The Readings for the Sundays of Advent

The following are summaries of all the readings and Psalms for Advent and Christmas as they appear in the Lectionary for Masses with Children.

Advent - Sunday 1

First reading: Isaiah 2:1-5
Isaiah describes his vision of a time when people turn their lives over to God and the whole world is renewed by God’s wisdom. God’s wisdom teaches us to live in peace with each other. This is what Isaiah means when he encourages us to live in God’s light.

Responsorial Psalm 122:1-2, 8-9
In this Psalm, we sing because we are happy to live peaceful and generous lives.

Second Reading: Romans 13:11-13a
St Paul advises his friends to live properly. He says that bad behaviour is like living in the dark and living a good life is like waking up and living in the light.

Gospel: Matthew 24:37-44
Jesus advises his friends and helpers to be ready everyday for the end of time. The end of time is when Jesus will return and when the whole world will be renewed by God’s wisdom. Then, if we have lived good lives, we will live in God’s light.

Advent - Sunday 2

First reading: Isaiah 11:1-4a, 5-6, 9b
In this reading, Isaiah describes how God will renew the whole world. God will send a wise and kind king, from the family of King David, to rule over the world. Then the whole of creation will live in peace.

Responsorial Psalm 72:1-8,17
In this Psalm, we sing about the wise and kind king sent by God.

Second Reading: Romans 15:4-6
St Paul tells his friends to live by the advice in scripture, which encourages us to live peacefully with one another.

Gospel: Matthew 3:1-9,11
John the Baptist had a special role in God’s plan. John’s job was to remind people to prepare for the time when the world would be renewed by God. He said that the whole of creation would become ‘the Kingdom of heaven’ and that if we want to live in God’s Kingdom, we have to be sorry for our sins and live good lives. He also said that God would send a special person to start the renewal process. Later he realised that Jesus was that special person.
Advent - Sunday 3

First reading: Isaiah 35:1-2, 5-6ab,10
Isaiah describes what life will be like when God renews creation – there will be no sickness, poverty, or injustice and all things will be fruitful and beautiful. Life will be good and people will be happy.

Responsorial Psalm 146:6d-7ab, 7c-8abc, 10
In this Psalm we cry out to God to save us. We know that our God is just and loving.

Second Reading: James 5:7-10
James encourages his friends to live good lives and to be patient while they wait and prepare for the Kingdom of God.

Gospel: Matthew 11:2-11
In this story, John the Baptist asks Jesus if he is the special person sent by God to bring about the ‘Kingdom of heaven.’ Jesus says yes, and he proves it by pointing to all the signs of the Kingdom around him. During his time on earth Jesus cured the sick, he raised the dead to life and he was kind to the poor. Jesus says that in God’s Kingdom there will be no more sickness, death or poverty.

Advent - Sunday 4

First reading: Romans 1:2-4
St Paul assures his friends that Jesus is the one whom God has sent, from the family of King David, to bring about God’s Kingdom.

Responsorial Psalm 24:1-2,3-4abc
In this Psalm we sing about how wonderful God is and how happy we are about the reign of God over all creation.

Gospel: Matthew 1:18-24
This gospel story describes how Jesus, born to Mary and Joseph, is the one sent by God to bring about the Kingdom of Heaven. In this story, Joseph shows that he is good and kind. An angel explains God’s plan to Joseph in a dream. Joseph believes what the angel tells him, that the child was given to Mary by God’s Spirit. Joseph loves Mary and marries her and he knows that this is all part of God’s plan.
Christmas Day

First Reading: Isaiah 9:2-4, 6-7
Isaiah describes how God sends the chosen one as a child who is like a bright light.

Responsorial Psalm: 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 11-12a
In the Psalm we sing a new song of joy because Jesus is born today.

Second Reading: Titus 3:4-6
St Paul says that God has washed us through the Holy Spirit and given us a new beginning through Jesus.

Luke’s gospel tells the story of the birth of God’s chosen one from the family of King David. Jesus was born in a manger in Bethlehem, just as God promised. The shepherds saw a bright light which told them that something wonderful had happened. Then they saw angels, who gave them a message from heaven. Their message was a blessing of peace!