



Dear Parent / Carer,  
here is an electronic version of our Prayer Bag  
for the first week of Advent

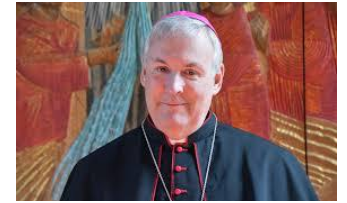
## Celebrating Advent

Please take some time over the next few days  
to come together, as a family, in prayer.

The **second** Sunday of Advent is celebrated on **5<sup>th</sup> December.**



## **A Message from Bishop David**



**The Gospel story fulfils the words of the ancient prophets, written many years before the events they were talking about. St Luke recognises the words of the prophet Isaiah in the life and ministry of St John the Baptist. I love the way this Gospel moment begins. The evangelist speaks of the different rulers and leaders of his time. We too live in a particular time with particular world leaders and national leaders. We should pray for our leaders, especially after the COP 26 gathering in Glasgow and the focus on global warming. We should pray they have the courage to change things so that our world does not overheat!**

**For sure, when Pope Francis and others speak in this warning way, they might seem like voices crying in the wilderness. John the Baptist had the courage to speak God's word, and we must do the same.**

**Let's pray this week that we might listen carefully to the Gospel and want to be involved in proclaiming this life-giving word to those around us, especially by the way we live our lives and seek God's kingdom above everything else.**

**✠ David**

**Rt Revd Dr David J Oakley  
Bishop of Northampton**



Find a comfortable place to sit,  
light a candle  
and begin with the Sign of the Cross



In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

# Advent



Week 2

Preparing!



What do you prepare for?



# Advent is a time of preparation

**Preparing** for to celebrate the birth of Jesus  
over 2000 years ago in Bethlehem

**Preparing** for Jesus to come  
and be born in our hearts this Christmas

**Preparing** for Jesus to come again in glory

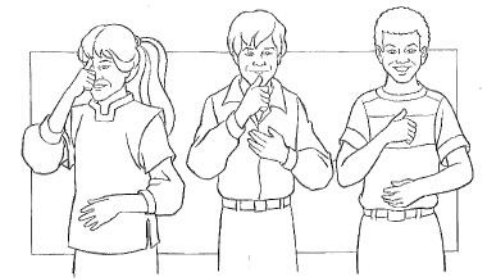


**John the Baptist  
prepared the way for Jesus**





A Reading from the Gospel of St Luke  
**Glory to you O Lord**





**In the gospel John the Baptist reminds us  
to prepare for Jesus coming**

**In the fifteenth year of Tiberius Caesar's reign, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judaea, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah, in the wilderness.**

**John went through the whole area proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the prophet Isaiah:**

**A voice cries in the wilderness:**

**Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight.**

**Every valley will be filled in, every mountain and hill be laid low, winding ways will be straightened and rough roads made smooth.**

**Everyone shall see the salvation of God.**



**The Gospel of the Lord**  
**Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ**

Let us pray:

For all people that they may discover the true meaning of Christmas: that God is with us

**‘Prepare our hearts, Lord’**

For all who wait in joyful hope that we may stay awake and be ready for Christ’s return

**‘Prepare our hearts, Lord’**

For world leaders and Governments that they will make wise decisions for the benefit of all

**‘Prepare our hearts, Lord’**



For countries that are divided by war  
that they may find peace

**‘Prepare our hearts, Lord’**

For those who are lonely at this time  
that they may be touched by God’s love

**‘Prepare our hearts, Lord’**

For ourselves that we may prepare our hearts  
for the coming of Jesus at Christmas  
and into our lives each day

**‘Prepare our hearts, Lord’**



**Our Father,  
who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come;  
thy will be done  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses  
as we forgive those who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
Amen.**







# What can I do or say to prepare for Jesus?



## Let us pray

Lord God,  
Thank you for loving us,  
even when we sin and turn away from you.  
Help us to start again on the right path  
with your loving hand to guide us.  
Help us to keep our eyes on your son, Jesus.  
We make our prayer through Christ our Lord  
Amen



**We end our prayer time together  
by making the Sign of the Cross**

**In the name of the Father  
and of the Son  
and of the Holy Spirit  
Amen**

