

Name of Pupil: _____

Advent

Draw a picture of Mary with her parents

Long, long ago, there lived a woman whose name was Mary. When she was a little girl, Mary lived with her parents, Anna and Joachim, in a town called Nazareth. Nazareth was a town in a place called Galilee.

Draw a picture of a Synagogue

Every weekend, Mary and her parents, Joachim and Anna went to pray in a building called the Synagogue. There they listened to stories from the Bible. Mary learnt that God loved her.

Listen to or read the following story.

Then one day an angel was sent to Mary to tell her something. This is the story of 'Mary's Good News'. This story is in the Bible in a part called the New Testament.

" God sent the angel Gabriel to a town in Galilee named Nazareth. He had a message for a young woman who was going to marry a man named Joseph. The woman's name was Mary. The angel came to her and said, 'Peace be with you! The Lord is with you and has greatly blessed you!' Mary was deeply troubled by the angel's message and she wondered what his words meant. The angel said to her , 'Do not be afraid Mary; the Lord is with you. God has specially chosen you. You will become pregnant and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of God'. 'I am the Lord's servant', said Mary; 'I will do what he has chosen me to do.' And the angel left her.

When you have listened or read the story be still for a minute and think of what you would like to say to Mary.

Draw a picture of Mary and Joseph

When Mary was older she married a man called Joseph. He too was from Nazareth. He was a carpenter.

Advent is a time when we get ready for Christmas. Advent is the four weeks before Christmas and it means 'coming, arrival'. During advent we are getting ready for the birth of Jesus. We use an Advent Wreath to count down the four weeks. on the wreath there are four candles, three purple and one pink and green leaves in circle. The pink candle is for the third Sunday, Joy. Advent wreaths are in the shape of a circle as a sign that God's love is never ending.

Write or draw what you would say in a prayer for Advent as you wait for the birth of Jesus.

Here is another story from the Bible that tells of how Mary visited her cousin Elizabeth. Read it or listen to it carefully.

“Soon after the angel left Mary, Mary got ready and hurried off to visit her cousin Elizabeth.

Elizabeth lived quite far away and it took Mary some time to get there. When she arrived, Mary went into the house where Elizabeth lived with her husband, Zechariah. Elizabeth was also pregnant at that time, and when she heard Mary's voice, the baby inside her moved! Elizabeth couldn't believe what had happened. Mary smiled. Elizabeth told Mary, 'As soon as I heard your voice, the baby inside me jumped for joy'.

Imagine you were Elizabeth and write or draw what you would say to your cousin Mary.

Advent is a time of light and darkness, of looking forward for the arrival of light, looking forward to the birth of Jesus. We read stories about the Angel Gabriel coming with good news and the story of Mary visiting Elizabeth to share good news. What good news story would you like to draw or write about?

A Good News Story