



ADVENT JOURNEY GATHERING FOR WEEKLY REFLECTIONS

Thank you for Sarah Barreto for these inspiring ideas.

The journey through Advent could be created in the entrance of the church or other suitable area each week with an activity. Some suggestions:

- (A) Each week a banner made by the children or creative parishioners could be displayed in the church. The banners would be the themes of the Diocesan Synodal journey: **Listen, Mission, Celebration, Dreams**

(If you want to make banners for each week you should start making the 1st banner in your programme one week before Advent so it is ready to hang in the first week, then work on the 2nd banner that week and so on for the 4 weeks.)

- (B) A poster saying "**THE SEASON OF ADVENT. YOUR JOURNEY STARTS HERE**" could be displayed on the outside door to the church entrance.

- (C) The theme for each week is about journeying towards Advent. People are invited to use the activity to help them explore the key themes.

ADVENT WEEK 1 : LISTEN - Advent Spiral (see separate document) or Tree Branch.

A spiral of candlelight symbolises light emerging from darkness.



Each parishioner adds a leaf with a prayer for the diocese or a question and watches it come alive in hope.



ADVENT WEEK 2: MISSION - Footprints: a way in the desert

John the Baptist called the people of Israel to repent, to find peace with God. John also declared that it is in our actions of love and justice that God's peace is shown.

Take one of the footprints. As you place your footprint down the aisle of the church, think about where we might need to go, or what we might need to do to bring God's peace to our world.



(Photo by Decio Bertis Jr on Unsplash)



ADVENT WEEK 3: CELEBRATE - A PATH TO HOPE

Parishioners add a stone from the entrance to the church to create a path up to the Tree branch to celebrate our journey together.

Take a stone and place it along the wilderness path as you think of how you might help to make the journey of others through their wilderness this Advent a little lighter, a little less taxing, a little more Joy-filled.

ADVENT WEEK 4: LET US DREAM - CANDLES "THE LIGHT OF CHRIST"

This Advent, let us make room for the arrival of God's love, in our hearts, in our homes, in our parishes and relationships together. Emmanuel shall come and dwell within us.... Even if it is sometimes unsettling. He may arrive with the face of a stranger and crash on the couch... or in a manger.'

Pope Francis: 'In his freedom, the Holy Spirit knows no borders, nor does He allow Himself to be limited by memberships. If the parish is home to all in the neighbourhood, not an exclusive club, I recommend... leave the doors and windows open...Allow all to enter...'

Take a candle into the church and place it at the front. As you light it, remember the promise and message of Christmas is God's great love for the world.