

HOLY ANTICIPATION

Ideas to Unwrap Advent



A GENEROUS COUNTDOWN

How about changing up the concept of the Advent calendar?

Each day in Advent set aside one non-perishable food item in a box.

Deliver your collected items to the City Mission, or to a Pātaka Kai.



Fill the pockets of a traditional Advent Calendar with cards describing a fun activity, a kind gesture, something to read or listen to. Examples could include baking biscuits, sending a card, a picnic around the Christmas tree, someone to pray for...

Cut up a Christmas picture into 24 squares, or write each word of a scripture text on a separate card.

Scramble their order.

Each day in Advent select one. As the season goes on, arrange them in order, to complete the verse or image.



MAKE AN ADVENT WREATH

Light candles in your home to count down the four weeks of Advent, with a Christ candle for Christmas Eve or Day. Light one candle each day in the first week, two candles in the second week and so on.

Wreaths can be made from a plate or board, with candles in small jars or holders. Use leafy branches, wire or flowers to decorate. Perhaps your wreath could be on the kitchen table, and a prayer assigned to the lighting of the candles each day.



DISCOVER SOME ADVENT CAROLS

We all know lots of Christmas Carols, but do you have any favourite Advent Carols or hymns? Click to listen to these ones, or do a search of your own:

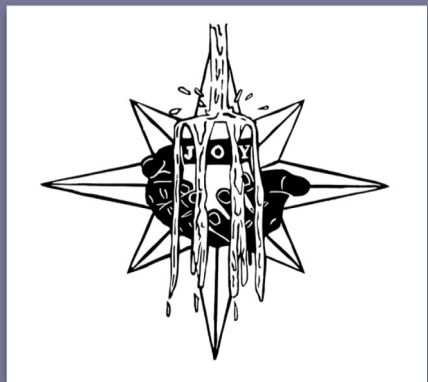
O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
People, look East

Comfort, comfort now my people
Come, thou long expected Jesus

Long ago, prophets knew
Hills of the North, rejoice!
Hail to the Lord's anointed

FOLLOW THE STAR...

Reflect week by week on these images
by Sarah West
([click to see full size on Sarah's
webpage](#))



Which star is calling most to you this
Advent? Why?

MORE RESOURCES

The ['Art and Theology' website](#) has 25
poems for the Advent season.

Discover the great 'O' Antiphons for the
final week of Advent—Malcolm Guite has a
[sonnet sequence](#) based on them, here
they are [set to plainchant](#), here is an
[explainer](#) to get you started.

For heaps more
Advent ideas,
prayers and

resources, visit the [Advent Conspiracy](#)



"My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit
rejoices in God my Saviour, for he has looked
with favour on the lowliness of his servant.
Surely, from now on all generations will call
me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great
things for me, and holy is his name. His
mercy is for those who fear him from
generation to generation. He has shown
strength with his arm; he has scattered the
proud in the thoughts of their hearts. He has
brought down the powerful from their thrones,
and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the
hungry with good things, and sent the rich
away empty. He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy, according to
the promise he made to our ancestors, to
Abraham and to his descendants forever."

Luke 1.46-55



ST JOHN'S
anglican church

ROYAL OAK