

St. Joseph's *Children's Liturgy of the Word*

November 2024 (Year B)

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St. Joseph is the patron saint of the family, and the family is the “domestic Church.” These sheets were originally developed to support my parish of St. Joseph in Great Malvern, Worcestershire, but they are now used by parishes and schools not just in the UK, but some are sent to contacts abroad as well. As always, feedback and suggestions are most welcome.



Sunday Mass is the cornerstone of our week; These resources are designed to be used in a family setting or in Children's Liturgy of the Word at Mass, or in the classroom. Please make them your own and feel free to pass them on for free.

This is a picture of the Dome in Naples' Cathedral showing the heavenly realms. The Church is made up of us on earth, those in purgatory and the blessed ones in heaven in the presence of the Holy Trinity.

November: Month of the Holy Souls:

With the celebration of All Souls shortly followed by Remembrance Day and Remembrance Sunday, November is a time of prayers for those who have gone before us. Whether you do this privately in the family or present a list at Mass, it's an important time to help children to understand that those in heaven and those in purgatory are as much a part of the Church as we are here on earth.

Towards the end the pages there are some suggestions for how we can begin to prepare for Advent. This will help your children to better appreciate what Christmas is. If you have any tried and tested ways to help children prepare spiritually for Christmas, in the home or at school, may be from other cultures, please do share them with me.

There are Four Dimensions of our Faith, and the activities all reflect one or more of each of these dimensions.

Professing the faith (speaking about it and learning the faith)

Celebrating our faith in the liturgy and the sacraments

Jesus above St. Peter's Rome, pointing to heaven. © C A Harnett 2022.



Living the faith in Christ (making choices by the grace of Jesus Christ)

A prayer-filled life where the Our Father takes centre stage

**First reading and Gospel 31st
Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Mark 12:28-34

One of the scribes came up to Jesus and put a question to him, 'Which is the first of all the commandments?' Jesus replied, 'This is the first: Listen, Israel, the Lord our God is the one Lord, and you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind and with all your strength. The second is this: You must love your neighbour as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these.' The scribe said to him, 'Well spoken, Master; what you have said is true: that he is one and there is no other. To love him with all your heart, with all your understanding and strength, and to love your neighbour as yourself, this is far more important than any holocaust or sacrifice.' Jesus, seeing how wisely he had spoken, said, 'You are not far from the kingdom of God.' And after that no one dared to question him any more.

The Gospel of the Lord

R/: *Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ*

Children's liturgy of the word for this week

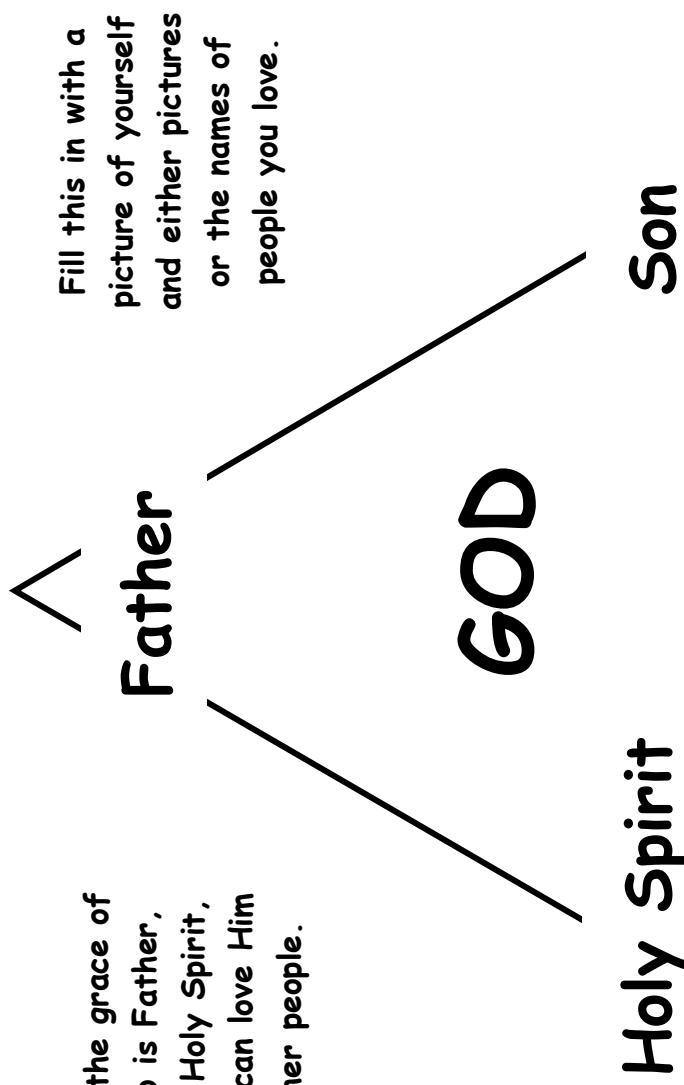


Discussion on the Gospel

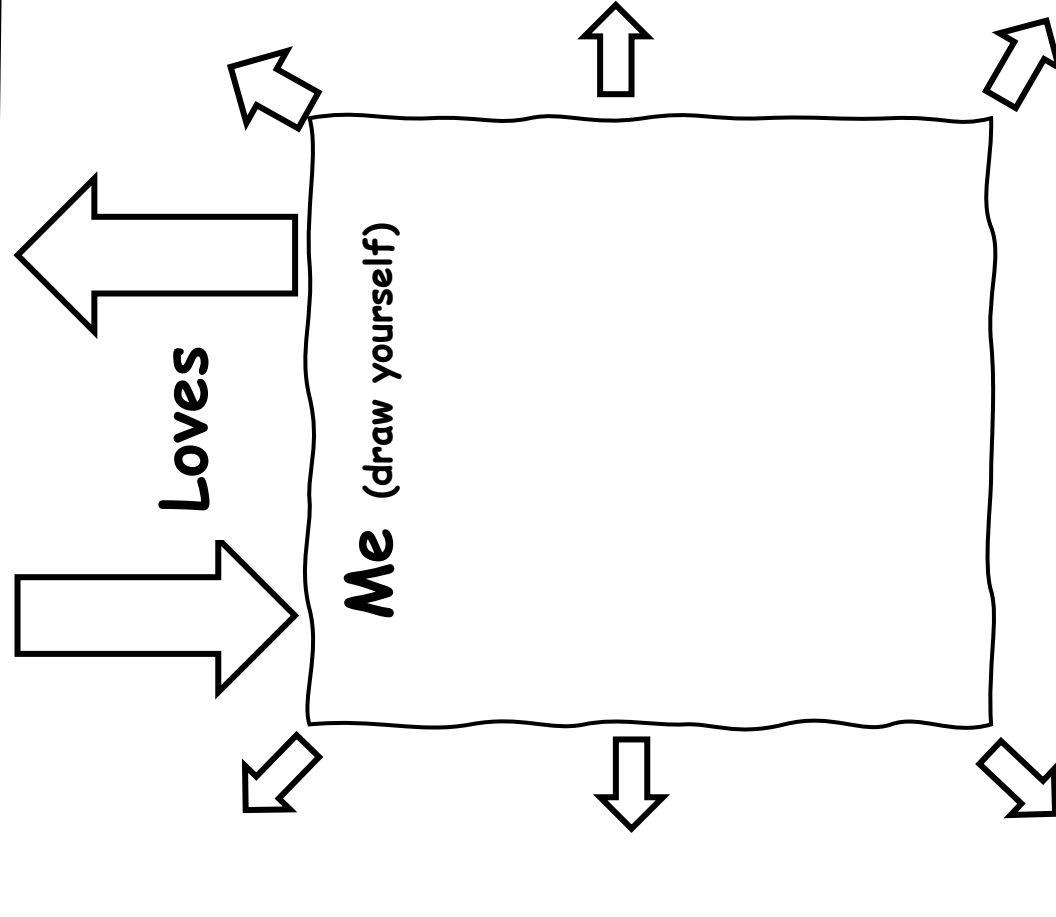
- ✠ Light a candle,
- ✠ Someone read the Gospel slowly

- Q: What did one of the scribes ask Jesus?** (A: What is the first of all the commandments.)
- Q: What is a commandment?** (A. An order – something you have to do.)
- Q: How many commandments are there?** (A. Ten)
- Q: What commandment did Jesus say was the most important?** (A: That we must love God with all our heart and mind, soul and strength).
- Q: What is the second most important commandment?** (A: We must love our neighbour as ourselves.)
- Q: When Jesus says “neighbour” what does he mean?** (A: Everybody, especially the people we see day to day.)
- Q: Who is your neighbour?** (A: Open.)
- Q: Let's think about this – Jesus first of all, talks about loving God BEFORE loving other people. Can we see God?** (A. No)
- Q: If we can't see God, how can we show Him that we love Him?** (A: Open, e.g. praying reading the Bible coming to Mass... and being kind to and loving other people).
- Q: So, we can show God that we love Him by loving and being kind to people around us. The Holy Spirit gives us a special gift which helps us to do difficult things, what is that called?** (A: Grace.)
- Q: Let us ask the Holy Spirit to give us His grace so that we can love God and one another. Close your eyes and look at Jesus in your mind. See Him smiling at you... see Him say that He loves you. In your heart, tell Him that you love Him too. Now ask the Holy Spirit to give you the grace to love the people you meet every day, and to be kind to them. Glory be to the Father....**

It is by the grace of
God who is Father,
Son and Holy Spirit,
that we can love Him
and other people.



Fill this in with a
picture of yourself
and either pictures of
or the names of
people you love.





Gospel for 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Mark 12:41-44

Jesus sat down opposite the treasury and watched the people putting money into the treasury; and many of the rich put in a great deal. A poor widow came and put in two small coins, the equivalent of a penny. Then he called his disciples and said to them, 'I tell you solemnly, this poor widow has put more in than all who have contributed to the treasury; for they have all put in money they had over, but she from the little she had has put in everything she possessed, all she had to live on.'

The Gospel of the Lord
R/: *Praise to you Lord Jesus
Christ*

- ✠ Light a candle
- ✠ Make the Sign of the Cross
- ✠ Someone read the Gospel slowly

Some background: This is taking place in the Temple which was beautifully decorated with gold and other rich cloths, all for God's glory. The rich people gave a lot as they could afford to, and many gave from what they had left over after making sure that they had enough to eat and buy clothes, to give lavish parties and so on. The coins that the poor widow put into the treasury (collection box) were called "lepta" and were little more than shavings of copper, worth very little in comparison to the gold and silver that the rich were putting into the treasury. In addition, it was customary for the rich people to make it known that they had contributed a lot. This did two things; it won admiration from those around, and it showed that they were rich. It may also be worth checking that the children know what a widow is and explaining that at that time, widows could not go out to work and had to rely either on their children looking after them or other people giving them food and money. The widow in the story presumably had no children to take care of her, or her children were very young.

Q: What did the rich people put into the treasury in the Temple? (A: A lot of money.)

Q: What did the poor widow put in? (A. Two small coins.)

Q: What did Jesus say that the widow had put in? (A. More than everyone else)

Q: What did Jesus mean by this? (A: That the woman put in everything that she had, but the rich people put in what they had left over, or what they did not need).

Q: How was the widow going to buy food now? (A: She was going to have to trust God that He would inspire people to help her.)

Q: Who do we know in the Bible trusted God? (A: Various, e.g. the woman who was bleeding for 12 years, all those who asked Jesus to heal their sick children, most of all, Mary, when the Angel Gabriel asked her to be the mother of Jesus.)

Q: We all have to learn to trust God. When can we trust God? (A: open, e.g. when we ask Him for what we need, or for healing for other people who are sick, in our prayers.)

Let us all ask Mary to help us to trust God more and more. Hail Mary.....

Colour in the pictures and complete the prayers to these saints who trusted God



"God is full of compassion and never fails those who are ill and unhappy, if you trust in Him alone." Saint Teresa of Avila



St. Joseph, you trusted God when....

St Joseph, Pray for us.

St. Teresa, help me to trust God when ...

St. Teresa of Avila, Pray for us.



Children's liturgy of the word for this week

Discussion on the Gospel

The Gospel's focus is on Jesus's coming in glory at the end of time. It is easy to think of it as something for the future, but it could be at any time. The questions focus on Jesus' saying that His words will not pass away, and lead to reflecting on the words of the Eucharist which is how Jesus is present with us at Mass.

Q: Jesus is talking about the end of time when He will come again. What will be the signs that He is coming? (A: The sun and moon will grow dark, and the stars will fall [disappear].)

Q: How is Jesus going to come back? (A: Coming on the clouds with great glory.)

Q: How is Jesus with us today? (A: At Mass in the Eucharist. If the children say "bread and wine" remind them that after the consecration, we don't call it bread and wine anymore and the bread and wine had become the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ. For information, Jesus is also present in us the Body of Christ, the children and in the person of the priest and in the readings, 4 ways in all.)

Q: What did Jesus say will not pass away? (A: Jesus' words.)

Q: What does Jesus mean by this? (A: That somehow, everything that He has said will last for all eternity [for ever].)

Q: If Jesus' words are so important, what can we do to remember them? (A: Learn some by heart.)

Q: What can you remember that Jesus said, e.g. when He was going about teaching and healing, or during His Passion, death, Resurrection and Ascension into heaven? (A: Open – if none are forthcoming, may be give hints such as "what did He say to the little girl who He raised from the dead... etc.)

Q: Which words of Jesus are repeated at every Mass? (A: This is my Body... This is my Blood.)

Q: What happens to the bread and wine when the priest says these words? (A: They become the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ.)

Q: Even though we can't see Jesus as a man anymore, whenever we see the Sacred Host and the chalice (cup) after the priest has said these words, we can see Jesus. How can we talk to Jesus face to face today? (A. We can spend a few minutes in adoration in the church or even just pray in front of the tabernacle.) Say this prayer and invite the children to repeat it 3 times. **O Sacrament most Holy, O Sacrament divine, all praise and all thanksgiving, be every moment Thine.**

Gospel for Sunday 14th November: 33rd Sunday of Ordinary Time

Gospel: Mark 13:24-32

Jesus said to his disciples: 'In those days, after the time of distress, the sun will be darkened, the moon will lose its brightness, the stars will come falling from heaven and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in the clouds with great power and glory; then too he will send the angels to gather his chosen from the four winds, from the ends of the world to the ends of heaven.

'Take the fig tree as a parable: as soon as its twigs grow supple and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near. So with you when you see these things happening: know that he is near, at the very gates. I tell you solemnly, before this generation has passed away all these things will have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

'But as for that day or hour, nobody knows it, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son; no one but the Father.'

The Gospel of the Lord

R/: *Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ*

Colour in these words of Jesus which the priest says at Mass

Take this, all of you, and eat of it, for this is
my body, which will be given up for you.

Take this, all of you, and drink from it, for
this is the chalice of my blood, the blood of
the new and eternal covenant, which will be
poured out for you and for many for the
forgiveness of sins.

Do this in memory of me.

Day of the week	Jesus' words	Tick when learned
Sunday	But as for that day or hour, nobody knows it, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son; no one but the Father (Lk. 13:32).	
Monday	He who believes in the Son has Eternal Life (Jn. 4:36).	
Tuesday	You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and all your soul and with all your mind, and all your strength... and you shall love your neighbour as yourself (Mk. 12:30-31).	
Wednesday	Let the children come to me... for the kingdom of heaven belongs to them (Mt. 19:14).	
Thursday	Man (people) shall not live by bread alone but by every word that comes from the mouth of God (Mt. 4:4)	
Friday	<i>(When challenged by other people on our faith...)</i> Do not worry about what to say for the Holy Spirit will teach you what you ought to say (Lk. 12:12)	
Saturday	I am the bread of life, anyone who comes to me shall not hunger and he who believes in me shall not thirst (Jn. 6:35).	

Learn these words of Jesus by heart this week

Gospel for: The Solemnity of Christ the Universal King

John 18:33-37

‘Are you the king of the Jews?’ Pilate asked. Jesus replied, ‘Do you ask this of your own accord, or have others spoken to you about me?’ Pilate answered, ‘Am I a Jew? It is your own people and the chief priests who have handed you over to me: what have you done?’ Jesus replied, ‘Mine is not a kingdom of this world; if my kingdom were of this world, my men would have fought to prevent my being surrendered to the Jews. But my kingdom is not of this kind.’ ‘So you are a king then?’ said Pilate. ‘It is you who say it’ answered Jesus. ‘Yes, I am a king. I was born for this, I came into the world for this: to bear witness to the truth; and all who are on the side of truth listen to my voice.’

The Gospel of the Lord
R/: *Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ*

Children’s liturgy of the word for this week



Discussion on the Gospel

† Someone read the Gospel slowly

The solemnity of Christ the King was instituted by Pope Pius XI in 1925 to remind the Church of two things: 1) that ultimately, He rules over all creation and that 2) by our Baptism, we are commissioned to share in Christ’s kingship. We do this by caring for the world which we have been given; the world itself and those who live in it.

Q: What is a king? (A: Someone who rules and cares for the territory they rule over.)

Q: Who asked Jesus if He was a king? (A: Pontius Pilate.)

Q: When did this happen? (A: Jesus had been arrested and was “on trial” before His death.)

Q: What kind of kingdom does Jesus have? (A: Not of this world/heaven/the universe.)

Q: What does Jesus mean when He says that His kingdom is not of this world? (A: It means that He does not rule a country.)

Q: Today’s feast is called “Christ the Universal King.” What is the Universe? (A: The whole of creation including all the stars and the planets.)

Q: Part of “ruling” is to look after the place a king/queen/government rules. How does Jesus rule? (A: Jesus takes care of us when we turn to Him. He looks out for us and asks His Father in heaven to give us what we need [not always what we want – there is a difference!])

Q: Because we are joined to Jesus in Baptism, we share in His work of caring for others – how can we do this? (A: Open....)

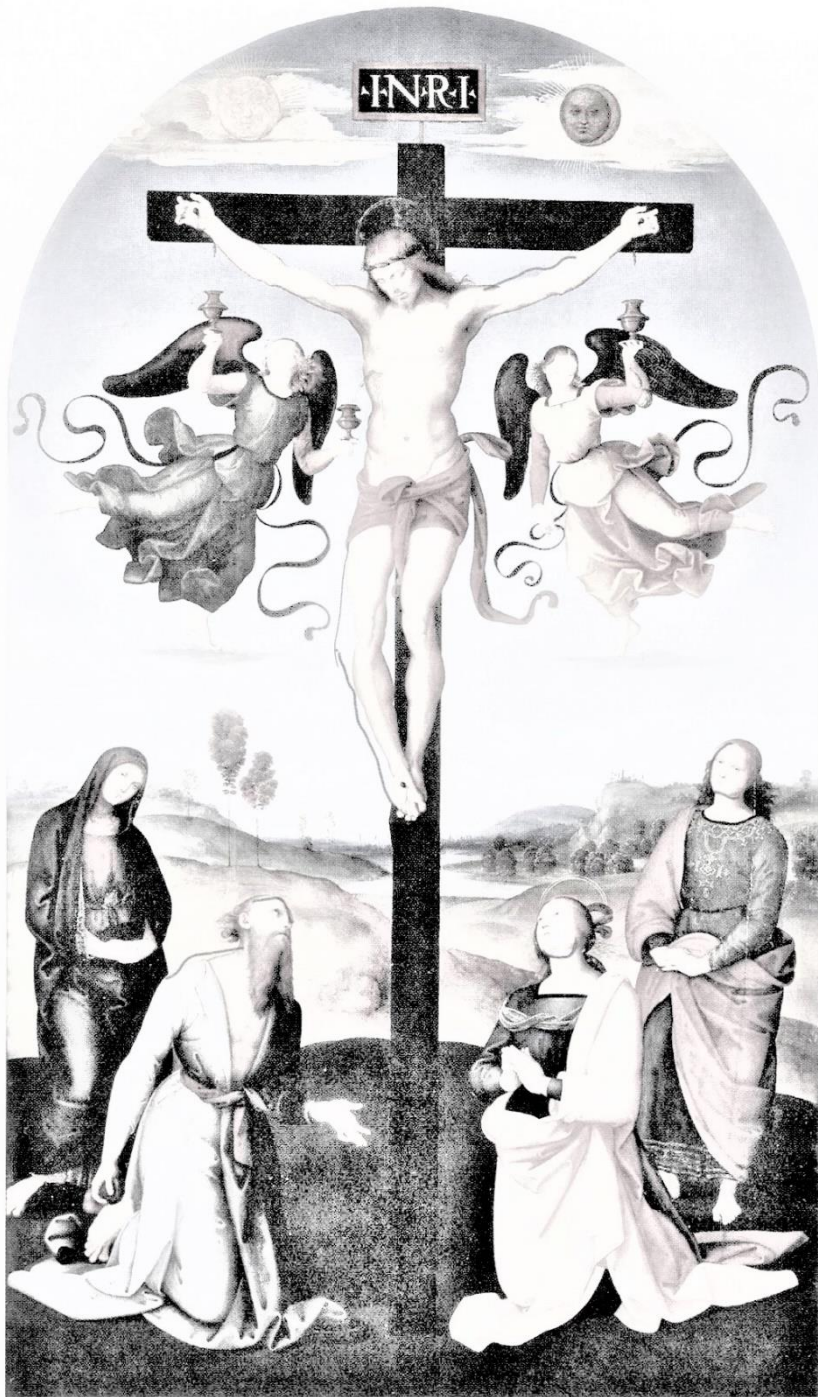
Q: We also share in Jesus’ work of caring for the universe (or part of it, the world) how can we do this? (A: Open....)

Q: Most Kings and queens have thrones – what is Jesus’ throne? (A: His Cross).

Q: If we are finding it difficult to be a king or queen like Jesus, what can we do? (A: We can make the Sign of the Cross.)

Lets now slowly make the Sign of the Cross and in silence ask Jesus to help us to look after other people and His world, by His grace.

Colour in this picture of Jesus on the Cross - His throne



1. Look at the Cross Jesus is on - it joins heaven and earth, Finish colouring it in at the bottom. Jesus came to earth to help us get to heaven.

2. The sky is blue - the colour of the "heavens" - this is also part of Jesus' kingdom. Colour in the sky blue and think about everything that is so beautiful that is under the sky.

3. The sun and moon are at the top of the picture - Jesus is king of the whole universe, including the sun and the moon.

4. All the figures are wearing some red (or pink) to show that they share in Jesus' death on the Cross, and so share in His kingship over creation - colour in all the red bits on each of

5. The earth is a very dark brown and the hills immediately behind the cross are bare and sandy. This shows that the world is full of sin. As you colour this in, think about the bad things that you have done and, in your heart, say sorry to Jesus on the cross.

6. The figure in the front left with the long beard is St. Jerome and He is kneeling in front of Jesus offering Himself to Him. As you colour his robes in grey, ask Jesus how you can be a better "king or queen" in our world.

7. St. Mary Magdalene is kneeling on right of the Cross and she was one of the first women to see Jesus after He rose from the dead. She told the disciples about Jesus. As you colour in her dress, ask Jesus to help you to tell other people about Him.

8. The angels are catching Jesus blood in chalices. When do you see a chalice? As you colour in the angels, reflect on the fact that Jesus comes to us at every Mass.)

9. The people standing are St. John and Mary. They are both looking out at us. St. John was the only disciple who stayed with Jesus in His crucifixion. Ask him to help us stay with Jesus in difficult times. Mary of course is Jesus' mother and prays for us. As you colour her in, pray a quiet Hail Mary, asking her to help us to love Jesus more and more each day.

10. Finally as you colour in Jesus, tell Him that you love Him because He is our True King.



Getting Ready for Advent

Advent means "coming" and during the four weeks of Advent we are preparing for the coming of Jesus Christ at Christmas and again at the end of time. However, like all the Church's seasons, if we leave it until Advent, then we won't be able to make the full use of this special time.

The Collect (opening prayer) for the last week of ordinary time:

Let us pray.

Stir up the will of your faithful, we pray, O Lord, that, striving more eagerly to bring your divine work to fruitful completion, they may receive in greater measure the healing remedies your kindness bestows. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

This prayer asks that we may be "stirred up" - such a great image! Let's be stirred up this year to make advent a time of real spiritual preparation for Christmas. See above for a suggestion about a family advent calendar. Do share other suggestions with me!

Perhaps you can pray this prayer every day and ask Jesus what He wants you to do - how you can be "stirred up" this week?

Stir up Sunday.

Before the solemnity of **Christ the King** was moved to the last Sunday of the Church's year, the collect on the last Sunday of the Church's year was given the nick-name, "stir up Sunday." Because of this, it is the day on which Christmas pudding was traditionally begun, and all the family took turns to give it a stir.

Make a Christmas pudding (or two).

Making Christmas pudding is not difficult, and if the fruit is well soaked in alcohol the night before and the pudding is given a "drink" of brandy once it is cold, it will keep well.

Maybe make a smaller one to give to someone you know who will be on their own this Christmas.

The best Christmas puddings are steamed, and you can hide a little coin (wrapped in greaseproof paper) in the middle - but don't do this if you are going to microwave the pudding.



Make an Advent Candle wreath:

1. Get 4 candles (traditionally three are purple and one is pink but get what you can), and 4 candle holders, one for each of the candles. (If you don't have 4 candle holders you can securely place each candle in a jar filled with soil or sand, or even set them in clay or plasticine which is in a dish/flowerpot/plastic tray....)
2. Make a circle with wire and twist or take the ends together. (An old wire coat-hanger is ideal).
3. Collect greenery from the garden or on walks.
4. Arrange the greenery around the wire circle, twisting it around and tying it with green string or twine.
5. Add in other decorations, such as baubles, ribbons or dreid pieces of orange or cinnamon sticks.
6. Light one candle each Sunday of Advent, beginning on 28th November. We light ours before meals as we say grace.



In classrooms and families, start to think about how you can make Advent extra special this year.

See these suggestions:

- Pray a decade of the Rosary each day
- Read a sentence of the Christmas story each day
- Set up a crib scene bit by bit as a focal point for prayers (each day add another feature)
- Each member of the class or family to choose or to write a prayer each day.