

St. Mary's Catholic Primary School



Subject: RE

Topic: Advent to Christmas

Year: 6

Autumn 2

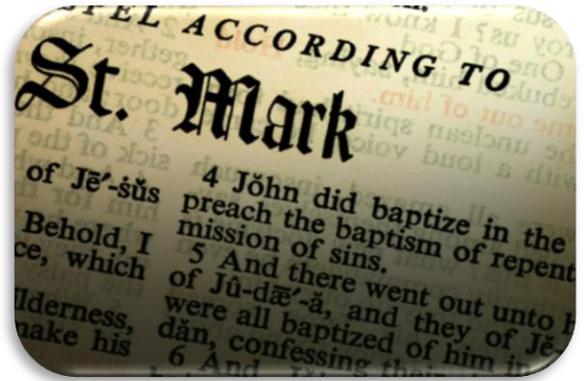
What should I already know?

- Advent is a time to prepare for Christmas, often with Advent wreaths, calendars and prayers.
- The liturgical colour for Advent, as for Lent, is purple, the colour associated with penance. However, the mood generated by the readings for Advent is one of devout and joyful expectation, not penance.
- This year Advent begins on December 3rd and ends on December 24.
- A selection of prayers, such as: Our Father and the O'Antiphons



What we will be learning about:

- Lectio Divina is an ancient form of prayer based on meditating on Scripture
- The word "Advent" comes from the word adventus, the name of a pagan feast held to celebrate the 'coming' or 'manifestation' of a divine being who came to 'dwell' in the temple at a certain time each year. Adventus was the celebration of an anniversary, of the returning of this presence.
- After the birth of Jesus and throughout the establishment of the church, adventus came to be associated with the coming of God in Jesus.
- At first the time was used to prepare and wait for the second coming of Christ (Catholic Christians believe that one day, God will come again into the world – listen during Mass when we declare this in the Eucharistic prayer) but gradually it became limited to preparing and waiting for the anniversary of the birth of Christ



Mark's Gospel:

- The Gospel of Mark is the shortest Gospel of the four found in the Bible. It has no story telling the birth of Jesus – instead it begins with the arrival of Jesus for baptism by John the Baptist.
- Contemporary scholarship believes that Mark's Gospel was the first one written, about 40 -45 years after Jesus died.
- The community that Mark was writing for were probably in Rome. Their existence there was difficult; the Roman Emperor Nero hated Christians and persecuted them, killing many.
- Mark's 'audience' were in fear of their lives and so needed to remember how Jesus had lived his own life with persecution and in fear – so Mark emphasises these times in Jesus' life. The question of Jesus' birth had not worried Mark's community who were much more interested in what Jesus did during his lifetime.
- Mark's Gospel is sometimes called a Gospel 'in a hurry' as Mark rushes Jesus through each day and event. Watch for little clues of this as Mark uses the phrases 'and then', 'immediately' often!
- Mark has an important story to tell – there is no time to waste!

Vocabulary

Incarnation: God in human form.

Lectio Divina: a traditional monastic practice of scriptural reading, meditation and prayer intended to promote communion with God and to increase the knowledge of God's word.

Culture: the ideas, customs, and social behaviour of a particular people or society.

Customs: a traditional and widely accepted way of behaving or doing something that is specific to a particular society, place, or time.

Lectio Divina

