



Children's liturgy – Second Sunday of Advent

Welcome: We are still in the special time of Advent when we get ready for the coming of Jesus. Today we are going to look at our lives and try to change them for the better, so that we are ready for Jesus.

Opening prayer: God of love, help us always to try to do the right thing, even when we find it hard, so that we are ready when Jesus comes. Amen.

Gospel: Matthew 3:1-12

At that time John the Baptist came to the desert of Judah and started preaching. "Turn away from your sins," he said, "because the Kingdom of heaven is near!" John was the man the prophet Isaiah was talking about when he said:

"Someone is shouting in the desert,

'Prepare a road for the Lord;

make a straight path for him to travel!'"

John's clothes were made of camel's hair; he wore a leather belt round his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. People came to him from Jerusalem, from the whole province of Judea, and from all the country near the River Jordan. They confessed their sins, and he baptized them in the Jordan.

When John saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming to him to be baptized, he said to them, "You snakes — who told you that you could escape from the punishment God is about to send? Do those things that will show that you have turned from your sins. And don't think you can escape punishment by saying that Abraham is your ancestor. I tell you that God can take these stones and make descendants for Abraham! The axe is ready to cut down the trees at the roots; every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown in the fire. I baptize you with water to show that you have repented, but the one who will come after me will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. He is much greater than I am; and I am not good enough even to carry his sandals. He has his winnowing shovel with him to thresh out all the grain. He will gather his wheat into his barn, but he will burn the chaff in a fire that never goes out."

Gospel reflection: What do you remember from today's reading?

John warns the people coming to be baptised that they need to say sorry for the things that they have done wrong and change their lives for the better. This will help them to be ready for Jesus.

Do you think there are things in your life you could do better? Are you always helpful? Do you always share? Do you listen when someone is upset and try to cheer them up? Do you let everyone join in your games?

Say sorry quietly to God now in prayer, for the times you have done things that you know you shouldn't have.

John the Baptist lived at the time of Jesus. He had great faith and set an example for everyone of how to live a good life.

Saint Oscar Romero is another great example of how to live a good life. He lived in El Salvador and stood up for poor communities. In El Salvador at the time some families were very rich, but most people were poor. Saint Romero saw that this was unfair and he spoke out against it. He is remembered for his courage, faith and love for the poor.

Ronaldo, who lives in El Salvador, says: "Oscar Romero was a very good man. He was very good to people. He helped to rescue people. We should be like him. I want to be brave like Romero." Saint Oscar Romero wanted to change people's lives for the better. His example can show us how we can help others too.

When we say sorry, it means that we will try to do better next time. If we change our lives for the better and try to do the right things, we can help to make the world a happier place for other people too.

How are you going to change your life for the better this Advent?

Can you speak up when you see something that is unfair? Can you help others when they are in need? Can you share?

What will you do for others so that you are ready when Jesus comes?

Activity

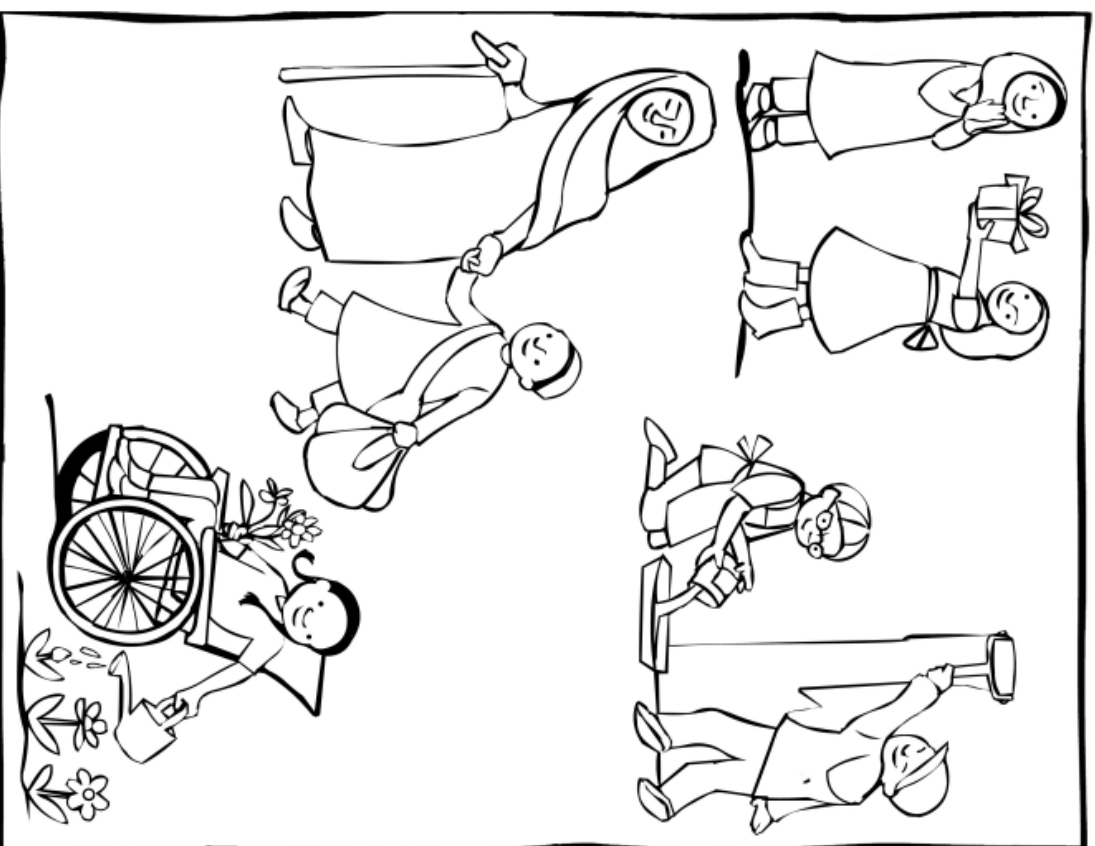
Colour in the illustration of children changing their lives for the better by helping others on the activity sheet. Then do the other activities on the sheet.

Think about helping someone, including/welcoming someone, or speaking up against something unfair and about the different things that you could do during Advent.

Remember what you have thought about during the session and share this with your family. Do one thing during the next week to help others, so that you can show you are trying to get ready for the arrival of Jesus by changing your life for the better

Second Sunday of Advent (Year A)

Gospel: Matthew 3:1-12



These words remind us of John the Baptist's message to us: say sorry and make a change for the better to be ready for Jesus. Can you find them in the wordsearch?

"Repent for the kingdom of Heaven is close at hand."

Baptist
Sorry
Ready
Jesus
Advent
Change
Help
Share

B	A	P	T	I	S	T	R
S	H	A	R	E	O	E	S
M	N	C	I	O	R	J	A
P	R	H	S	L	R	E	D
R	E	A	D	Y	Y	S	V
H	G	N	F	D	A	U	E
D	S	C	R	E	I	S	N
N	H	E	L	P	A	P	T

A prayer to cut out, stick to card, decorate, keep and use.



Loving God,
You sent John the Baptist
to share your message.
We are sorry for the times
when we have done wrong,
and have hurt other people.
Lead us to make a change
for the better
and to be ready when you come.
Amen.

More Advent activities:
cafod.org.uk/primary



CAFOD Catholic Agency for
Overseas Development

no one
beyond reach