SACRED HEART CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL & NURSERY

Learning and loving with Christ as our teacher

PRAYER AT HOME

Advent Week 2

Dear Parents and Carers,

The second week of Advent is a significant time when we prepare for the celebration of the birth of our Lord, Jesus. This week, the focus is on the theme of faith. It is a time to reflect on our faith and love for Jesus.

During Advent, we are encouraged to reflect on the meaning of Christmas and engage in prayer together.

This prayer resource is designed to help families come together and engage in prayer during the Advent season.

God Bless,

Linda Payne
Executive Headteacher

faith



Gather Together

1. Find a quiet space and sit together.
2. Begin by making the sign of the cross.



Listen

3. Read from the scripture quote from Mark's Gospel.



Prepare a way for the Lord,
make his paths straight.

Mark 1:1-8

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Reflect

4. Spend a moment reflecting on Christ's message of hope.

This week's reading explores Isaiah's prophecy. Isaiah talks about a messenger who will come before the Lord to prepare the way for Him. In the New Testament, this messenger is identified as John the Baptist, who prepared the way for Jesus.
John the Baptist fulfilled this prophecy. He came before Jesus and preached a message of repentance and preparation. He called people to turn away from their sins and to make their hearts ready for the coming of the Lord.
The phrase "Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight" means that we should make our hearts and lives ready for Jesus.
Remember, just as John the Baptist prepared the way for Jesus, we too, should prepare our hearts for Jesus' coming. How are you going to prepare your hearts this week?

Pray



5. Spend time praying together.

Loving Father,
We come before you with open hearts and minds, seeking your guidance and presence in our lives. As children, we strive to prepare a way for the Lord and make our path straight.
In this season of Advent, grant us the strength and wisdom to remove any distractions or negativity that may cloud our minds and hearts.
Lord, we pray that you guide us in creating a path of love, kindness, and compassion. Help us to treat others with respect and understanding, just as you have taught us. May our words and actions reflect your love and grace.
We thank you, Lord, for the gift of your Son, Jesus Christ. As we prepare a way for Him, may we always remember the importance of love, forgiveness and faith. Guide us in making our path straight so that we may walk in His footsteps and bring glory to your name.
In Jesus' name, we pray.
Amen.



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Living out the Message



6. Here are a few ways to encourage the children to live out this week's message.

- **Kindness and Sharing:** Children can share toys, snacks, or kind words with friends and family, embodying the love and generosity that Advent encourages.
- **Pray or Sing Songs of Hope:** Simple prayers or Christmas carols can help children connect spiritually and express their faith.
- **Acts of kindness:** Encourage children to show kindness and compassion to others. Help them understand that by being kind, they are making a path for the Lord in their interactions with others. Encourage them to look for opportunities to help those in need, whether it is a struggling classmate, a friend who is feeling sad or a family member who needs assistance.
- **Help Others:** Volunteering or helping those in need during this season teaches children compassion and encourages them to live out the message of love.
- **Learn and live the teachings of Jesus**: Help children understand that by learning about Jesus' teachings and trying to live them out, they are preparing the way for the Lord. Encourage them to read Bible stories, attend Mass and participate in activities that help them understand and apply Jesus' teachings in their daily lives.

By engaging in these practices, children can actively live out the message of "Prepare a way for the Lord and make his path straight," fostering a deeper connection with God and spreading His love and goodness to others.



