

Advent and Christmas

Catholics *believe* that Christmas is a time to celebrate the birthday of God's Son, Jesus. One consequence of this belief is that Catholics would choose to send Christmas cards which depict the nativity scene rather than more 'secular' scenes. Catholics also believe that Advent is also a time to try to live a better life to prepare their hearts well to celebrate Christmas.

Advent is an important time of preparation. Pupils will be able to describe behaviours to prepare hearts such as the traditions of the advent wreath and calendar as examples of what people who believe do for e.g. receive the sacrament of Reconciliation.

Pupils can describe some of the ways in which Christians bring light to the people around them to prepare for the birth of Jesus. (why these things are done) 'Catholic Christians do this because they believe.....'.

'Catholics believe that Advent is a time to prepare to receive the love and friendship given in Jesus at Christmas People who accept this belief are likely to use an Advent wreath, advent calendar, listening to Bible stories, sing special hymns, songs and prayers etc...

Christians believe Advent is a season of hope. Christians are waiting in hope for the Second Coming of Jesus because Christ will put an end to all injustice, sin, evil, and suffering: he will finish the work he began with his first coming. Advent hope is about how God's people are waiting for his promises to come true. The choices Catholics make and the way they live their lives will be informed by this fundamental belief.