

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

Life - Creation
Where do I come from?

Loving - Advent/Christmas

Curriculum Directory: Life in Christ

Introduction

Nowhere is the love of God shown more fully than in the birth of God's Son – the Word made flesh. For the children and for adults the celebration of the birth of Jesus is the feast of God's love. The third theme this term, Loving - Advent Christmas uses the topic 'Birthdays' to help the children to learn about how the Church looks forward through Advent to the coming of Christ as we get ready to celebrate the birth of Jesus at Christmas. The children will also learn how every birth is a sign of God's love and life and every birthday is an opportunity to celebrate that love and life together.

Search

Birthdays are special days for everyone. They celebrate a person's uniqueness and her or his value. The world is a different place because this person was born.

**How do you want to celebrate your birthday this year?
What is the best birthday celebration you can remember?**

[Pause for reflection and sharing]

Revelation

For Christians, the birth of Jesus changed the world. This is why they celebrate and remember the birthday of Jesus with special joy. The day of celebration, 25th December, is preceded by Advent, a time of preparation. Christians celebrate not only Christ's birth in Bethlehem but Christ who is with us still and who will come again in glory.

In that region, there were shepherds living in the fields keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them "Do not be afraid; for see- I am bringing do you good news of

BIRTHDAYS



great joy for all the people; to you is born this day in the city of David, a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord"

**What does Christmas mean for you?
Do you keep it in anyway as a religious feast?**

[Pause for reflection and sharing]

Response

Into the Classroom

How can your celebrations of the birthday of Jesus this Christmas be an opportunity to help children, staff, governors and parents to appreciate the gift Jesus?

How can you ensure that the season of Advent, that time of preparation, does not get swallowed up by Christmas celebrations?

What does Advent really mean in the life of the school?

What ideas do you have for a central focal display for the whole school (hall, entrance area etc).

[A time to share ideas with one another]

For prayer and reflection

Let us pray together:

**Lord, with faith and joy
we celebrate the birthday of your Son,
increase our understanding and our love
of the riches you have revealed in him,
who is Lord for ever and ever.**

(Prayer after Communion, Mass of Christmas, the Sunday Missal).

