

# Advent and Christmas



## FOCUS

1. Advent is a season of joyful expectation.
2. The Scripture stories during Advent tell us about the preparation of the people of God throughout history for the coming of Jesus celebrated at Christmas.
3. In Jesus Christ, God became man. We call this mystery the 'Incarnation.'
4. At Christmas we celebrate our belief that the Son of God was born of the Virgin Mary, became man and lived among us. Mary is the bearer of Jesus, the incarnate Word of God.
5. The symbol of the crib, empty until the vigil Mass of Christmas Day, reinforces our feelings of anticipation and expectation. The empty manger challenges us to examine the presence of Christ in our lives. How is Christ present in the 21st century?

*In these lessons your child may have:*

- recalled people who feature in the Advent Scripture stories that lead us to the celebration of Christmas;
- determined the personal qualities of some of these people and how we might take our example from them;
- participated in a Jesse Tree celebration;
- demonstrated an understanding that God sent his Son, Jesus, to be one of us;
- listened and responded to the story of the first Christmas Crib;
- identified events from the Christmas story which belong to the Gospels of Matthew and Luke respectively.

### Isaiah 9:1, 6

The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light; on those who live in a land of deep shadow a light has shone. For there is a child born to us, a son given to us and dominion is laid on his shoulders; and this is the name they give him: Wonder-Counsellor, Mighty-God, Eternal-Father, Prince-of-Peace.

### John 3:16

For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but may have eternal life.

### Matthew 2:1-12

The Christmas Story and the visit of the Magi.

### Luke 2:1-17

The Christmas story and the visit of the shepherds.

### Catechism of the Catholic Church 453:

The title 'Christ' means 'Anointed One' (Messiah). Jesus is the Christ, for "God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power" (Acts 10:38). He was the one "who is to come" (Luke 7:19), the object of "the hope of Israel" (Acts 28:20).

## SUGGESTED HOME ACTIVITIES

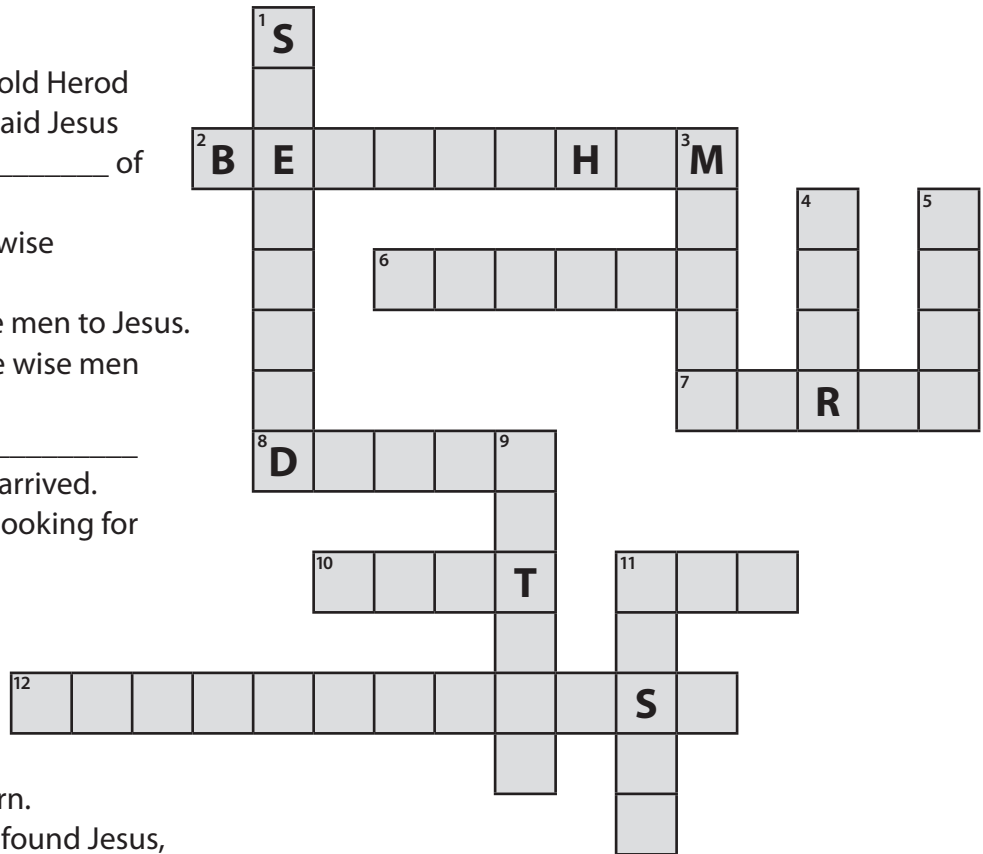
The following are suggested activities for you to do with your child.

1. Display an Advent calendar or Advent wreath in your home and encourage your child to reflect on how they will prepare for Christmas during this time.
2. As a family spend time discussing Christmas customs in your family.
3. Encourage your child to research the tradition of the Christmas Crib.
4. Perhaps display a Christmas Crib in your home.
5. Encourage your child to research the story of St Nicholas – his feast day is 6th December. Talk to your child about how this has become the basis of our contemporary Christmas customs.
6. Discuss with your child your family tradition of gift giving at Christmas.
7. As a family you may be able to give a Christmas gift to someone in need through the St Vincent de Paul Christmas appeal.
8. Take your child to Mass on Christmas Day (which is Christ's Mass) to celebrate the birth of Jesus .
9. More activities can be found at [www.ccdsydney.catholic.edu.au](http://www.ccdsydney.catholic.edu.au) Click on **Home Activities**.

- Solve this crossword puzzle about the wise men who came from the East to worship Jesus.

## DOWN

- The Jewish leaders told Herod that a prophet had said Jesus would be a \_\_\_\_\_ of his people.
- One of the gifts the wise men gave Jesus.
- This guided the wise men to Jesus.
- A precious metal the wise men gave Jesus.
- Jesus was with his \_\_\_\_\_ when the wise men arrived.
- The wise men were looking for him.



## ACROSS

- Where Jesus was born.
- When the wise men found Jesus, he was in a \_\_\_\_\_.
- The wise men told this King about Jesus' birth.
- The wise men were warned in a \_\_\_\_\_ not to return to Herod.
- The wise men were from the \_\_\_\_\_.
- The wise men felt this emotion when they saw the star.
- A gift the wise men brought to Jesus.



## TO REMEMBER:

*During Advent we prepare to receive God's greatest gift, his Son Jesus.*



Heavenly Father,  
 thank you for the great gift of your Son, Jesus.  
 Like the shepherds, may we give praise to you.  
 Like the wise men, may we seek to worship you.  
 Like Mary, may we treasure Jesus always in our hearts.  
 Amen.