



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

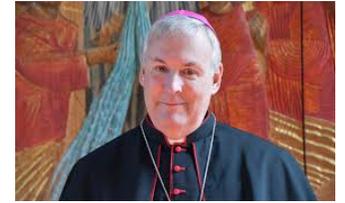
Celebrating Advent

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 **5th 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?



A starburst light in a dark blue and purple sky over a silhouette of mountains.

Advent is a time of preparation

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

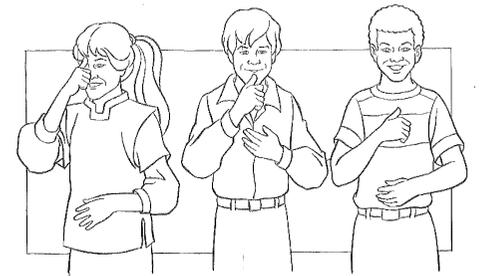
Preparing for Jesus to come
and be born in our hearts this Christmas

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**

