Focal Space Idea for Advent

As we approach Advent this year, we are invited to focus on the light…

- the light of Christ which brings hope to our lives,
- the light of Christ in each one around you, reflecting the presence of God among us,
- the Spirit's call to live in the light, choosing what is life-giving for ourselves and for others,
- the invitation to notice the presence of God in the hidden spaces and places of our lives and of our world.

Traditionally, the Advent wreath counts down the weeks to Christmas, as the purple and pink candles are lit. The four candles are laid within the circle of evergreens, reminding us that God is without beginning or end.
At home or in a space in the church, choose to mark each week, by building up the light, a symbol of Christ's light permeating the darkness.



Week 1	Stay Awake	*Waiting for the light*
Week 2	Prepare a way for the Lord	*Preparing the light*
Week 3	What must we do?	*Bringing the light*

Diocese of Kerry – Advent Focal Space

Week 4 Blessed is she who believed W*elcoming the light*

Week 1, the invitation is to Stay Awake……to be alert, attentive, as we allow ourselves to wait in hope for the light. So in the first week of Advent, we begin to notice in ourselves and others, that desire for light, that wish for hope, meaning.

Week 2 asks us to start preparations….not just the outward preparations, but primarily the inward preparations….the making ourselves ready for receiving the light of Christ. Oftentimes, it may be about noticing in what way I don't feel ready, or being aware of what we want to do to welcome the baby Jesus into our lives this Christmas.

Week 3 moves us from a general getting ready to a personal reading – what is Jesus asking of me? What am I being invited to be, do, modify so that I can carry, bring the light to others? What must we do, as a parish?

Week 4 As we enter the final week, we are welcomed into the home of Elizabeth, a place of friendship for Mary….and in this space, we listen to Elizabeth extoll Mary's courage to trust in God's promise to her…..and with Elizabeth and Mary, we open our hearts to welcome the light.

Each week, leave a basket of the Scripture texts and invite people to take the little piece of paper home with them to keep them preparing for Christmas during the week.