

Third Sunday of Advent Year B – 13th December 2020

If possible arrange candles, a Crucifix, a Gospel or Sunday Missal and Advent wreath (or picture of one) on a table.

Introduction

Today is the third Sunday of Advent, known as Gaudete Sunday! What does Advent mean? It means “coming”. We are preparing for the birth of the baby Jesus on Christmas Day.

(A suggested activity for Advent is to prepare an Advent wreath to be used at Children’s Liturgy – a smaller version than the one used in the church. If you are not able to do this, then make a picture of an Advent wreath, by cutting out leaf shapes from green card and arranging them in a circle and sticking them to a sheet of card. Next draw and cut out four candles, three purple and one rose pink candle and stick these (one per week) onto the picture of the wreath. Each week of Advent we will describe the wreath and discuss its’ meaning. If you have a real wreath we will also light a candle each week. (If you have a picture stick a new picture of a candle on each week!)

As part of your weekly introduction during Advent ask the children to look at the wreath and explain or remind them of what it represents.

Firstly, the wreath is circular to symbolize that God’s love for us has no end. It is everlasting.

The leaves of the wreath are GREEN, the colour that represents hope.

There are four candles (three purple – repentance, and one rose pink – a symbol of joy for the third Sunday of Advent –that is today- known as Gaudete Sunday). We also have a white candle in the centre to light on Christmas Day.

The bright light of each candle represents Jesus our “light” the “light” of the world. We explain that we will light a candle on the wreath each Sunday in Advent. Today, as we light the candles we pray to Jesus asking Him to come into our hearts, that we may know and love Him and following His gentle example, become more like Him, that we may bring His “light” to the people in our lives.

Make the Sign of the Cross – a sign of the love God has for us.

Light two of the purple candles then the pink one (and light the candles on the table. An adult lights the candles).

Penitential Act

Ask the children to think about how they have behaved in the past week, and if they have been kind to each other, helpful to parents, brothers, or sisters, listened to their teachers etc. For the times when we have not behaved as we should we say sorry to God.

Lead the children in singing the “sorry song”.

We are sorry,
Truly sorry,
Heal us Lord, (sung to tune of Frere Jacques)
In Your love,
Help us to do better,
Help us to be kinder.
Forgive us,
Forgive us.

All stand to welcome the Gospel singing the **Gospel Acclamation:**

Alleluia, Alleluia,
Jesus said,
So we have faith.
“Go back and tell John
All you have seen me do,
Tell the wonders,
you have seen.” (same tune as above)

Gospel

“A reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. John”.

Explain and demonstrate – make three crosses: one on your forehead, one on your lips and one on your heart (in this way we think God’s word, speak God’s word and keep God’s word in our hearts) **as we say together “Glory to You, O Lord.”**

Gospel: John 1:6-8,28, 19-28

<https://cafod.org.uk>Education.Children'sLiturgy>

Read the Gospel aloud to the children. At the end say:

"The Gospel of the Lord".

All reply: **"Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ".**

Ask everyone to be seated.

Lead a Discussion on the Gospel

Ask the children who John was in the today's Gospel?

(John the Baptist. Remind the children that John baptized with water, but Jesus baptizes with the Holy Spirit).

What did John say when he was asked who he was?

He said "I am not the Messiah." He also says that he is not a prophet. John explains that he is the one that the prophet Isaiah wrote about -the "voice in the desert, proclaiming: make a straight path for God."

Discuss with the children why the candle lit this week is rose pink and not purple. One way to discuss the meaning is to get them to think about what other things are purple in the Church and when. Point out that during both Lent and Advent there is a focus on purple and both times are times of preparation that is linked with penance.

This week is called Gaudete Sunday, this stands for joy therefore the candle that is lit is pink to show the change from penance and preparation to joy that Jesus is almost here!

Christmas is a very special time of joy because of the arrival of Jesus. Ask the children about some of the things they can do to show love and joy this Christmas.

Prayers of the Faithful

You may wish to prepare some of these yourselves or ask the children for their prayers. Here are some suggestions for today:

Dear Jesus, Help us we pray, to prepare well this Advent so that we may always be **ready** to show our love for You in our daily lives, in our thoughts, prayers and actions.

Lord, in Your mercy.

All reply: "**Hear our prayer.**"

Dear Jesus, Help us we pray, to be **awake** to the needs of others by being thoughtful, kind and helpful.

Lord, in Your mercy.

All reply: "**Hear our prayer.**"

Closing Prayer

Dear Lord Jesus, We pray for your children who are poor, sick or lonely, especially at this time of year. We also pray for those who look after them. May they know that in helping or tending to the poor or sick, that they are living the true spirit of Christmas.

Amen.