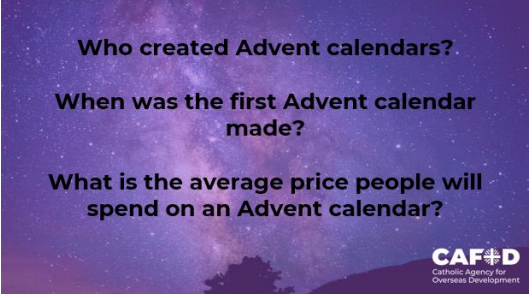





Advent Assembly 2024 Script

Themes: Advent, World Gifts, CAFOD partner stories

Time:

Learning outcomes: That a better world needs all of us, and by working together/fundraising for World Gifts with CAFOD, we can all help to transform lives...

 <p>Who created Advent calendars?</p> <p>When was the first Advent calendar made?</p> <p>What is the average price people will spend on an Advent calendar?</p> <p>CAFOD Catholic Agency for Overseas Development</p>	<p>Optional opener: Advent calendar questions</p>
 <p>CAFOD Catholic Agency for Overseas Development</p> <p>Advent Assembly 2024</p>	<p>Hello and welcome to the CAFOD Advent assembly for 2024. CAFOD is the Catholic Agency for Overseas Development and we work with communities all over the world for an to end to extreme poverty and global injustice. We are an NGO which means a non-governmental organization – we work independently of the government.</p>
 <p>There are so many different types of Advent calendars now!</p> <p>Protein bars Stationery Perfume Highland cow Christmas ornaments Rubber ducks Nail varnish Instant noodles</p> <p>CAFOD Catholic Agency for Overseas Development</p>	<p>They are making so many Advent calendars these days!</p> <p>Stationery Perfume Nail varnish Rubber ducks Highland cows Protein bars Instant noodles....</p>
 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advent calendars were first used by Germans and were used as part of Christian devotionals. • Cadbury's made their first chocolate Advent Calendar in 1971. • 51% of UK parents or guardians buy an Advent calendar for someone else... • 48% of UK adults will spend £5 or less on an Advent calendar <p>CAFOD Catholic Agency for Overseas Development</p>	<p>Here are some of the answers to the questions we had as you walked in.</p>
	<p>Well, in the CAFOD Advent calendar we've been opening up the stories that are behind</p>

Well... in the CAFOD Secondary Advent calendar we've been opening up the stories that are behind every World Gift.



Daniel, Dodo, Maria and Steve, Raissa, Bernadette, Yuliia, Sally, Agnjetschka and Anna and Orest all have been involved with projects that are supported through World Gifts.

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every World Gift. World Gifts are virtual charity gifts.

Daniel, Dodo, Maria and Steve, Raissa, Bernadette, Yuliia, Sally, Agnjetschka and Anna and Orest all have been involved with projects that are supported through World Gifts.

Advent is about waiting expectantly. It's meant to be a period where we slow down and wait expectantly for Jesus' return.



We don't much like waiting in the modern world but by taking time we start to see the whole world in a new way, and we can know our friends and family in a much deeper way.

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The determination of Daniel in the DRC woodworking project



The commitment of Sally in Lebanon in peacebuilding projects



We see...

The resilience of Agnjetschka in Poland in running soup kitchens



The wisdom of Yuliia in Ukraine in speaking about peace



The gratitude of Dodo in the DRC in the sewing project

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We see

- The determination of Daniel in the DRC woodworking project
- The commitment of Sally in Lebanon in peacebuilding projects
- The resilience of Agnjetschka in Poland in running soup kitchens
- The wisdom of Yuliia in Ukraine in speaking about peace
- The gratitude of Dodo in the DRC in the sewing project

And we experience...

the joy of working together

the kindness of others

the depths of peace

the justice in equality

the faithfulness of friends

the hope of a better world

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And we experience...

- The joy of working together
- The kindness of others
- The depths of peace
- The justice in equality
- The faithfulness of friends
- The hope of a better world

And we reflect on Jesus...

the Good Shepherd

the Prince of Peace

Emmanuel

the Wonderful Counsellor

the King of kings

and Light of the World

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And we reflect on Jesus

- The Good Shepherd
- The Prince of Peace
- Emmanuel
- The Wonderful Counsellor
- The King of kings
- The Light of the World

This is Yuliia. She lives in Ukraine. Yuliia wants to be a baker when she's older and enjoys making pastries with her Mum and Grandmother.



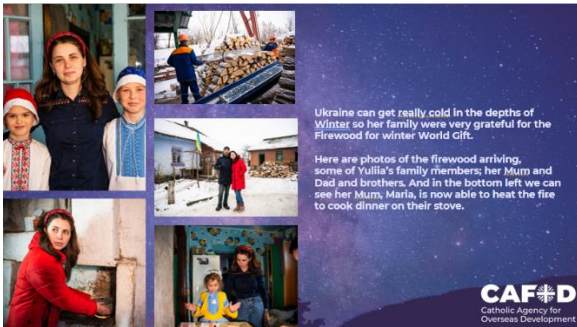
This is Yuliia. She lives in Ukraine. Yuliia wants to be a baker when she's older and enjoys making pastries with her Mum and Grandmother. Yuliia was evacuated two years ago with her family along a Red Cross route. The family left their beloved home and made a traumatic journey to where they live today in a village in another part of the country. "My dream," she says, "is to have peace over our heads."

What can Yuliia teach us?

Yuliia in Ukraine. You can support children around the world through our Therapy through play World Gift.



Yuliia was evacuated two years ago with her family along a Red Cross route. The family left their beloved home and made a traumatic journey to where they live today in a village in another part of the country. "My dream," she says, "is to have peace over our heads." What can Yuliia teach us?

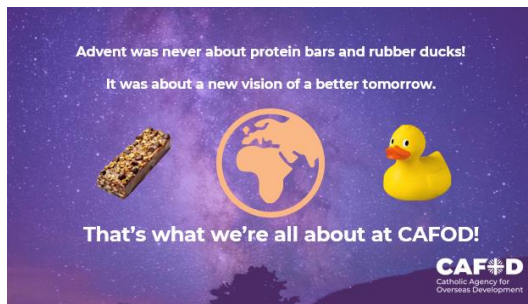


Ukraine can get really cold in the depths of Winter so her family were very grateful for the Firewood for winter World Gift.

Here are photos of the firewood arriving, some of Yuliia's family members; her Mum and Dad and brothers. And in the bottom left we can see her Mum, Maria, is now able to heat the fire to cook dinner on their stove.



Ukraine can get really cold in the depths of Winter so her family were very grateful for the Firewood for winter World Gift. Here are photos of the firewood arriving, some of Yuliia's family members; her Mum and Dad and brothers. And in the bottom left we can see her Mum, Maria, is now able to heat the fire to cook dinner on their stove.



Advent was never about protein bars and rubber ducks! It was about a new vision of a better tomorrow. **That's what we're all about at CAFOD!**



We campaign for seed sovereignty for people like Selina in Bangladesh.

We promote peace for example by supporting groups for children in Gaza

We advocate for fair finance through policy papers that we give to the government

That's why we have World Gifts! Your school can celebrate Christmas altogether



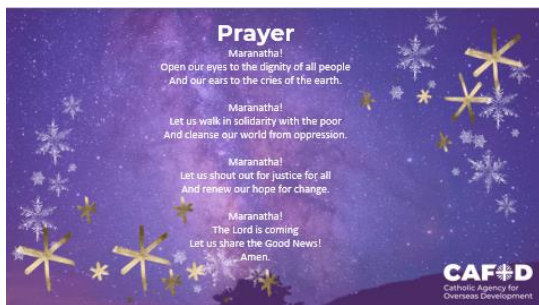
and help transform the lives of families and communities living in poverty.

Our special Christmas stockings are full of gifts to help refugee families and vulnerable people living through harsh winters.

For £100 your school could provide a stocking full of these life changing gifts. Perhaps you could raise money for a Christmas stocking during your nativity play or carol concert?

Promoting peace can provide peace-building workshops for refugees and local communities. The Winter survival kit can provide much-needed cash for families living in rural communities to buy items such as warm clothing, blankets and food ready for winter. And as you have heard about Yulia really benefitted from the firewood for winter. This gift can provide firewood for a vulnerable family to survive the harsh winter.

In the season of Advent, and through the Advent calendar we trace the Christmas story from the very beginning. And just like Mary, Joseph and Jesus... we still trace stories. Stories of hope, joy, peace, patience and kindness.



Maranatha!
Open our eyes to the dignity of all people
And our ears to the cries of the earth.

Maranatha!
Let us walk in solidarity with the poor
And cleanse our world from oppression.

Maranatha!
Let us shout out for justice for all
And renew our hope for change.

Maranatha!
The Lord is coming
Let us share the Good News!
Amen.



Happy Christmas from everyone at CAFOD.
Thankyou for supporting World Gifts this Christmas time.

Have a blessed Christmas holiday.