



First Sunday of Advent

Jeremiah 33: 14-16

"Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will fulfil the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David, and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved, and Jerusalem will dwell securely. And this is the name by which it will be called: 'The Lord is our righteousness.'"

Some things to think about...

This week is the first week of Advent, a time when we prepare for the coming of Jesus at Christmas. The Church's colour for Advent is purple. The colour purple signifies hope, longing and preparation – during Advent we wait with hope and longing for the birth of Jesus.

Activity

During Advent we are called to prepare ourselves to celebrate the birth of Jesus, when we are reminded of God's great love for everyone. Christmas can be a very stressful and tough time for many people who are experiencing poverty, loneliness and hardship. As Mini Vinnies, we can prepare for Christmas by bringing God's love to those in need, which will bring us closer to God too!

On a sheet of large paper, make a list of the ways your Mini Vinnies group can prepare to encounter God at Christmas time by doing good deeds for other people. You may wish to make a 'To-Do' list for each of the 4 weeks of Advent and tick off the lists as you achieve each task.

Teacher's Notes

The season of Advent is one of waiting and expectation. This week's readings from Jeremiah and Luke speak of being on the lookout. In Luke's Gospel we hear the words 'stay awake', which means we need to be always ready to see where God's love is needed and how we can help.

The colour for Advent is purple as it is a season of preparation. Purple signifies a time of expectancy and hope-filled longing for the incarnation of our loving God, as God becomes fully human and enters our world. We are reminded of this through the name for Jesus, which is 'Emmanuel', meaning God with us.

In the lead up to Christmas, we prepare our gifts to give, but we can also prepare ourselves by trying to be kinder and more generous.

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