





AID TO THE CHURCH IN NEED: Make Room This Advent



NOTES AND SCRIPT FOR SESSION 1/ASSEMBLY AND PRESENTATION
(Ideally for an assembly or pre-planned presentation to a group)

PART 1: 5 minutes

-  **AIM:** To set the scene
-  **TONE:** Humorous
-  **YOU WILL NEED:** 1 reader and 2 actors
(can be staff/leaders or young people)
-  You might choose to play Christmas music



ACTION:

ACTOR 1: Clipboard or tablet in hand. Looking pleased. Puts board down and finishes putting bow on present.

NARRATOR: At exactly 8.30 a.m. on Sunday the 27th of November, the first Sunday of Advent, (name - e.g Olivia) had crossed off five of the following tasks from her to-do list.



Make room on bookshelves in bedroom for mini-Christmas tree and decorations



Ensure Christmas wish list is up to date



Make breakfast for parents so they have no excuse not to get the decorations down from the loft



Put Advent calendar on the wall



Write Christmas cards with personalised messages



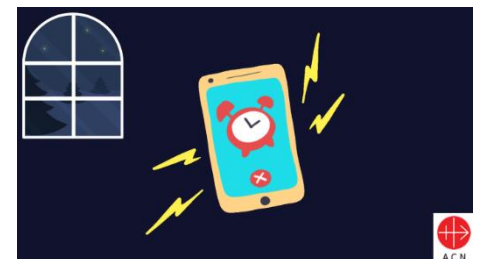
Presents wrapped

ACTOR 1: "I love colour-coordinating my presents. My theme this year is Scandi-Christmas-Chic."



ACTOR 2:

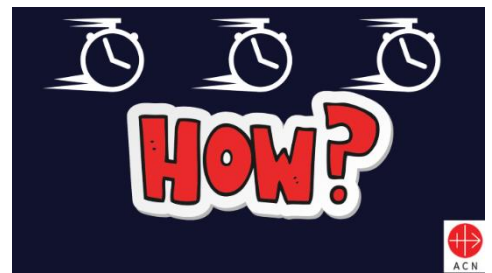
ACTION: Lying on floor (or sitting on chair looking asleep). Sits bolt upright as if in a panic.



NARRATOR: At exactly 8.30 a.m. on Saturday the 24th of December, (name - e.g. Oliver) woke up to realise that it was already Christmas Eve.



How did *that* happen?



NARRATOR: He had a very reliable (so he thought) Christmas to-do list in his head, but the realisation was sinking in that today was going to be as last-minute as every other Christmas Eve.






ACTOR 2: "Ok, I've got this. A bit of shopping, help decorate the Christmas tree, send group messages to family and friends - who writes cards these days anyway? Wrap presents and be ready for Midnight Mass. Sorted."



NARRATOR: Some of us are more like Olivia, while others are more like Oliver. Most of us are somewhere in the middle. As we prepare for Christmas this Advent, let us think about the things we need to do; what we need to focus on. To focus, we need to make room - in our minds, hearts and lives.



PART 2: 10 minutes

-  **AIM: Explanation of campaign**
-  **TONE: Serious but hopeful**
-  **YOU WILL NEED: Three readers (or leader/staff member could summarise)**

<https://youtu.be/uzmRAagr3Zk>

Play video: This will provide a link between Part 1 & Part 2:
'MAKE ROOM THIS ADVENT'



READER 1:

This Advent we (name school/parish/youth group) are delighted to be joining the charity Aid to the Church in Need (ACN) with their 'Make Room at Advent' campaign.

We will be thinking of, praying for and making room in our busy schedules for the people in our lives and people in Ukraine, Lebanon and Syria who are being helped by ACN.



READER 2:

Why is it about 'Making Room'?

Luke 2:4-7

So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be



born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

READER 3:

As we think about the fact that there was no room for Jesus, we are challenged when we remember that there is no room for millions of God’s children today.

We are going to be focusing on:

READER 1:

Making room for God

READER 2:



Making room for others: close to home – our families and friends

READER 3:

Making room for others: far away, in Lebanon, Syria and Ukraine



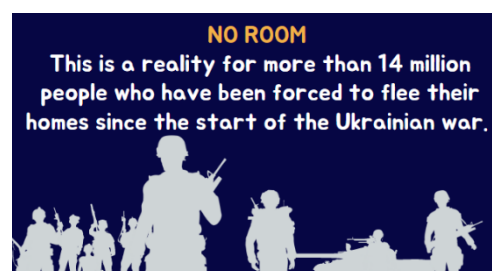
PART 3 – 10 minutes

-  **AIM: To give examples of the people who need help and to inspire young people to get behind the campaign**
-  **TONE: Serious and empathetic**

READER 2:

Here are some examples of the people we can help:

In Ukraine, 14 million people have been forced to flee their homes since the start of the war. Aid to the Church in Need has been providing a lifeline for those who are suffering most. As of August 2022, ACN had provided £4.1 million in aid. This goes directly to those caring for the most in need. One Ukrainian Bishop called Bishop Ladislaw explained to ACN that the Church has opened the doors to those who have had to flee their homes - convents and monasteries are accommodating wave after wave of internal refugees and they are struggling to cope because there has been a drop in humanitarian aid coming from the international community.



READER 1:

With ACN, we want to make room for those refugees – just like the innkeeper did for Mary and Joseph when he let them stay in the stable. By raising donations for Aid to the Church in Need we will be helping those very people, and others. Can we, as a school community, make room in our lives to help?

Halyna, a displaced woman sheltering in the Monastery of the Exaltation of the Cross in Ukraine said: “We stayed for as long as we could but in the end, we had to leave because the bombing became too intense...”





Bishop Ladislaw has already expressed gratitude on behalf of the refugees. He said, “I would like to say thank you for all that you do.”











Over the coming few weeks we will be asking you to donate to the people of Lebanon and Ukraine. You will need to make room in your life as it will need time, energy and love.

(READERS 1, 2 & 3 COULD TAKE ONE OF THESE EACH IN TURN)

We're asking you to help:

-  hundreds of mentally and physically ill people
-  orphans
-  the elderly
-  those suffering with Alzheimer's disease

We're asking you to help make room for the most deprived communities who are struggling to survive

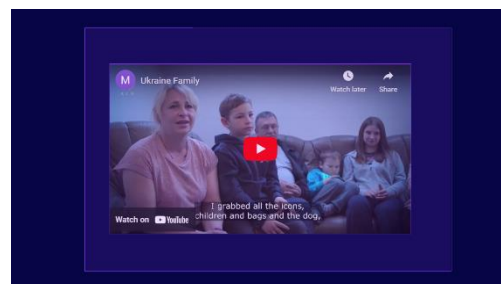
-  those who have been rejected by their families because of a disability
-  people who have spent their entire lives in hospitals
-  those with depression
-  or drug addiction
-  those with cancer who have no money for treatment
-  those suffering in the war in Ukraine
-  mothers who have no milk or nappies for their children
-  refugees who have no chance of buying presents for their children



By making room for them, by praying to God for them and by raising money for them.

Many of our own families are also struggling financially. This makes our gifts even more precious. We give what we can, we do what we can and we find that it really is in giving that we receive.

Video: <https://youtu.be/C2CLu2m1RxQ>



PART 4: 5 minutes (There are no slides for this part)

AIM: To show the link between prayer and action. To lead the young people into prayer.

TONE: Prayerful

We are also asking that you make room for God. Some of us reject God without ever having got to know him or given him any importance in our lives. We are inviting you to make room for Jesus, by praying for others, spending time in prayer yourself, reading the Bible, going to Mass and maybe even learning some new prayers. We will never know what it means to communicate with the creator of the universe until we make a decision for ourselves. Those of us who aren't Christian are invited to join in prayer too, by committing to go to the Mosque, Gurdwara, Temple, Synagogue or other place of prayer and to spend time using your own holy books and prayer guidance.

Lord, help me to make room for the people in my life. Enable me to remember that the person in front of me is the face of Jesus. Let me be a person who makes life easier for our families, friends and those we meet on a daily basis. Help me to take the focus off myself and increase my awareness of what others may be suffering. Let me understand that someone's life could be changed by an act of kindness that I give.

We pray for the people who need us in Ukraine, Syria and Lebanon. Let us make room in our minds really to hear their stories over the coming weeks and send us the Holy Spirit that we may be moved to help them practically and spiritually.

During this Advent, let me focus on what is really important. Help us as a school/parish/group community to make our mark on our world that needs people like us to make changes. Help me to remember that Jesus will come back to the Earth at the end of time and to use this Advent to prepare for eternity. May I accept his love in this present moment, and understand that this present moment is the only time I have to make the decision to love. Increase my faith, Lord, so that I may see that each day, the choices I make to love will affect eternity - and the love I offer others will never die. Amen."