Advent at Hame 2025

Advent starts on the fourth Sunday before Christmas Day. It marks the start of the Church's liturgical year.

Advent comes from the Latin 'adventus', meaning 'arrival' or 'coming'. It is a special time dedicated to the remembrance of Jesus' coming as a baby over 2,000 years ago. The people in the Old Testament waited a long time for the coming of Jesus. During Advent, we join those people in our own waiting as we anticipate the second coming of Jesus at the end of time.

The liturgical vestments priests wear during the season are purple, matching the candles lit on each Sunday of Advent. Purple is a colour typically associated with penance. The exception is the third Sunday – Gaudete Sunday – when priests wear rose pink vestments. Rose is the colour of rejoicing.

Within this pack are some reflections as well as some scripture, activity and hymn suggestions to help you to journey through the season of Advent together at home.

Wishing you a blessed Advent season of hope, peace, joy and love.

Mrs Wright (Lay Chaplain)



The First Week of Advent

The Word of the Week is:



Scripture: Matthew 24: 37-44

A Reflection:

We believe that even in the darkest of times, God's love and light shine through. This hope isn't just wishful thinking, but a confident expectation of God's promises. Hope is a powerful virtue that can give us strength to persevere, even when things get tough, and to trust that God is always with us, guiding us towards a brighter future. In the season of Advent, we hope for the coming of Jesus and that he will bring peace, joy and love to the world

Activity Suggestions:

• Explore the <u>CAFOD Advent resources</u> (Advent for children) or create your own 'Acts of Kindness' Advent calendar by thinking of 24 different ways in which you can share kindness with those who might need it most.

• The Jubilee Year officially ends on 6th January 2026. How will you continue to be a Pilgrim of

Hope even after the Jubilee Year is over?

• Visit the Minutes of Hope website with an adult and watch some of the videos. Can you spot anybody you recognise?

A Prayer:

Almighty God, You remind us that we do not know the day or the hour when your son Jesus will return. Help us to not to be overcome by the distractions of this world. Help us to use our time and talents for good. Help us to hear your call and to live always as disciples. May the light of Your grace keep our spirits bright, especially during this Advent season, so that when Jesus does come again, we will be found faithful and truly prepared to welcome him. Amen.

Hymn Suggestion: O Come, O Come Emmanuel

The Second Week of Advent

The Word of the Week is:



Scripture: Matthew 3: 1-12

A Reflection:

In a world that's often filled with conflict and turmoil, we're called to be peacemakers. This doesn't mean simply avoiding arguments, but actively working towards reconciliation and understanding. In the season of Advent, we pray for peace in the world. Jesus is the Prince of Peace, and he calls us to follow his example and to be peacemakers too.

Activity Suggestions:

• Write your own prayer for peace and decorate this. We'd love to see some of these so feel free

to bring them in or send a photograph into school!

• Create your own Christmas card based on the message of peace and gift it to a loved one, or to a member of staff at school, a neighbour, a local care home, a hospital or a church with your adult's permission and help.

A Prayer:

Dear God, As we continue our journey through the season of Advent, we remember John the Baptist. He told everyone to get ready for Jesus. Help us to prepare our hearts for you by choosing to be kind, honest and generous. May we follow in the footsteps of your son Jesus, the Prince of Peace. May our actions and words help fill our school, our homes, and our world with your calm and love. Help us to be peacemakers today and always, sharing your light with everyone we meet. Amen.

Hymn Suggestion:
Peace is Flowing Like a River

The Third Week of Advent

The Word of the Week is:



Scripture: Matthew 11: 2-11

A Reflection:

This Sunday is Gaudete Sunday and it means 'Rejoice'. Joy is more than just happiness; it's a deep and lasting feeling that comes from knowing God and living in his love. It helps us to see the good in everything, even when things are tough. Joy is found in prayer, in serving others, and in our journey through Advent. It's a choice to trust in God's plan for our lives and to find hope in his promises.

Activity Suggestions:

• Spread joy this week by sharing what you can with those in need. You could give a tin or packet of food to a local food bank, you could donate an old toy or book to a charity shop or you could simply spend some extra time with somebody you care about.

• J-O-Y (Jesus, Others, You) ... Putting yourself last can be one way to find true joy!

1) Jesus: Do something to honour Jesus (e.g., read a Bible story, pray).

2) Others: Do an act of kindness for someone else (e.g. do something to help a grown up at home, hold a door open for an adult at school, smile to people who you pass by).

3) You: Find time to do something that makes you feel joyful.

A Prayer:

Dear God, In times of questioning and doubt, help us to remember that you show us who you are through all the wonderful things you do. You give hope to the sad. You give sight to those who can't see your love. You make everyone feel welcome. We ask that you let joy flow into our lives this week and that you fill our hearts with happiness because we know that Jesus is coming soon. Help us to share that joy with our friends and family, and to be ready to celebrate his birth at Christmas. Amen.

Hymn Suggestion: Light of the World

The Fourth Week of Advent

The Word of the Week is:



Scripture: Matthew 1:18-24

A Reflection:

In the season of Advent, we are reminded of the great love that God has for us and the love we should have for each other. We know that Jesus Christ is the true example of love, and we celebrate this gift of love at Christmas time

Activity Suggestions:

- Decorate an angel and put this on your Christmas tree or in your window.
 Think of someone who you love this week and make an effort to show and tell them that you love them.
- Read the Christmas story and remember that God loved the world so much that He sent His Son.

A Prayer:

Dear God, We remember the story of Joseph, the kind man you chose to care for Mary and Jesus. The Bible tells us that Joseph had a loving heart. When things were confusing and scary, he listened to your angel in his dream. He chose to be brave and, like Mary, he said yes to God. Help us to love others the way Joseph loved: to be gentle and kind to our family and friends, to listen carefully to your voice, even when things are difficult and to always trust in your plan. As Christmas gets closer, fill our hearts with the amazing love you sent to us in the baby Jesus. Amen.

Hymn Suggestion: The Angel Gabriel

