin (incarnation).
- Jesus fulfils God's promises made in the Old Testament (DV 7, 15-16; CCC 1093-94).
- Christ means 'Anointed One' (Messiah) (CCC 436, 438, 453).
- Mary became the mother of Jesus, through the power of the Holy Spirit (Lk 1:35; LG 52; CCC 484).
- God graced Mary in a special way for her mission (Lk 1:28; LG 56; CCC 490, 722).
- Mary accepted her role in God's plan of salvation when she willingly became the Mother of
- God.
- Mary was a woman of faith, obedience and wisdom (CCC 148-49, 273, 494, 511, 721, 967,
- 2617-19).
- Mary grew in her faith (LG 58).

WORD OF GOD STRAND

- Mt 2:1-11. Epiphany: Jesus' identity revealed.
- Lk 1:26-38. Annunciation.
- Lk 1:5-24; 57-80. Story of Zechariah.
- Lk 2:1-20. Christmas.

LITURGY AND PRAYER STRAND

- The Church 'in the course of the year unfolds the whole mystery of Christ from his birth through his Ascension, to Pentecost and the expectation of the blessed hope of the coming of the Lord' (CCC 1153, 1194; Ps 31:14-15).
- Advent and Christmas celebrate God's promise of a Saviour and its fulfilment in Christ, the Messiah (CCC 524).
- Advent is a special time of waiting in hope for the coming of the Messiah, Jesus Christ.
- Advent is a time of waiting for the coming of the Saviour. It is also a preparation for the end of time, when Christ will come again to judge the living and the dead (CCC 672, 678).
- The Jesse Tree.