




# Introducing FaithMap Year C

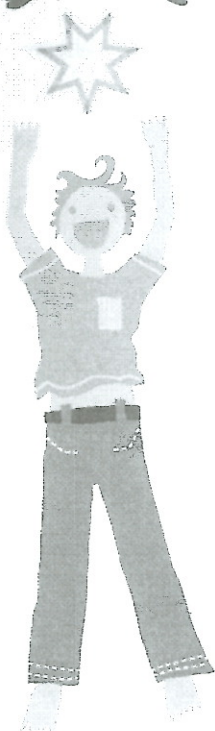
FaithMap is interactive, fun and engaging for children of all ages and abilities. It is a valuable resource for anyone involved with children's liturgies, Sunday schools or children's groups. It can also be used in primary schools for assemblies or class teaching and by parents who want to explore the Gospel message at home with their family.

Designed for a range of ages, FaithMap offers a choice of two approaches: "Young Ones" and "Juniors", plus additional suggestions for children with learning difficulties.



FaithMap is based on the Catholic Lectionary for Year C (on the majority of Sundays this coincides with the *Common Worship* Lectionary), covering all possible Sunday celebrations in Year C. Each week the Sunday Gospel is explored through five sections.

1. **Introduction** to the theme of the day with a Leader's Reflection.
2. **Arrival:** Gather around a focal point, which reflects the theme of the day. The Sunday Gospel is read from the Lectionary or the Children's Lectionary.
3. **Response:** Suggested questions for discussion to find out what the Gospel is asking of us. A story or real-life experience follows, to link up with the Gospel and to help the children understand its message.
4. **Activity:** A practical section with a photocopiable template and suggestions for activities suitable for a range of abilities. Tips for those with learning difficulties are included.
5. **We Come Together** to share, pray and sing, offering the opportunity for parents to join in the group's activities. The Gospel message is highlighted, and work from the activities shared in a short prayer time to end the meeting.



There is also a photocopiable Family Sheet for each week, which the children can take away with them and use during the week. This takes the learning experience home, back to the heart of the family for ongoing discussion and daily prayer. It includes a weekly thought for parents, and a picture symbol to mark/colour each day when the suggested action is completed.

It's a rich resource giving you all the information, ideas and material you need to run successful sessions with children. Use some or all of the sections, and feel free to add your own ideas to help bring the Gospel message alive.

We hope that you and the children in your care will enjoy using FaithMap.

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## Anglican

*FaithMap* follows the Catholic Lectionary. Often, the readings on which the text is based are the same as those given in the *Common Worship* lectionary. This list, therefore, only indexes those Sundays on which this happens. On occasions when the Catholic and *Common Worship* lectionaries do not match up, the user may wish to consider working from the Catholic provision for the day.

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# if earlier than the Second Sunday before Lent  
\* if after Trinity Sunday



# 1st Sunday of Advent

## 1. Introduction to the theme of the day

“Hold your heads high”

**Aim:** To reflect on the dignity and confidence our Christian heritage offers us.

**Leader's Reflection:** We all need new beginnings – and this time of year has no shortage. 1 November used to be the Celtic New Year (Samhain); this week is the beginning of the Church's liturgical year and in a few weeks we will have New Year's Day. If there are resolutions to be made, this would be a good time.

The Gospel speaks of very turbulent and frightening times but Jesus tells his disciples not to be afraid – to hold their heads high as the day of their liberation is at hand. They are to prepare to face him with confidence.

In a world where war and disaster seem often to hold sway, many people are searching for some meaning to life. As teachers, we take up the challenge laid before all Christians in the Vatican II document *Gaudium et Spes* (Joy and Hope), which says that “the future of humanity is in the hands of those who can hand on to posterity grounds for living and for hope”. It may seem a rather grandiose claim for what we do but it is good to set our work in the context of the mission of the Church occasionally and to remind ourselves of the reality that, though it seems small and insignificant, our work is indispensable in passing the Good News on to a new generation.

## 2. We arrive

We sit in a circle ready to listen to the Gospel.

### Focus

Purple cloth, Advent wreath.

Gospel: Luke 21:25-28, 34-36 (Catholic)  
Luke 21:25-36 (Anglican)

Read from the Lectionary or Children's Lectionary.

## 3. We respond

What is the Gospel asking of us?

Choose the discussion ideas, story and activity most suitable for your group. Work in age groups if appropriate then come together to end the session.





## Young ones

### Story: David finds the answer

David dreaded going into school the next day. Dad said he understood, but that David still had to go – and the sooner he faced everyone the better. The problem was that David had started to wear glasses and he was worried he was going to get teased about it. He was already teased a lot and he saw his new glasses as another excuse.

Before David went to sleep that night, he and Dad had one of their “special talks”. David liked these times – Dad really understood what it felt like and gave him tips about what to do.

“The main thing,” Dad said, “is not to let them know you’re upset. I know it’s hard when you just want to punch them on the nose – but it’s the best way in the long run. Let’s think of something you could think of if it happens...”

So David and his dad came up with all sorts of ideas. Some were sensible but, as so often when David and Dad started, they got sillier and sillier and soon they were crying with laughter.

“This won’t do,” chuckled Dad as he dried his eyes. “You’ll never get to sleep at this rate!”

He kissed David and said, “You’ll be OK, son. You’re a lot cleverer than those bullies.”

The next day, it was just as David had expected – the usual gang started on him. He resisted the temptation to punch the leader on the nose but just said, “You’re only jealous because my glasses have X-ray vision!”

There was a pause – and David said, “If you want to know...” He looked at his classroom which had its blinds down. “At this very moment, Miss Wilson is setting up a science experiment about light.”

The other people looked at each other and then the bell went and they went into class.

When they walked into their classroom, Miss Wilson smiled and said, “I thought we’d start with Science – hopefully, our light experiments will work today.”

Everyone stared at David. A few people grinned and winked at him. They had remembered – like David – that Miss Wilson had said they would try the experiments again on a dull day. But the bullies had been too busy messing about to remember. And no one was going to tell them!

Invite the children to respond – how was David brave? What was good about his solution?

## Juniors

### Story: From the life of Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, born in 1906, trained to become a church minister. Pastor Bonhoeffer encouraged and helped the Christians of Germany to live by God’s law of love, not by the ideas of the Nazi movement. He escaped from Nazi Germany and planned to continue to study and teach theology in New York. It took him less than a month to change his mind and go straight back to Germany. He said, “I have had time to think and to pray about my situation, and that of my nation, and to have God’s will for me made clearer. I shall have no right to help to rebuild Christian life in Germany after the war if I don’t share in the trials of this time with my people. Christians in Germany face the terrible choice. Should they want Germany to lose the war so that civilisation can survive? Or should they want Germany to win and risk the world becoming a dark place? I know which I must choose. But I cannot make that choice while I’m safe in America.”

Dietrich became active in helping Jews to escape to Switzerland but then became involved in a plot to kill Hitler.

He was captured and sentenced to death but continued his pastoral work among the prisoners and guards and wrote letters to his family and friends.

On 9 April 1945, the day set for his execution, the prison doctor saw him in his cell and said later: “I saw Pastor Bonhoeffer in his prison clothes, kneeling in prayer. He was so sure that God was listening to him that I found myself deeply moved.”

Dietrich was only 39 but went calmly to his death with his head held high. He knew that his death was God’s way of liberating him and was unafraid.

Later that month, Hitler, afraid of the Allied troops advancing on Berlin, committed suicide.

Invite the children to respond to the story. Who was the hero? What did Dietrich do to witness to his faith? Do the children think that Dietrich felt brave all the time? What helped to give him courage?



## 4. Activity

### Young ones

Use the template of Luke. The children can colour him in as you fill in the background that Luke was probably a doctor, he is the Gospel writer who tells us most about the birth of Jesus, his symbol is the ox. They can copy his name onto the book or use the idea for children with learning difficulties.

### Juniors

Use the template of Luke. The children colour him in and on the book write Luke, our Gospel writer for Year C. Talk to them about Luke as with the younger children – with perhaps more detail: Luke tells us about the Annunciation, the birth of John the Baptist, the birth of Jesus, the visit of the shepherds, Jesus being presented in the Temple.

### Tips for learning difficulties

Use the template of Luke and have the children colour him in. Have the letters of his name cut out in shiny paper and help them to stick them in the right order onto his book.

## 5. We come together

Parents can be invited to join in at this stage.

### Focus

Invite everyone to become still and to look at the Advent wreath. Light the first candle. Remind everyone about the special time of year.

### Gospel

In the Gospel, Jesus warns us that there will be times when we will be afraid and wonder what is going on in the world. He tells us, though, not to give in to fear but to hold our heads high so that, when the time comes, we can stand before him with confidence.

### Prayer

As we light our first Advent candle  
we remember that Jesus asks us to be strong and confident  
in his love.

We ask Jesus to help us when we feel afraid,  
to help us to hold our heads high.

Amen.

### Share

In the session today, we have heard stories about two different people who were brave in very different ways. Invite the children to tell everyone about David and Dietrich Bonhoeffer, their predicaments and how they dealt with them.

We also learned that we are starting a new liturgical year. It is called Year C and our Gospel writer is going to be St Luke.

### Sing

“Christmas is coming, the Church is glad to sing”

“All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God  
(change to ‘shall see’)”

“Wake up, O people, the Lord is very near!”

