



# Catholic Children's Society (Plymouth)

*Putting All Children First*

## **ADVENT APPEAL 2017 – Make Love Your Aim**

### **Introduction**

Thank you so much for participating in this year's Advent appeal for the **Catholic Children's Society Plymouth (CCSP)**. We are so grateful for your support!

The theme is '**Make Love Your Aim**'. We are asking schools to explore how CCSP helps local children and families in the diocese and how they can get involved while growing closer to Jesus ready for Christmas during Advent.

Easy to teach activities and a PowerPoint presentation are provided for each year group to introduce the CCSP to children at an age appropriate level. These lessons link directly with the differentiated learning outcomes and suggested activities from the **Advent teaching materials provided by the diocese and Unit 3 – Advent from 'God Matters'**. The planning is easy to follow, features engage, explore and express activities and also highlights AT1 and AT2 elements. All resources are free of charge and are available to download from our website: <http://ccsplymouth.org.uk/good-shepherd/> Please feel free to use or adapt the resources and activities as you see fit to support your teaching.

### **Fundraising**

Our hope is that after learning about the CCSP, staff and children will feel inspired to help with our fundraising as part of their Advent preparation. Every child will get their own crib collection box to take home following their learning on the work of the Children's Society and how it links to Advent. Not only will it be a wonderful reminder of the true meaning of Christmas but it can be filled with current or previous currency, from this country or any other. Boxes will then be returned to school in time to celebrate at Epiphany. Any donations at all will be gratefully received by the CCSP. The charity has a crisis fund which provides emergency support for children, young people and their families who are having financial difficulties. It provides one-off grants to meet emergency needs such as essential white goods or clothing. Any head teacher in the diocese can access the fund for a family in need by completing a simple form stating the circumstances and needs of the family.

**100% of the money you raise for the Catholic Children's Society Plymouth will go to supporting families living in Cornwall, Devon and Dorset.**

### **Contact**

If you have any questions please email [Claire.Warren@prcdtr.org.uk](mailto:Claire.Warren@prcdtr.org.uk) or call Heather in our main office: **01364 645420**

**Thank you so much for supporting CCSP this Advent!**



## Make Love Our Aim - Year 2

<p><b>Learning Intentions</b></p>	<p><b>God Matters learning Objective</b> To know that Advent is a liturgical season when we get ready to welcome Jesus.</p> <p><b>Working towards Age Related Outcomes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pupils will recognise a crib and know that St Francis created a real life crib in a cave (AT1)</li> <li>• Pupils will be able to recognise that Christians throughout the world prepare in special ways to celebrate the birth of Jesus and be able to state one custom (AT1)</li> <li>• Pupils will be able to recognise some of the words connected with Advent including: Advent, Crib (AT1)</li> <li>• Pupils will be able to talk about how they and others prepare during Advent (AT2)</li> </ul> <p><b>Age Related Outcomes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pupils will be able to retell the origins of the Christmas Crib (AT1)</li> <li>• Pupils will be to use the words advent, preparation and crib and explain their meaning (AT1ii)</li> <li>• Pupils will be able to say why Christians prepare during Advent (AT1)</li> <li>• Pupils will be able to ask questions about how they and others prepare to celebrate Christmas and recognise that some of these questions are difficult to answer (AT2)</li> </ul> <p><b>Working in greater depth</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pupils will be able to explain the meaning the Crib and why St Francis created it (AT1)</li> </ul> <p><b>Additional learning</b> To know how CCSP helps local children through their services. To understand how we can help CCSP help local children</p>
<p><b>Resources</b></p>	<p>Nativity with figures (A variety if possible) Story of St.Francis and the First Crib/questions (below) CCSP PowerPoint Branch or small Christmas tree</p>
<p><b>Key questions</b></p>	<p>What is Advent? How long does it last? How do Christians prepare during Advent? Why do Christians prepare during Advent? What did the people who saw St.Francis' crib realise?</p>
	<p><b>Quick Draw</b> Ask children to very quickly sketch their idea of the Christmas crib. Share and discuss drawings/misconceptions. <b>Why are we talking about the crib</b></p>



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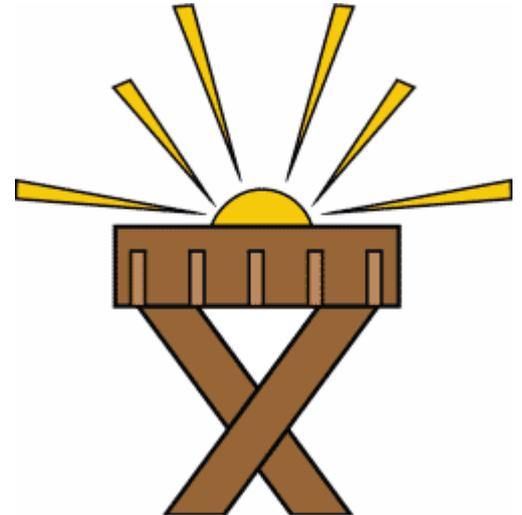
<b>Engage Activity</b>	<b>now? What do we call the special time of the year that comes before Christmas?</b> Using a story bag, allow children to take out a figure to add to the crib one at a time making sure they know who each one is.
<b>Explore and Express Activities</b>	<p><b>Read the Story of St Francis and the first crib</b> (see enclosed sheet) Pupils in pairs or as a class discussion try to answer the questions. Level depends on response. (AT1/ AT2)</p> <p><b>Catholic Children's Society Appeal</b> Link to St Francis helping people to understand that to follow Jesus, people must help the poor as he did. In Advent, Christians try especially hard to help those who are less fortunate. Share the PowerPoint with the children explaining the 'Make Love Your Aim' appeal and sharing the charity's work. Discuss the appeal and how they might collect coins at home.</p> <p><b>Note</b> - Ideally you need to start this with an empty stable in view as you will see in the PowerPoint. The children can then add the people who should be present as they suggest them.</p> <p><b>The Tree of Good Deeds</b> Emphasise that donating to charity is just one way of thinking of others in Advent. Children could each come up with a way in which they might prepare themselves for Christmas (such as 'share something special with somebody' or 'do something to help someone without being asked') which can be written on a circular piece of paper and decorated. These can be hung on a branch or Christmas tree and one or two can be selected daily for the children to focus on. (AT2)</p>
<b>Prayer</b>	Jesus, Your birth brought love, hope and joy to the world. Help us to bring your message to life in our lives through Advent. Let us not forget those children and families who live in poverty who might not have such a joyful Christmas. Amen



## **St Francis of Assisi and the first Crib**

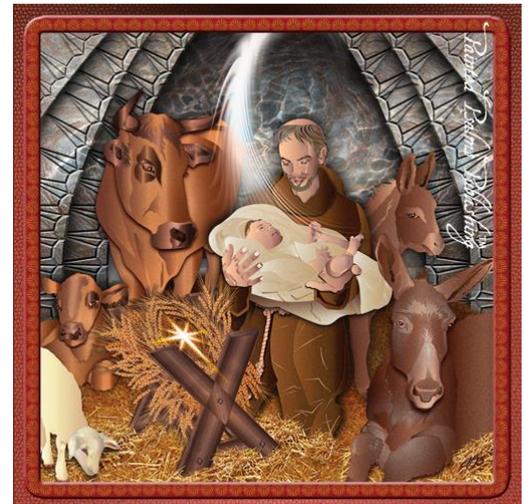
It was Saint Francis of Assisi who first came up with the idea of a crib but his wasn't a small crib made of wood or plastic! It was life size.

In the year 1223 Francis celebrated Christmas in a way that the world had never before seen. Francis had just returned from Rome where he had met the Pope who had approved the guidelines he had drawn up for those people who wished to follow Francis' way of life. It was just a few weeks before Christmas. Now you need to remember that Francis had been born wealthy but given it all up when he decided to follow Jesus more closely.



Francis knew that most people did not have lots of money, in fact many of the people who came to listen to Francis were poor and found it hard at times to make ends meet. Francis wanted to show them that Jesus came to help them and knew what it was to be poor. Then Francis had an idea. He would help people understand what it was like when Jesus was born.

Francis contacted his friend, Giovanni Velita. Giovanni like Francis had been born rich. Giovanni owned a high mountain with lots of caves inside. Together they found a suitable cave and put in it a manger full of hay and brought an ox and a donkey and some sheep to the cave. On Christmas Day Francis asked the people of the town to come to the cave. They came carrying torches because it was dark. There in the cave lit by torchlight Francis told the people the story of Jesus' birth. They had heard the story before but this time in the light of the cave they really understood it.



They knew that God chose to be born poor, amid the animals to show that God came to help all those who had nothing, those who came last in the eyes of the world came first with God. They realised that to follow Jesus and become closer to him, they also had to help the poor.



# What Do You Think?



1. How are our cribs different from Francis' crib?
2. What kind of crib do you think Francis would prefer, a really expensive one that looks really good or a simply one that you make yourself? Try to think about what Francis wanted to do with his crib. Explain your choice to your partner.
3. What do you think Francis would see as a good way of preparing for Christmas? Explain your reasons to your partner.
4. Why do you think the idea of the crib became so popular?