

ADVENT WITH

**CELEBRATE**  
HOME



# JOIN OUR ADVENT JOURNEY!

Welcome to **CELEBRATE at Home!** This resource is compiled to encourage and support you. We think that this is an opportunity to draw close to Jesus, and also build community together online. This edition focuses on the journey towards our celebration of Christmas.

## 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.



### 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!

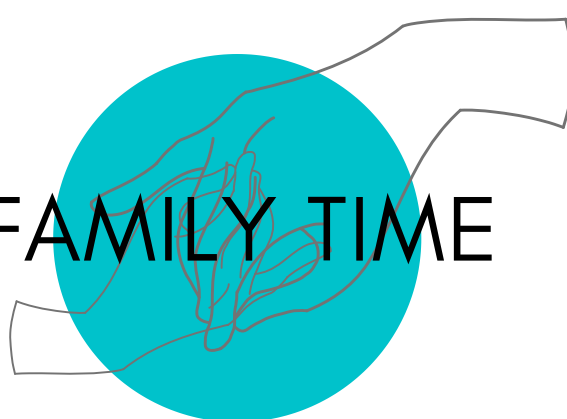
You can make an Advent wreath with candles for the home to give you a focus and small reminder of this season. Why not bless your Advent wreath with your family? Check out the link on our website for this.



### 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. CAFOD or Mary's Meals? The pink candle is lit for the third week of Advent for Gaudete (Rejoice) Sunday, reminding us that Christmas is nearly here!

## FAMILY TIME



**You can trace the days of Advent** with your children using activities linked to the Jesse Tree, which helps us remember the story of God's people, waiting so long for the Messiah, as we wait through Advent for the coming of Jesus.

## WAYS TO CONNECT

Everything in this pack is designed to help you connect with God, your family and others. We have suggested ways to engage with the activities but it's completely up to you to use them however works best for you. **All the accompanying links to online resources are found on our website.**

Sometimes 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.

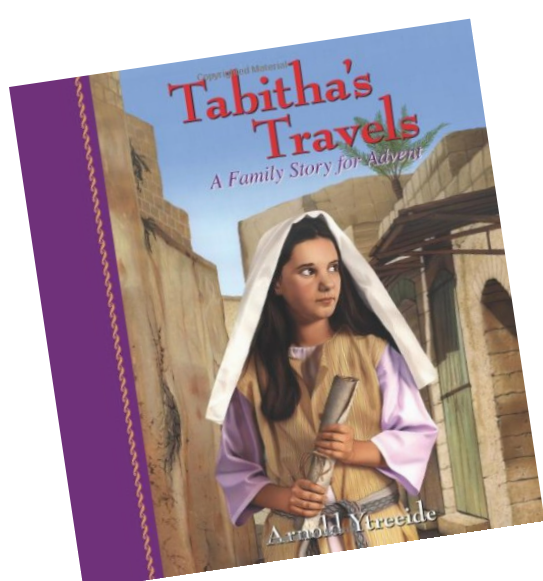
You will notice that we have ideas for things you can do as individuals, or with your whole family. You could also connect with other Celebrators and families online, using zoom, to discuss the theme, or something you have watched or read.



All resource links can be found on the **CELEBRATE website** in the download page for this pack.

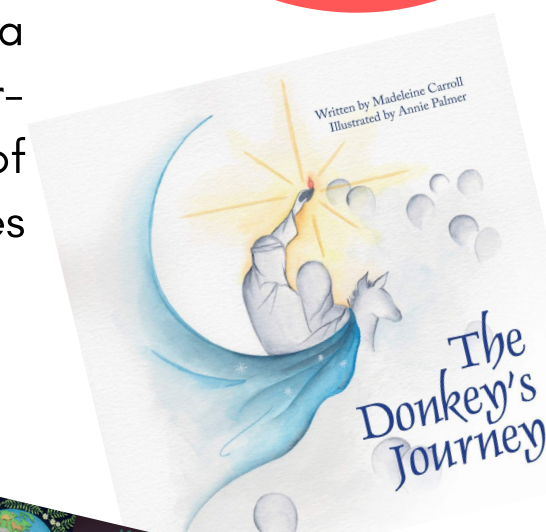
### TABITHA'S TRAVELS: A FAMILY STORY FOR ADVENT (STORYBOOKS FOR ADVENT)

Why not come together as a family to read an exciting story every day of Advent? "Curious, competent, and courageous Tabitha is the daughter of a shepherd who is taking his family on caravan to his birthplace. Along the way, she meets and becomes friends with Jotham and Bartholomew, watches as Romans take her father prisoner, helps Mary and Joseph just before Christ's birth, and ends her travels at the stable in Bethlehem." This works well for KS2.



### THE DONKEY'S JOURNEY


How about a beautiful new book written for the younger children. "This story invites children to follow in the hoof-prints of a humble donkey as he travels to a star-bright stable in Bethlehem for the birth of a very special Baby Boy". Includes reflective questions for Advent.



### UNWRAPPING THE GREATEST GIFT

Each day, families can read the provided Scripture passage (in connection with the original book), engage with a specially written devotion to help children of all ages understand the Advent theme for the day, and participate in suggested activities to apply the theme.





## PRAY

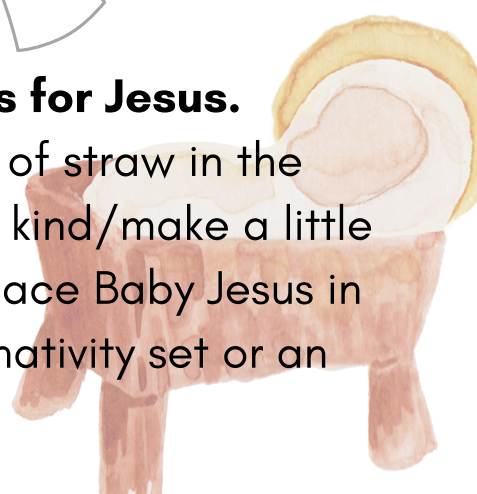
Come Lord Jesus, come.  
Come to the old, come to the young,  
Come to the lonely, come to the poor,  
Come to me and mine, come this Christmas time,  
Come Lord Jesus come.  
Amen.

### 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 our recommended 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.



### Campfire Christmas

Join Northern Irish Folk Band Rend Collective to celebrate Christmas! Check out the Spotify link on the website!

### Movie Night!

Why not come together and watch a film?

- **The Star (young children)**
- **It's a Wonderful Life (older children & adults)**
- **The Joy of Hope (adults)\***

\*Why not use this as a mini retreat? Filmed in Patmos, *The Joy of Hope* provides insights into living now with hope in the future blessing of eternal life with God in heaven.

## WHAT IS CELEBRATE?



CELEBRATE runs Catholic Charismatic, faith-filled, fun events for all ages, combining good Christian teaching, inspirational speakers and celebration of the liturgy, all in the power of the Holy Spirit. Young and old alike join together in a vibrant atmosphere to celebrate the love of God.

You can find more information and resources like this on our website [www.celebrateconference.org](http://www.celebrateconference.org)

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