



THE CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF
ARUNDEL & BRIGHTON

MAKING A JESSE TREE



Grow in faith with your family as you make and learn this Advent

Making a decorated Jesse tree is a wonderful way for families to explore the season of Advent and the people, prophecies, and events leading up to the birth of Jesus at Christmas.



Have you heard of the Jesse tree?

The Jesse tree represents **Jesus' family tree**. The name is taken from Isaiah 11:1, in which Jesus is referred to as a shoot coming up from the **stump of Jesse**, the father of King David.

Roots are a very important part of any tree, they're what gives the tree its **strength and its life**. As people, we need to know our roots. It is part of what makes us who we are. It is important that we take time to think about where we have come from, so we can decide where we are going.

MAKING A JESSE TREE AT HOME

Things you will need:

Colouring crayons, pens, or pencils

Ribbon or string

Scissors and glue (with adult supervision)

A Christmas tree, large branch or large potted plant

Take a large branch or a Christmas tree and secure it in a pot of sand or stones - you can use a large potted plant, if you have one.

You will be making decorations for the Jesse tree. These ornaments represent stories from the Bible and are very important. You can create your own ornaments or use the templates we have provided, gluing them on to cardboard and colouring them in with your children.



Spend time with God, together as a family

There are lots of wonderful things you can do as a family while creating your tree.

You can **listen to Bible stories** together as you colour and craft your Jesse tree ornaments or spend this special time together **talking about the important events** that led to the birth of God's only begotten Son, Jesus.

You may want to hang a decoration on the tree **every other day of Advent**, reading the scripture stories on the next page with your children as each ornament is placed on the tree.



THE STORIES BEHIND THE ORNAMENTS



Adam and Eve

The symbol for Adam and Eve is the apple

'So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.' - **Genesis 3:6-7**



Noah

Noah's symbol is an ark or a rainbow.

'Now the earth was corrupt in God's sight, and the earth was filled with violence. And God saw that the earth was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted its ways upon the earth. And God said to Noah, 'I have determined to make an end of all flesh, for the earth is filled with violence because of them; now I am going to destroy them along with the earth. Make yourself an Ark of cypress wood; make rooms in the Ark and cover it inside and out with pitch.' - **Genesis 6:11-14**



Abraham

The symbol for Abraham is a knife

'When they came to the place that God had shown him, Abraham built an altar there and laid the wood in order. He bound his son Isaac, and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to kill his son. But the Angel of the Lord called to him from heaven, and said, 'Abraham, Abraham!' And he said, 'Here I am.' He said, 'Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me.' - **Genesis 22:9-12**



Isaac

The symbol for Isaac is a ram.

'And Abraham looked up and saw a ram, caught in a thicket by its horns. Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son. So, Abraham called that place 'The Lord will provide'; as it is said to this day, 'On the mount of the Lord it shall be provided.' - **Genesis 22:13-14**

THE STORIES BEHIND THE ORNAMENTS



Jacob

Jacob's symbol is a ladder.

'And he dreamed that there was a ladder set up on the earth, the top of it reaching to heaven; and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. And the Lord stood beside him and said, 'I am the Lord, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring; and your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south; and all the families of the earth shall be blessed in you and in your offspring.' - **Genesis 28:12-14**



Joseph

Joseph's symbol is a colourful coat.

'Now Israel loved Joseph more than any of his other sons, because he had been born to him in his old age; and he made an ornate robe for him. When his brothers saw that their father loved him more than any of them, they hated him and could not speak a kind word to him.' - **Genesis 37:3-4**



Moses

The symbol for Moses are the tablets of the law.

'When God finished speaking with Moses on Mount Sinai, he gave him the two tablets of the covenant, tablets of stone, written with the finger of God.' - **Exodus 31:18**



David

The symbol for David is a harp.

'So, Saul said to his servants, 'Provide for me someone who can play well, and bring him to me.' One of the young men answered, 'I have seen a son of Jesse the Bethlehemite who is skilful in playing, a man of valour, a warrior, prudent in speech, and a man of good presence; and the Lord is with him.' So, Saul sent messengers to Jesse, and said, 'Send me your son David who is with the sheep.' - **1 Samuel 16:17-19**



Isaiah

Isaiah's symbols are a lion and a lamb.

'Hear the word of the Lord, you rulers of Sodom! Listen to the teaching of our God, you people of Gomorrah! What to me is the multitude of your sacrifices?' says the Lord; I have had enough of burnt offerings of rams and the fat of fed beasts; I do not delight in the blood of bulls, or of lambs, or of goats.'

- **Isaiah 10:10-11**



Mary

Mary's symbol is a lily.

'In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.'

- **Luke 1:26-28**



Elizabeth

Elizabeth's symbol is a small house.

'In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, 'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leapt for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.'

- **Luke 1 39-45**



Joseph

Joseph's symbol is a hammer.

'Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.'

- **Matthew 1:18-21**



