Level: 2
Title: GETTING READY FOR JESUS - ADVENT
Strand: JESUS CHRIST:
       Jesus of Nazareth, Saviour, Word made flesh.
Suggested Duration: 3-4 weeks

Unit Focus
In this unit students will focus on Advent as a time of waiting and preparation, and build on the arrangements they and their families make in the lead-up to Christmas.

Level Outcome
By the end of Level Two students should be able to:

Recognise Jesus who reveals God's love for us.

Unit Outcomes
By the end of this unit students should be able to:

1. Recall and share experiences of getting ready for a special event.
2. Recall how Mary and Joseph prepared for the birth of their son Jesus.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STRAND</th>
<th>DOCTRINAL CONCEPTS</th>
<th>CATECHISM REFERENCE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jesus Christ</td>
<td>1. Jesus is a human person like us.</td>
<td>464, 469</td>
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<td></td>
<td>2. Jesus is a member of a family.</td>
<td>531, 533</td>
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<td></td>
<td>3. Mary is the mother of Jesus.</td>
<td>488, 508, 723</td>
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<tr>
<td>God</td>
<td>1. God is loving creator.</td>
<td>239, 337, 338</td>
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<tr>
<td>Church</td>
<td>2. The Church is a believing, welcoming, caring and celebrating community.</td>
<td>751</td>
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<td></td>
<td>3. The Church is a community that celebrates God's love.</td>
<td>752</td>
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<tr>
<td>Scripture</td>
<td>1. The Scriptures tell us about God's love for us and we learn and pray with them.</td>
<td>104, 125</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2. The Gospels tell us about Jesus' life and the people who believed in him.</td>
<td>125, 126</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prayer</td>
<td>4. Prayer is a way of thanking God for life and creation.</td>
<td>2637, 2638</td>
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Key Understandings for Students
- Advent is a time to prepare for Christmas.
- God promised a Saviour.
- Mary and Joseph are Jesus’ parents and they prepared for Jesus’ birth.
- We prepare for Jesus to come into our lives in a special way during Advent.
**Victorian Essential Learning Standards**

The unit *Getting Ready For Jesus: Advent* can be used to assess a range of VELS. The table below gives examples of how Level 2 standards could be assessed.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strand</th>
<th>Domain</th>
<th>Dimension</th>
<th>Key elements of Standards Students…</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Physical, Personal and Social Learning</td>
<td>Interpersonal Development</td>
<td>Building Social Relationships</td>
<td>- &quot;identify the feelings and needs of other people. Students identify and accept that there are consequences for their actions. They take appropriate steps to resolve simple conflicts.&quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Working in Teams</td>
<td></td>
<td>- &quot;work in teams in assigned roles, stay on task and complete structured activities within set timeframes. They share resources fairly. With teacher support, they describe their contribution to the activities of the team.&quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td>Interdisciplinary Learning</td>
<td>Information and Communications Technology</td>
<td>ICT for Visualising Thinking/ ICT for Creating</td>
<td>- &quot;students manipulate text, images and numeric data to create simple information products for specific audiences. They make simple changes to improve the appearance of their information products. With some assistance, students use ICT to locate and retrieve relevant information from a variety of sources.&quot;</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>Curriculum Framework Context</th>
<th>Level 1</th>
<th>Level 2</th>
<th>Level 3</th>
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<tr>
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<td>How Do We Get Ready For Christmas?</td>
<td>Getting Ready For Jesus - Advent</td>
<td>Christmas – The message of Joy and Peace</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Christmas – The Promise Fulfilled</td>
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**Student Context**

As Level Two students develop they learn to separate fantasy from reality and to understand the meaning behind symbols. In their intellectual development they are developing the ability to think symbolically and to use symbols, including words and images, in communicating ideas with others. Possessing a vivid imagination, Level Two students respond well to stories and re-enactments of exciting events, which gives rise to lifelong religious images and concepts.

Advent is traditionally known as a time of waiting – waiting for the birth of Jesus Christ that is celebrated at Christmas. Students at this age are aware that special occasions take place in their lives and that they have to wait long periods of time for some of them to occur eg Christmas, birthday. They are aware that these events require preparation, eg celebrating a birthday includes planning the party, sending invitations, shopping for the event, preparing food, organising games, making a cake and welcoming guests. Some students may have experienced the joyful expectation of getting ready for the birth of a baby in their own or a close friend’s family and the preparations leading up to this special event.

During Advent, students are surrounded by advertisements in the media and shopping centres that commercialise Christmas. While such advertisements emphasise the value of gift giving, they fail to acknowledge the religious nature of Christmas for Christians and can distort students' understanding and appreciation of the significance of Advent and Christmas.

**Theological Background for Teachers**

The liturgical year invites us to celebrate the seasons of the church year. Different colours and symbols express the mood of each of these seasons. The colour purple used during Advent symbolises the mood of waiting and preparation. The use of light and the colour white symbolises the joy of Christmas. The gradual increase in the number of lighted candles in the Advent wreath can speak powerfully of the hoped for coming of Jesus, the Light of the World at Christmas. A
Christmas tree has the potential to be more than decoration i.e. symbolising the coming of Jesus, the Light.

God promised a Saviour
In Advent we live out the hope of Christ coming and we look forward to the presence of “God with us” (Immanuel) through the celebration of Christmas. The history of God’s people and the promises made to Israel are brought to fulfillment in the person of Jesus.

Mary’s preparation for the coming of Jesus
God chose Mary to be the mother of Jesus. ‘Mary responded to God as a member of the Jewish People of God, even before Jesus was conceived, by hearing God’s word in the Hebrew scriptures and keeping it. Jesus’ conception was possible only because Mary responded to God in this way at the announcement.’ (Education Committee of Australian Bishops’ Conference, 1990, 3:100). Mary conceives Jesus through the creative and life giving presence of God, the Holy Spirit.

We prepare to celebrate Jesus’ coming at Christmas
The infancy narratives are interpreted as the fulfillment of the Old Testament prophecies. Through sharing the infancy narratives found in the Gospels of Luke and Matthew, the story of the birth of Jesus is recalled and celebrated by Christians.

Scripture

Teacher Reference (NRSV)

Isa 7:14-15
Therefor the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel.

Lk 1:26-38  An Angel Tells about the Birth of Jesus
One month later God sent the angel Gabriel to the town of Nazareth in Galilee with a message for a virgin named Mary. She was engaged to Joseph from the family of King David. The angel greeted Mary and said, "You are truly blessed! The Lord is with you."
Mary was confused by the angel's words and wondered what they meant. Then the angel told Mary, "Don't be afraid! God is pleased with you, and you will have a son. His name will be Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of God Most High. The Lord God will make him king, as his ancestor David was. He will rule the people of Israel forever, and his kingdom will never end."
Mary asked the angel, "How can this happen? I am not married!"
The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come down to you, and God's power will come over you. So your child will be called the holy Son of God. Your relative Elizabeth is also going to have a son, even though she is old. No one thought she could ever have a baby, but in three months she will have a son. Nothing is impossible for God!"
Mary said, "I am the Lord's servant! Let it happen as you have said." And the angel left her.

Student Reference (CEV)

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Lk 1:39-47; 56  Mary Visits Elizabeth
A short time later Mary hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea. She went into Zechariah's home, where she greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, her baby moved within her.
The Holy Spirit came upon Elizabeth. Then in a loud voice she said to Mary:

God has blessed you more than any other woman! He has also blessed the child you will have. Why should the mother of my Lord come to me? As soon as I heard your greeting, my baby became happy and moved within me. The Lord has blessed you because you believed that he will keep his promise.

### Suggested Assessment Tasks

**Outcome 1** Recall and share experiences of getting ready for a special event.
- Make a little book about “Getting Ready for my Celebration”. Children include the process needed to prepare for a celebration such as a birthday party, etc.

**Outcome 2** Recall how Mary and Joseph prepared for the birth of their son Jesus.
- Sequence Lk 1:26-38 through illustrations and captions.
- With a partner, make a wall chart that compares and contrasts Mary’s and Joseph’s preparation for the birth of Jesus and their parent’s preparation for their birth. (Peer assessment activity)

_N.B_ All of the above Outcomes lend themselves to reporting in the dimension of Knowledge and Understanding.

### Suggested Teaching & Learning Experiences

**Focusing Activity**

Read Waiting for Noel to the class. Draw a story map of the events of the story.

- Lotus Diagram (refer to icon in Planning Tool) ways they can get ready to ‘celebrate’ the birth of Jesus at Christmas.

- Recount a time of “Getting ready” and discuss in groups.

- Listen to “Sam’s Sunday Dad” (Wild, Margaret). Use White and Red hat thinking to discuss the story.

- Retell the story of the Annunciation, predicting what Mary might have done after the angel visited her.

- Make a flow chart ordering the story of the Annunciation.

- Invite a guest speaker (parent) to talk about how they got ready for the birth of their child.

- Make a class Big book about ‘Getting ready’ for a particular event and invite each student to complete their own page.

- Write the word Advent on the board and recall that Advent is the time for Christians to prepare to celebrate Christmas.

- Teach an Advent song (Music Resources).

- Make and decorate an Advent Wreath to use during prayer.

- Design and trial a Find-a-word associated with Advent.

- With a partner role play Mary’s visit to Elizabeth. Lk 1:39-47;56

- Participate in a prayer celebration on the theme of preparing for Christmas.

- Lk 1:26-38 To PREPARE TO HEAR the Word - talk about what it means to be chosen for a special task. Mary was chosen to be the mother of Jesus. In the Gospels angels are ‘messengers from God’

- Lk 1:26-38 To ENCOUNTER the Word after reading the text, students role play the story

- Lk 1:26-38 To ENCOUNTER the Word after reading the text, students create a story map

- Lk 1:26-38 To RESPOND to the Word - sing Mary songs e.g. Mangan, Michael. ‘Mary said Yes’ On Sing your joy [CD] and This is the time.[CD] : Chinn, Andrew. “I sing to Mary’ On Wherever I go [CD] and Come dance with me
<table>
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<th>Resources</th>
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<tr>
<td>For resources to support this unit, refer to the online planning tool. For additional resources, refer to the Resource Centre Catalogue: <a href="http://www.ceoballarat.catholic.edu.au">http://www.ceoballarat.catholic.edu.au</a> and follow links to Resource Centre.</td>
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