ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS CLASSROOM IDEAS

Preparing for Christmas

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1. **Making an Advent Wreath.**



What you will need –

A circular oasis, evergreen foliage (ivy, holly and spruce or cedar), three purple candles and one rose coloured candle, toothpicks and selotape.

To make the wreath –

Place the evergreen foliage securely into the well watered oasis.

Selotape four toothpicks onto the end of each candle. Half the length of the toothpick should protrude from the end of the candle.

Push the toothpicks into the oasis to keep them standing in place.

Alternatively you can purchase wreaths from supermarkets or a florist already filled with the evergreen foliage.

2. **Advent Promise Jars**



What you will need –

A large cookie jar/ glass container per class/year group. Strips of coloured paper.

To make the Promise Jar -

Create a label for the jar with the class/year groups name on it.

Give each student a strip of paper or lollipop stick onto which they can write a promise that they will keep for the season of advent e.g. help their grandparents bring in turf, help an elderly neighbour with their shopping, be more patient with a younger sibling, complete a household task without being asked to do it e.g. emptying the dishwasher or setting the table.

Each student places their promise into the jar. These promise jars could then be used in your sacred space for your Christmas Carol Service or Prayer Service later in the month.

3. Jesse Tree



What you will need –

A good sized branch of a tree, a bucket of sand or stones, the symbols, some thread/ribbon, laminating sheets and laminator.

You can find the symbols online by following this link - https://www.thecatholickid.com/jesse-tree-ornaments-printable-coloring-page-cnt-mls/

How to make the Jesse Tree –

Place the branch into the bucket of sand/stones – *alternatively you can often buy branches in shops that people use to hang Christmas decorations from*

Give each student one or two symbols to colour in.

Laminate each symbol. Cut them out and then punch a hole at the top of each symbol.

Feed the thread/ribbon through the hole punched in the symbol.

Use the ribbon/thread to help hang the symbol from the tree.

4. Sustainable Cribs

This is a project which may take a few weeks to complete.

Set students the challenge to make a nativity scene or crib using any materials that they wish e.g. lego, a shoebox, old pieces of wood, toy animals etc

The challenge is to create a sustainable crib while telling the story of the birth of Jesus.

5. PowerPoint/ Posters/ Video Presentations

These projects can be completed in class time and displayed or presented when finished.

a. Christmas Customs in Ireland.
b. An interview with a grandparent or older relative or neighbour on how they celebrated Christmas in their youth.
c. Christmas Traditions from Around the World.
d. The Food of Christmas - Ireland and Abroad.