

Year A - Fourth Sunday of Advent

Matthew 1:18-24

Preparing the Manger



Background Create a prayer space that you can add to each week. As we prepare ourselves we can also prepare our space. Here are a few ideas on how you can create a prayer space and build on it each week.

Advent Wreath

- Each week and each candle has it's own meaning that you can focus your prayer on.
- Most Liturgical shops sell the candles and you can create a wreath from foliage.



Nativity Set

- Use a nativity set that children can play with, let them play with the figurines and set it up as you like. Talk about each figure and who they were, how they might have felt.
- Set the scene so that the figures are spread out and no one is at the stable yet. As we move closer to Christmas we can move those figures closer each week, helping the children understand the journey of Advent.



Prepare the Manger

- Set up a manger in your space, laid with straw and hay. Explain how before Jesus was born, Joseph and Mary would have prepared the manger by laying it with clean hay.

- Give each child a piece of paper and pen and ask them to write a prayer to Jesus or draw a picture showing how you feel about Jesus. When this is done, invite them to lay it in the manger along with the straw and in doing so, we are preparing a place for Jesus too.

