

ADVENT WITH

CELEBRATE HOME

COME LORD JESUS, COME!



WAYS TO CONNECT

We have suggested resources that may be more or less appropriate for different age groups. Look out for the **depthometer** to get a gauge on how suitable the activity will be for the members of your family.

All the links that you need are included in this resource.

Welcome to **CELEBRATE@Home!** This resource is compiled to encourage and support you. You will notice that we have ideas for things you can do as individuals, or with your whole family. You could also connect with other CELEBRATORS and families online with Zoom, or face to face, to discuss the theme or something you have watched or read, or have fun making Advent crafts together!

THE ROAD TO CHRISTMAS

Advent begins the Church's liturgical year and contains the four Sundays and weekdays leading up to the celebration of Christmas. Advent is a time not only of waiting to celebrate Jesus' birth, and His coming return, but also a time where we can go on a journey to meet Jesus in a more real way in our lives right now. There may have been no room at the inn, but we can make room in our hearts for Jesus, our King, this Advent.

May God Bless you and draw you close this Advent.

Claire Fernandes

CELEBRATE Children and Family Lead



Let's get creative!

Why not make an advent wreath for your door? You can get some fresh greenery from either your local florist or out on a walk!

You can make an Advent wreath with candles for the home to give you a focus and for prayer. Why not bless your Advent wreath with your family using [this blessing from Loyala Press?](#)



Did you know?!

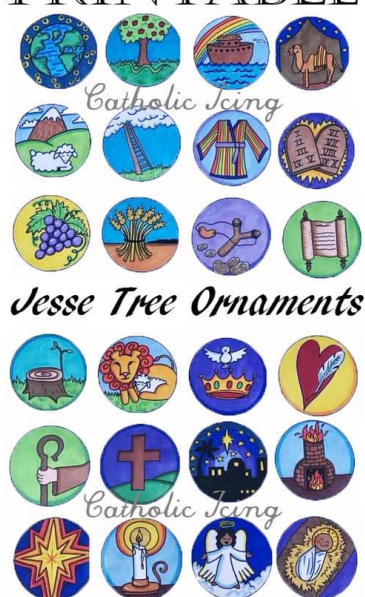
The Advent wreath is an old German tradition, rich in meaning. The wreath is a circle, symbolising that God has no beginning or end. The evergreen leaves symbolise eternal life and the candles symbolise the four weeks of Advent. The three purple candles remind us of the penitential nature of Advent - perhaps a treat could be given up and money given to charity, e.g. [for a virtual World Gift for a family living in poverty such as a goat that will provide nutritious milk.](#) The pink candle is lit of the third week of Advent for Gaudete (Rejoice) Sunday, reminding us that Christmas is nearly here! Be joyful!



How about making your own Jesse Tree ornaments using printables from Catholic Icing? The Jesse Tree helps us remember the story of God's people, waiting so long for the Messiah, as we journey through Advent.

[Take a look at the link here.](#)

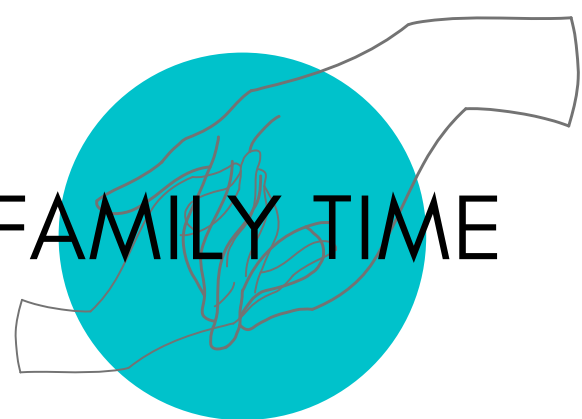
PRINTABLE



REJOICE AND BE GLAD

WORLD GIFTS

FAMILY TIME



MARK THE DAYS OF ADVENT

How about two alternatives to the card Advent Calendar this year? Try [CAFOD's online Family Advent Calendar to journey through the season of Advent with our global family.](#) or order the Bible Society's new Family Advent box complete with paper chain prayers, poster and stickers, discussion cards, creative activity ideas, wooden ornaments, scripture readings, bookmark, etc. For more information, [click here!](#)

Have you seen the Advent Challenge for Catholic Marriages? [Click here.](#)



BOOK CORNER

Ishtar's Odyssey

A new Advent family devotional from the author of Jotham's Journey! Fourth in a set of Advent adventure books for families, Ishtar's Odyssey follows the ten-year-old son of a Persian wise man as their caravan follows a star across the desert.

Ephraim's Gladness

Young children will enjoy Ephraim's Gladness, a story of a shepherd who loses and then finds one of his sheep, whilst also discovering the most wonderful treasure in a stable near his home.

The Wonder of the Greatest Gift

Based on her bestseller Unwrapping the Greatest Gift, Ann Voskamp expands her presentation of the timeless Advent tradition of the Jesse Tree with this beautiful keepsake that can be handed down and enjoyed for generations.

Greatest Gift

Thousands of readers have already fallen in love with Ann Voskamp's *One Thousand Gifts*. This Christmas, Ann invites you to celebrate the lineage and majesty of God's greatest gift to us—His Son, Jesus Christ—through the timeless Advent tradition of the Jesse Tree. Maybe you could make space this Advent to reflect accompanied by *The Greatest Gift* "What do you need to lay down so your hands will be open to receive God's gift?"



PRAY

**Come Lord Jesus, come.
Come to the old, come to the young,
Come to the lonely, come to the poor,
Come to me and mine, come this Christmas time,
Come Lord Jesus come.
Amen.**

The Nativity

Invite your children to setup a Nativity Set and place the shepherds on the way to the manger, and the kings behind the shepherds. Each day they can move the figures a bit closer to the Nativity Set (make sure the wise men don't arrive until 6th January and you have hidden Baby Jesus until Christmas Day!)

[How about this fair trade nativity set?](#)

DO

Preparing space in our hearts for Jesus.

Ask your children to place a piece of straw in the manger every time they do something kind/make a little sacrifice until Christmas when they place Baby Jesus in the manger on the straw. Use your nativity set or [an Advent Manger Kit like this one.](#)

New music!

Listen to Chris Tomlin's CD Emmanuel: Christmas songs of worship and worship together.

Movie Night!

Why not come together and watch a film?

- [The Star \(young children\)](#)
- [Superbook The First Christmas](#)
- [The Case for Christ \(adults\)](#)

WHAT IS CELEBRATE?



CELEBRATE is a Catholic ministry, that provides events, resources and other activities for the formation and teaching of an intergenerational audience whose main focus is family.

CELEBRATE aims to inspire, equip and connect people of all ages to live an authentic Christian life in the power of the Holy Spirit, in support of the family, to encourage local community and the sharing of faith with others.

You can find more information and resources like this on our website www.celebratetrust.org. If you would like to donate for towards the work that has gone in to producing this CELEBRATE@home activity pack we would be very grateful. [Donate by clicking here.](#)

We'd love to hear from you! Join the CELEBRATE community on our [Facebook](#), or get in touch via email: infocelebratetrust.org