



CHURCH OF IRELAND CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS NEWSLETTER



OUR PRAYER FOR YOU THIS CHRISTMAS:

That you will seek Christ and you will find Him.
That you will walk with him this season, whether the journey holds sorrow or joy.
That you will draw comfort and purpose from Him and in turn, bring His comfort and hope to others.



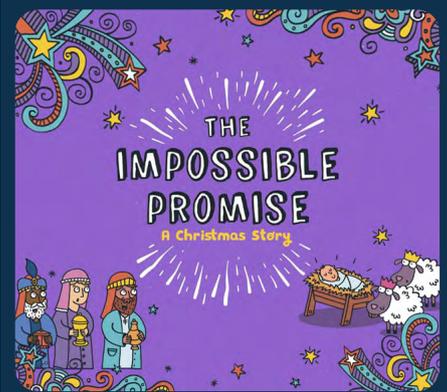
CHRISTMAS SONG

Here's a lovely song recommendation from the Network:
'Born is the King - It's Christmas'

Find it [HERE](#) with actions.



INSTANT NATIVITY



The Impossible Promise from the Bible Society also has an Instant Nativity Script complete with a powerpoint! Invite people to come dressed as a character from the story and enjoy an interactive retelling of the first Christmas. This one is a lot of fun!

Find it [HERE](#)



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MAKE, LEARN & PLAY NATIVITY

Together@Home have a print and pray nativity – we love this! Cut out the characters and stick them to card. Maybe use a cardboard box to create the stable. It's the perfect interactive resource to learn more about the Christmas story. If preparing packs, why not give a Nativity in a Box with the characters, a foam star and shredded paper for a D.I.Y. nativity kit? Children's Ministry trainer and

resourcer Lynn Storey ran a nativity in a box activity in her parish last year with recyclables from Recreate.

The print and play Together@Home resource is part of a nativity trail for younger children. Alongside the trail, there's an advertisement leaflet with space to add your church details – they've really thought of everything!

Find the full resource [HERE](#)



(Photos courtesy of Kiltiernan Parish)



ALL AGE TALK – A SWEET CHRISTMAS STORY

There are always a few extra chocolate treats on the go, so why not use them to tell the Christmas story? We have it on good authority that everyone really pays attention to this story in the hope that they'll win a chocolate prize!

You can find the talk outline [HERE](#)

And you can watch [HERE](#) as Victoria, our Network Representative for Connor, tells the story.



CHRISTMAS BAKE ALONG!

Grab some basic ingredients and join a Christmas Bake Along from your home. This is being hosted by Martha Collison, the youngest ever baker in the Great British Bake Off, and Ed Drew, the Director of Faith in Kids. It's being streamed via Facebook and Youtube by Faith in Kids and it's a great idea to bring everyone together to have fun, be creative and hear the Christmas story. [Find out more HERE](#)

One of the Building Blocks team is planning to meet with families from her parish the next day to share hot chocolate and all the baked treats whilst going for a walk. These are the connections that are so important, now more than ever.



ADVENT LITURGY –

FOUR NEWLY DEVELOPED
ADVENT SERVICES



ADVENT 2021

Resources and Ideas
for In-person or Blended
All Age Worship

The Liturgical Advisory Committee partnered with the Children's Ministry Network to produce this Service of the Word Advent Series.

Each week explores a different theme: 'Wonder; Letting Go; Take Heart; and Hope.' There are supplementary reflections and creative prayer ideas that can be adapted for use in person or if engaging from home.

You can find it [HERE](#)



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CRIB SERVICE OUTLINES

We have got our hands on an excellent resource pack from Down and Dromore for anyone wanting to hold a crib service. It gives tips for preparing and running the service even with restrictions, as well as a full outline of a service.

We also love this wonderful Nursery Rhyme Crib Service from Rev Mina Munns in Flame Creative Ministries.

Find both [HERE](#)



CHRISTMAS CRAFT



Christ the King (with King Crisps!)

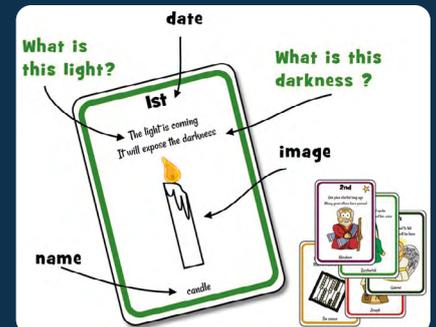
You will need:

- Cut outs of Large K
- A Crown
- A small circle and a slightly bigger oval.
- A manger cutout
- Pen for writing
- Jewels for decorating
- King Crisps for eating!

Christ the King Sunday is traditionally the Sunday before Advent. But this craft links Jesus the King of Kings with the baby in the manger. For older children, you can provide the pack without cutting out the individual pieces but for younger children, you may need to recruit a team to help with the prep.

Alternatively children can make Christ the King figures from recyclables in their home as part of a competition and then drop in to the Church to receive their King crisps as a prize.

JESUS WITHOUT LANGUAGE – ADVENT PROMPT CARDS



Here you have access to 25 Cards that can be printed off to be used throughout Advent. They follow the story of Christmas through objects and characters. As always, they are beautifully illustrated. You can buy additional material to compliment this Advent Calendar.

Find out more [HERE](#)