



Children's liturgy – 2nd Sunday of Advent

Welcome: In today's readings we are told that someone very special is coming. Who do you think that might be? John the Baptist tries to help people get ready for this special person. Let's think some more about this today.

Opening prayer: Loving God, you want the whole world to welcome Jesus. Help us to prepare for his coming by changing our lives for the better. We make this prayer to you through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Gospel: Luke 3:1-6

It was the fifteenth year of the rule of the Emperor Tiberius; Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip was ruler of the territory of Iturea and Trachonitis; Lysanias was ruler of Abilene, and Annas and Caiaphas were High Priests. At that time the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the desert. So John went throughout the whole territory of the River Jordan, preaching, "Turn away from your sins and be baptized, and God will forgive your sins." As it is written in the book of the prophet Isaiah:

"Someone is shouting in the desert:

'Get the road ready for the Lord;
make a straight path for him to travel!

Every valley must be filled up,
every hill and mountain levelled off.

The winding roads must be made straight,
and the rough paths made smooth.

The whole human race will see God's salvation!"

Gospel reflection: What do you remember from the reading today?

God speaks to John while he is in the desert. What does John then go out and do?

John the Baptist goes round to the people and tells them to be prepared for the coming of Jesus. He offers to baptise them so that their sins will be forgiven.

How do you think the people felt when they heard this?

Advent is a time when we think about our actions and try to make sure that we are ready for the coming of Jesus. We think about what we could do better and try to make a change to our lives.

What do you think you could do differently, so that you can try to be ready for Jesus?

CAFOD works with the Church and local organisations all over the world to help people change their lives for the better.

Alberto lives in Peru. He often had to look after his younger brothers and sisters while his mum was out at work, or help them with their homework, even though he was still a child himself.

But he became involved with a local homework club, run by an organisation supported by CAFOD. This helped him and his siblings be safe while their mum was working and also meant that Alberto grew more confident.

He joined the reading club too and made new friends. He also joined another group where he learnt to be a good leader, how to solve problems and help his local community. All of this support helped Alberto to stay in school and he has now started studying to be an accountant.

Making a change can be really difficult. But Alberto says that nothing is impossible if you set yourself a goal.

How does it make you feel to know that there are organisations around the world who help children, young people and grown-ups to change their lives for the better?

How will you make a difference to your own lives and to the lives of others around the world this week as you prepare for the coming of Jesus this Advent?

Activity

Decorate the bauble by writing or drawing what change you will try to make this Advent, cut it out and hang it on your tree once it is up. You could stick the paper template to card to make it stiffer.

Light two candles on your Advent Wreath if you have one. Use the prayer on the accompanying activity sheet to pray for your intentions at this time.

Discuss all that you have heard and thought about today with the people at home. Try to do at least one thing differently in the coming week to change your life, or the life of someone else for the better.

Second week of Advent

"Someone is shouting in the desert: 'Get the road ready for the Lord; make a straight path for him to travel.'" Luke 3:4

Create your own bauble

The gospel this week calls us to get ready for Jesus. Write or draw on your bauble what you will try to do differently this Advent to get ready for Jesus.

A straight path

Gather some pebbles and decorate them with words or images that remind you what Advent is all about "hope", "peace", "joy", "love", "prepare" and think about how you will get ready for Jesus.

Make a straight path with your decorated pebbles in your home or outside to remind others who see them what this season is all about.

Prayer

Light two purple candles on your Advent wreath this week and say this prayer together as a family:

Patient God,
you gave John the Baptist a special job to do, to get people ready for the coming of Jesus.
Hear our prayers as we prepare:

(share your family's intentions here)

Help us to get our hearts ready for Jesus.
Amen.

