



Nottingham Roman Catholic
Diocesan Education Service



Prophecy and
Promise

Branch 2

EYFS Planning for Advent 2

Version 1: September 2026

Branch 2: Prophecy and Promise
Advent Term (2) – EYFS
The Big Question: How do we prepare for Christmas?

Understand		Discern		Respond	
See		Judge		Act	
What will I see and hear to help me understand?		How will I discover more?		What can I do now?	

EYFS Skill Words: recognise, talk about, label, name, match, sort, retell, sequence, recall

Characteristics of effective teaching and learning for religious education: Wonder, awe, playing, exploring, active learning, creating, and thinking critically

Hear - By the end of this unit of study, pupils will be able to:

- Know that Mary was going to have a baby and his name would be Jesus. *The Annunciation (Lk 1:26-31, 38).*
- Know that Jesus was born in Bethlehem. *The Nativity (Lk 2: 4-7).*
- Know that shepherds hurried to see Mary and Joseph and baby Jesus. *The Shepherds visit the manger (Lk 2:8-20)*

Believe - By the end of this unit of study, pupils will be able to:

- Know Mary had a baby called Jesus.
- Know that Mary was chosen by God to give birth to his Son.
- Know that Jesus was born in a stable and laid in a manger.
- Know that shepherds were told by angels to visit him.

Celebrate - By the end of this unit of study, pupils will be able to:

- Recognise the Advent wreath.
- Recognise the tradition of the crib.
- Know the tradition of the crib to tell the story of Jesus’ birth.
- Know the Nativity is a celebration of Jesus’ birth.

Live - By the end of this unit of study, pupils will:

- Know that Advent is a time to get ready for Christmas and that we help others and ourselves and we show our love to God. (CST)
- Know that God sent Jesus to love us all.
- CST By our work in Advent, we help others, and ourselves, and we show our love to God.
- CST All people work in some way. Everyone should be able to work safely so that it helps them because God loves them. *The Dignity and Rights of Workers*

Prophecy and Promise – EYFS (Advent 2)							
	Session 1 UNDERSTAND	Session 2 UNDERSTAND	Session 3 UNDERSTAND	Session 4 UNDERSTAND	Session 5 DISCERN	Session 6 DISCERN	Session 7 RESPOND
Learning Focus	Know that Mary was chosen by God to be Jesus’ mother.	Know that Mary and Joseph travelled to Bethlehem.	Know that Jesus was born in a stable and laid in a manger.	Know that Shepherds visited Jesus in the stable.	Know that Advent is a time to get ready for Christmas.	Know that Jesus came for the whole world.	Recall all learning from the branch.
Recall and Retrieval	Who was Mary?	- What job did God choose for Mary? - How did he send this message to her?	- Where did Mary and Joseph travel to? - Why did they need to go? - What was their journey like?	- Where, in Bethlehem, was Jesus born? - Why did God choose a simple stable as the place for Jesus to be born?	- What special job did God give to the shepherds? - Why did God choose shepherds?	Recall <i>The Shepherds visit the manger</i> (Lk 2:8-20).	- End of branch celebration of the word - Respond Booklet - Assessment Task: have a table of artefacts prepared for children to discuss and share their knowledge in response to the Big Question: How can we prepare for Christmas? (Crib, Advent calendar, Advent wreath, decorations)
Sequence of knowledge throughout the lesson	Key knowledge: Pupils will know - Mary was chosen by God. - God used the Angel Gabriel to send his message to Mary and Joseph. - Mary said yes to God. - that Mary was going to have a baby, and his name would be Jesus. Listen to the Annunciation story and talk about why Mary was chosen and why she was special. Explain that God has a special invitation for us too, to get to know him and to say yes like Mary. Listen to and join in with the song <i>‘Here am I’</i> by Catholic Songs for Kids. Say a thank you prayer to Mary.	Key knowledge: Pupils will know - that Mary and Joseph travelled to Bethlehem. - they had to trust in God on a long, difficult journey. - God chose a simple place for Jesus to be born. Learn about Mary and Joseph’s journey to Bethlehem; that they were travelling to add their names to the census/register; it was a long and difficult journey and Mary was nearly ready to have her baby. Discuss that Bethlehem was not a very large or important town, but God chose it to be the birthplace of His Son because He wanted His son to be for everyone – especially the poor and unimportant people. In the same way a simple stable was chosen. Sing <i>‘Little Donkey’</i> and/or <i>‘O Little Town of Bethlehem’</i>.	Key knowledge: Pupils will know - that Jesus was born in Bethlehem. <i>The Nativity</i> (Lk 2: 4-7). - Know that Jesus was born in a stable and laid in a manger. - Know Jesus is always close to us. Ask the children where they think a king should be born and why. Share pictures of a stable and explain why God chose here for Jesus. (God wanted Him to be a king of all people – not a rich and powerful king who people would be afraid to approach). Listen to Luke 4: 2-7 <i>Baby Jesus is Born</i>. Sing <i>‘Away in a Manger’</i>, talk about the words and how Jesus is close to us.	Key knowledge: Pupils will know - that shepherds were told by angels to visit Jesus. - that shepherds hurried to see Mary and Joseph and baby Jesus. - that Jesus is called the Good Shepherd. - that God also made a new, bright star over the place Jesus was born. Hear <i>The Shepherds visit the manger</i> (Lk 2:8-20). Discuss why God chooses shepherds to be the first people to know about Jesus - shepherds were very poor and lived very simple lives. They were often looked down upon by others. God wanted to show that Jesus had come to earth for all of us and that God thinks that we are all important.	Key knowledge: Pupils will know - Advent is a time to get ready for Christmas and that we help others and ourselves and we show our love to God. - God knows the right time for things to happen. - the tradition of the crib to tell the story of Jesus’ birth. - the Nativity is a celebration of Jesus’ birth. - by our work in Advent, we help others, and ourselves, and we show our love to God. Discuss when the children have had to wait for something and how it feels. Explain that waiting can be a good thing as it gives us time to get ready. Explore the crib, advent wreath, advent calendars and prayers as a way of preparing in Advent. Share <i>Advent Poem</i> and sing, <i>‘This Little Light of Mine’</i>	Key knowledge: Pupils will know - that God sent Jesus to love us all. - Jesus came to earth to bring His light for the whole world. - Jesus wanted everyone to know about His love for them. - Jesus came for everyone in the whole world and Christians around the world celebrate His birth in different ways. Recap the story of the shepherds visiting Jesus. Explain when God sent His Son, Jesus, to earth to be born as a baby in Bethlehem, He was sending Him for everyone. Explore how different Christians around the world celebrate Jesus’ birth. Explore the next candle on the advent wreath – peace.	
EYFS Skills word/disciplinary knowledge	Recognise Talk about Retell	Talk about Sequence	Name Label	Retell Talk about	Talk about Match	Recognise Talk about	Recognise Talk About Recall

Prophecy and Promise – EYFS (Advent 2)							
	Session 1 UNDERSTAND	Session 2 UNDERSTAND	Session 3 UNDERSTAND	Session 4 UNDERSTAND	Session 5 DISCERN	Session 6 DISCERN	Session 7 RESPOND
Ways of knowing wonder questions See, Judge, Act	 I wonder what an angel looks like?  I wonder if I would feel scared if an angel came? I wonder if I would have felt brave enough to say yes, like Mary?  I wonder how you can say yes to God today?	 I wonder what Mary and Joseph may have prayed for?  I wonder how I would feel on a long and tiring journey? I wonder what I could do to be brave on a long journey? I wonder what I could do to be brave on a long journey?  I wonder if you have any questions about the journey to Bethlehem? How can you be brave today?	 I wonder what a stable smells like?  I wonder what Mary and Joseph felt like having their baby here?  I wonder what it means to bring Jesus' light to others?	 I wonder why the angels appeared to the shepherds?  I wonder how the shepherds felt when the angels appeared and when they saw Jesus? I wonder how I would feel if I was meeting Jesus for the first time?  Have you ever waited for someone? How did it make you feel? Have you ever had an important job to do?	 I wonder how the Advent calendar and wreath help us during Advent?  I wonder how it feels to wait a long time for something? I wonder how it will feel on Christmas day to remember Jesus' birth?  I wonder how we can get ready in school in Advent? I wonder how you can get ready at home to celebrate the birth of Jesus?	 I wonder what the stable looked like and whether it was busy the night Jesus was born? I wonder what the shepherds saw and heard when they arrived?  I wonder if the shepherds felt peace and joy when they saw Jesus? I wonder if they wanted to tell their friends about the Baby Jesus?  I wonder how we can go out and share joy? I wonder if we can tell our friends and families about the joy of the birth of Jesus?	 I wonder how we can prepare for Christmas? (Big Question)
Characteristics of effective teaching and learning for religious education	Wonder, awe, playing, exploring, active learning, creating , and thinking critically						
Main teaching activities	- Make and decorate your own individual guardian angels, recognising the Angel that God has given them. Talk about the Angel Gabriel and his role in the Annunciation Story. - Role-play the Annunciation to retell the story. Make megaphones with Gabriel's message- 'The angel of the Lord announced unto Mary.' The children to use these to share God's message. - In small groups, explore the school to find statues and pictures of Mary. Find out if there is anyone called Mary in the school.	- Sequence the pictures of Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem. - Recreate the journey of Mary and Joseph using your gross-motor skills by building the road from Nazareth to Bethlehem – along with buildings, rivers, trees, animals, camps etc that they may have seen along the way. Use the outside area and a choice of loose parts, large construction etc to build the road. Create road signs and place names – using chalks etc. - Create a donkey using a range of materials and tools	- Build different stables as shelters for Mary, Joseph and Baby Jesus. Offer the children different building materials to build their shelters. - Role-play the Nativity Scene, Jesus being born in the stable and placed in the manger. - Complete Nativity scene artwork. - Create captions and pictures to place around the baby Jesus in the manger. Make name labels for Jesus to put next to His manger. Invite the children to draw symbols for each name e.g. crowns, stars, sheep, candles etc. - Discuss how we can bring Jesus' light to others.	- Be like the shepherds and tell the Good News about Jesus in different ways - story stones, sequencing cards, matching games, 'talking telephones,' finger puppets, small world figures. - Creative task – make a sheep. - Explore different ways to make stars.	- Make your own wreath (craft cut and stick activity) Match the correct colour candles to the correct word. - Join together to make a class wreath by threading real or card leaves onto a piece of string. Tie the string in a circle when it is full. - Create an Advent Journey using the play dough mat. Talk about what it feels like to wait for something special. - Create a poster in your RE book of all the things we hope for during Advent.	Collage a candle, talking about how Jesus brought light to the world and how we can be peaceful.	- Take part in the whole school celebration of the word. - Complete the Respond booklet with the help of an adult - Assessment task: draw pictures in response to the Big Question: How can we prepare for Christmas?

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	Session 1 UNDERSTAND	Session 2 UNDERSTAND	Session 3 UNDERSTAND	Session 4 UNDERSTAND	Session 5 DISCERN	Session 6 DISCERN	Session 7 RESPOND
		Create a class ‘Bethlehem’ by painting or drawing one of the buildings to join together to make the town. They could draw, paint, collage or make models of the houses. You could use candles to support the houses so they light up in the dark.					
Adaptive teaching	Provide simple templates or pre-cut shapes for children to decorate using collage materials, glitter, and crayons. Emphasize that God gives each person an angel to watch over them. Make simple cardboard or paper megaphones for children to shout, ‘The angel of the Lord announced unto Mary!’ Encourage dramatic play: pupils take turns as Gabriel, Mary, or observers. Turn it into a ‘Mary hunt’. Take photos or draw what they see. Ask, ‘Do we know anyone called Mary?’ and encourage discussion.	Use large story cards with simple images. Encourage children to arrange them in order and explain what is happening. Build a ‘journey path’ outside with large blocks, crates, and natural materials. Encourage children to move along the path, adding obstacles or features (rivers, trees, animals) with loose parts or chalk. Use play dough, recycled boxes, sticks, or clay for donkey building. Paint, draw, or collage buildings together on a large display. Introduce LED tealights safely for lit-up effect (none with button batteries should be used – swallowing risk).	Provide blocks, boxes, and natural materials. Let children create shelters, encouraging them to explain their choices. Use simple props and dolls. Encourage children to act out the birth story, placing Jesus in the manger. Provide pre-printed captions or symbol stickers (crowns, stars, sheep). Let children decorate around a central Jesus figure. Talk about kind actions and helping others. Children could draw or act out ways to show ‘light’ in their school or home.	Story stones, finger puppets, sequencing cards, or ‘talking telephones’ to retell the story in small groups. Use cotton wool, paper plates, or play dough to create tactile sheep. Use glitter, foil, paper, or chalk. Encourage exploration and talking about light.	Provide cut-out leaves for threading, pre-cut candles for matching colours. Children can thread or stick leaves, creating a circular wreath together. Provide mats and play dough to represent waiting for something special. Discuss feelings of excitement and anticipation. Use pictures, drawings, and simple words to represent hopes or things they look forward to during Advent.	Pupils collage around a paper candle with bright materials (foil, tissue paper) while discussing peace and light.	Pupils collage around a paper candle with bright materials (foil, tissue paper) while discussing peace and light.
Challenge	Say why you think Mary was special.	Ask any questions you have about the journey to Bethlehem.	Create your own caption or picture to place next to baby Jesus.	Create their own message to share the Good News of Jesus.	Think of your own hopes for Advent.	Talk about how we can share Jesus’ light with others.	Complete some of the Respond booklet independently.
Key vocabulary and definition / Explicit vocabulary instruction	Mary – the Mother of Jesus, chosen by God. Angel – purely spiritual beings, created by God with intellect and will but without physical bodies. They are immortal and are often depicted as beings of light who serve as God’s messengers. Promise – when you assure another that you will do something or that a particular thing will happen. Saviour – a person who saves someone or something from danger or difficulty. In Christianity, Jesus saves us from our sins.	Mary – the Mother of Jesus, chosen by God. Joseph – Mary’s husband. Bethlehem – a city six miles southwest of Jerusalem. Bethlehem is the birthplace of Jesus Christ. Journey – an act of travelling from one place to another.	Mary – the Mother of Jesus, chosen by God. Joseph – Mary’s husband. Bethlehem – a city six miles southwest of Jerusalem. Bethlehem is the birthplace of Jesus Christ. Stable – a structure designed to house horses. Manger – a long trough from which horses or cattle feed. Baby – a very young child. Jesus – the Son of God. Joy – a feeling of great happiness	Mary – the Mother of Jesus, chosen by God. Joseph – Mary’s husband. Jesus – the Son of God Shepherd – a person who tends and rears sheep. Stable – a structure designed to house horses. Manger- a long trough from which horses or cattle feed. Joy – a feeling of great happiness. Saviour – a person who saves someone or something from danger or difficulty. In Christianity, Jesus saves us from our sins. Advent – the first season of the Church year, leading up to Christmas and including the four preceding Sundays.	Advent – the first season of the Church year, leading up to Christmas and including the four preceding Sundays. Promise – when you assure another that you will do something or that a particular thing will happen. Waiting – the action of staying where one is or delaying action until a particular time or event. Saviour – a person who saves someone or something from danger or difficulty. In Christianity, Jesus saves us from our sins. Jesus – the Son of God. Christmas – a Christian celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ.	Advent – the first season of the Church year, leading up to Christmas and including the four preceding Sundays. Promise – when you assure another that you will do something or that a particular thing will happen. Waiting – the action of staying where one is or delaying action until a particular time or event. Saviour – a person who saves someone or something from danger or difficulty. In Christianity, Jesus saves us from our sins. Jesus – the Son of God. Christmas – a Christian celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ.	Recap all vocabulary explored across the branch - Celebration of the word PowerPoint/ planning - EYFS Prophecy and Promise Respond Booklet

Prophecy and Promise – EYFS (Advent 2)							
	Session 1 UNDERSTAND	Session 2 UNDERSTAND	Session 3 UNDERSTAND	Session 4 UNDERSTAND	Session 5 DISCERN	Session 6 DISCERN	Session 7 RESPOND
Resources	PowerPoint Special scroll, invitation from God Craft materials Role play dress up ,Lord Here Am I' - youtube Catholic songs for Kids	PowerPoint Sequencing pictures Artwork materials Construction materials Video link - Little Donkey (youtube.com) Oh, Little Town of Bethlehem Christmas Songs For Kids (youtube.com)	PowerPoint Role play dress up Artwork materials Construction materials Video link - Away in a Manger, illustrated by Jean Claude (youtube.com)	PowerPoint Role play materials Artwork materials	PowerPoint 'This Little Light of Mine' Bing Videos Bag of Hopes Crib Advent wreath Advent calendar The Advent Song For Kids (youtube.com)	PowerPoint Joy to the World: Christmas Around the Globe by Kate DePalma - YouTube	Recall all learning from the branch