

*Prepare a way for the Lord*

*Isaiah 40:3*



## THE MEANING OF ADVENT

"**Advent**" means '**Coming**' in Latin and is the name given to the 4 Sundays and weeks before Christmas. We are asked to prepare ourselves to celebrate Jesus' coming into our world and into our lives. This means we must try and say sorry for things we have done wrong like being selfish or mean just like we do in Lent when we prepare for Jesus' resurrection. This is why the priest and deacons will wear purple to remind us to be sorry.

You can make an Advent calendar for yourself or your family with messages to remind you to be a nice person like "help someone today", "phone a person who is alone", "smile and say 'Hello' to someone", or "play a game together".

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**'Drop Everything and Read'- THE RAILWAY CHILDREN - E. Nesbit**

A family move from London to 'The Three Chimneys', a house near a railway, after the father is imprisoned after being falsely accused of spying. The children, Roberta (nicknamed "Bobbie"), Peter and Phyllis, befriend an old gentleman who regularly takes the 9:15am train near their home; he is eventually able to help to prove their father's innocence and the family is reunited.



## Here's a Christmas Quiz with 20 questions for you to try!



1. What's the name of the period leading up to Christmas?
  2. How many Wise Men brought gifts to Jesus?
  3. How does Good King Wenceslas like his pizzas?
  4. What was the name of John the Baptist's Mother?
  5. Who brings presents to children in The Netherlands on the 5th/6th December?
  6. How many letters are in the angelic alphabet?
  7. In what town was Jesus born?
  8. How many presents were given in total in the 12 Days of Christmas?
  9. In what decade was the first Christmas card sent in the UK?
  10. What country did the family escape to?
  11. How many of Rudolph's eight companions names start with 'D'?
  12. What country did Christmas Trees originate from?
  13. Who was the 'King of the Jews' who ordered the babies to be killed?
  14. What's the second line of "I'm dreaming of a white Christmas"?
  15. What was Joseph's job?
  16. Who started the custom of Wassailing?
  17. Who were first people to visit the baby Jesus?
  18. What's lucky to find in your Christmas pudding?
  19. What Angel visited Mary?
  20. Where did the baby Jesus sleep?
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## CHRISTMAS

"Christmas is coming, the geese are getting fat, Please put a penny in **an old man's hat**; If you haven't got a penny a ha'penny will do, If you haven't got a ha'penny, God bless you." (Listen to the song on YouTube.) It was written by **E.Nesbit** who wrote many children's books like "The Story of the Treasure Seekers" and "The Railway Children" which was filmed in 1999 at the Bluebell Railway ([www.bluebell-railway.co.uk](http://www.bluebell-railway.co.uk)) right here in Sussex.



(How about telling us whether you have been to the **Bluebell Railway** and what you thought of it?)

The message of the song is that we should prepare ourselves to celebrate in a way that is not selfish. For example, we could give to foodbanks, homeless charities, perhaps invite a neighbour whom we know will be alone on Christmas Day to share our meal or even just say "Happy Christmas" to someone who isn't in our family.

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Would you like to help us make **NEWS4KIDS** more interesting?

Have you got a story, picture, or question? If you have, you can post it in the **yellow** youth post-box on the back table in the entrance to the church, or see Celeste, Dennis, Deacon Tony or a member of the First Communion team.



# CHRISTMAS AROUND

## THE WORLD

### THE PHILIPPINES

The formal Christmas celebrations start on 16th December when many people go to the first of nine pre-dawn or early morning Masses. Many people stay awake all night into Christmas day!

Christians go to church to hear the last 'simbang gabi' or the Christmas Eve Mass. This is followed by a midnight feast, called Noche Buena.

### POLAND

Christmas Eve is very important. The house is cleaned and the family eats the main Christmas meal of 12 dishes. This is meant to symbolise good luck for the next 12 months and also represent the 12 apostles.

The food is traditionally meat free to remember the animals that are presents at Jesus' birth.

### BRAZIL

Many people are Catholic and attend Mass at midnight. Afterwards, there are big firework displays. Sometimes children leave a sock near a window and if Papai Noe (Father Christmas) finds your sock, he'll exchange it for a present!

**Find out more at [www.whychristmas.com](http://www.whychristmas.com)**

## THE MESSAGE OF CHRISTMAS

In the northern hemisphere (including Europe and North America), Christmas is in winter so the food we eat is usually roasted meats, fish and vegetables. In the southern hemisphere though, it is summer and people may have a picnic on the beach.



What is the same though, is that we are celebrating the birth of the Son of God who taught us how to be better people. Therefore, it is a time to be kind, thoughtful, and generous like Jesus was. We also do things that concentrate on the family as we remember the Holy Family: Mary, Joseph and Jesus.

Besides giving gifts to our family and friends, we should also try to help people who don't have much.

### Update from St Wilfrid's Catholic Primary School

**Deacon Tony**, from 'Our Lady Star of the Sea', has now been appointed as a Governor at our school and taken on the role as our new school chaplain.

He is visiting the school every Wednesday morning to see the pupils and staff.

**Mrs Sharon Reynolds**, our headteacher for the past 8 years, will be leaving the school in the summer of 2022 to concentrate on being a fully qualified counsellor.

The children are looking forward to sending another letter to the parishioners at 'Our Lady Star of the Sea' in the very near future.

# Notice Board

## FAMILY RECONCILIATION SERVICE

Friday Dec 17<sup>th</sup> @6.30 p.m. at Our Lady Star of the Sea.  
Fr. Stephen will be assisted by Fr. Liam O'Connor & Fr. Boniface  
(Littlehampton). A lovely way to prepare for Christmas.

## CAROL SERVICE

Will be on Sunday 19th December at 3:00pm.

### St. Wilfrid's Catholic Primary School.



Deanery Advent service at Arundel Cathedral in the  
presence of Bishop Richard at 6pm Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup>  
November and our Christmas Nativity Service  
takes place on the 7th, 8th and 9th Dec 2021.

### St. Philip's Catholic Primary School.



Deanery Advent Service at Arundel Cathedral is on  
Wednesday 1st December at 6.45pm.  
St Philips Christmas Bazaar, 10th December at  
3pm in the Cathedral Centre. KS2  
Advent service in the Cathedral at 2pm on 15<sup>th</sup> Dec.

## Christmas Quiz Answers

1. Advent
2. More than one, the Bible doesn't say how many!
3. Deep pan, crisp and even!
4. Elizabeth
5. St. Nicholas
6. 25; no elf!!! (No I)
7. Bethlehem
8. 364
9. 1840s - 1843 by Sir Henry Cole
10. Egypt
11. Three - Dasher, Dancer and Donner
12. Germany - it was Latvia but it was part of Germany then!
13. King Herod
14. Just like the ones I used to know
15. Carpenter
16. The Anglo Saxons - it means 'good health'
17. Shepherds
18. A six pence
19. Gabriel
20. In a manger

