

## Ideas for Living Joyfully: Forty Days of Celtic Advent & the Twelve Days of Christmas 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><i>Practice Grace. No need to do them all or every day. Let the Holy Spirit speak to your heart!</i></p> <p><i>Nativity journey – Place Mary and Joseph in one corner of the room; the wise men in another; the shepherds, another. Keep Jesus hidden. Set up the stable with animals, and enjoy helping each figure journey to Bethlehem.</i></p>				<p><b>November 15</b> Breathe and listen. How is God preparing you for Christ's birth?</p>	<p><b>16</b> Share an encouraging word with a friend in need</p>	<p><b>17</b> Enjoy your favourite photos, share them with a friend or family member and tell stories</p>
<p><b>18</b> Say Hi to a person standing on the fringes. <i>Move Mary &amp; Joseph closer.</i></p>	<p><b>19</b> Take a loved one on a walk, outside or down memory lane or both</p>	<p><b>20</b> Smile at people you see, whether you know them or not, and enjoy their smile!</p>	<p><b>21</b> List what you are thankful for, tell God, tell each other</p>	<p><b>22</b> <b>CS Lewis Day</b> Appreciate an animal companion today <b>Aslan Lives!!</b></p>	<p><b>23</b> Make a meal for someone in need or visit someone who is lonely</p>	<p><b>24</b> Give someone you love a long hug</p>
<p><b>25</b> Welcome a new person at church. <i>Move Mary &amp; Joseph closer</i></p>	<p><b>26</b> Read or Tell stories to loved ones</p>	<p><b>27</b> Turn off recorded music and sing some favorite songs with loved ones</p>	<p><b>28</b> Write a gratitude note to a family member or friend, hide it in their pocket or lunch</p>	<p><b>29</b> Call a friend &amp; tell them one thing you appreciate about them</p>	<p><b>30</b> Color a picture for a child in your life</p>	<p><b>December 1</b> Take a break from the internet and look out the window. Just look. What do you see?</p>
<p><b>2</b> Kneel down when you talk to a child <i>Four-week Advent begins</i></p>	<p><b>3</b> Take a friend to tea (or coffee), leave the smartphone in your bag</p>	<p><b>4</b> Play a game from childhood or with a little person in your life</p>	<p><b>5</b> Send a loved one on a treasure hunt Today. Give them clues &amp; giggle a lot</p>	<p><b>6</b> Say Hi to people behind the counters. Wish them a good day.</p>	<p><b>7</b> Notice the eye-color of people close to you and <b>marvel at beauty</b></p>	<p><b>8</b> Light candles for whatever place or situation breaks your heart</p>
<p><b>9</b> <i>Move the Wise Men closer.</i> What journey are you on?</p>	<p><b>10</b> Take a walk and enjoy the Christmas lights</p>	<p><b>11</b> Listen to and share some favourite music that makes you smile</p>	<p><b>12</b> Enjoy grilled cheese and tomato soup or another favorite comfort dish</p>	<p><b>13</b> Read a story out loud to your friend, child, parent, or spouse</p>	<p><b>14</b> Notice the really small things in life, like bugs or dust bunnies</p>	<p><b>15</b> Take a break from your smartphone and all screens this evening. Rediscover the world.</p>
<p><b>16</b> <b>Gaudete Sunday</b> Read Mary's Song: Luke 1:46-55. Light a pink candle for <b>JOY</b> <i>Move Mary &amp; Joseph closer.</i></p>	<p><b>17</b> <b>The "O" Antiphons: Wisdom (Isa. 11:2-3)</b> Who is a voice of wisdom in your life? Thank her or him.</p>	<p><b>18</b> <b>Lord (Isa 33:22)</b> Ask God how he wants to be the Lord of your life. Listen. <i>Move the Wise Men closer.</i></p>	<p><b>19</b> <b>Root of Jesse (Isa 11:10)</b> Write memories of God's faithfulness in your life on paper ornaments &amp; hang them on the tree.</p>	<p><b>20</b> <b>Key of David (Rev. 3:7)</b> What door of your life do you need God to open &amp; bring grace? God has the key to every door.</p>	<p><b>21</b> <b>Morning Star (Isa 9:2)</b> Pray for God's light to shine in a situation that is breaking your heart.</p>	<p><b>22</b> <b>King of Nations (Isa 9:6)</b> Listen to Handel's Messiah: "For Unto us a Child is Born" What does it mean to you for Christ to come again?</p>
<p><b>23</b> <b>Emmanuel (Isa 7:14)</b> How is God with you? How are you God's presence to others? <b>Sing "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" (all the verses!)</b></p>	<p><b>24</b> <b>Christmas Eve</b> Where have you experienced God's Joy this Advent? <i>Mary &amp; Joseph enter the stable.</i></p>	<p><b>25</b> Adopt someone who needs a family or be adopted if you need one. <i>Put Jesus in the Nativity; add the Shepherds, too</i></p>	<p><b>26</b> <b>The Twelve Days of Christmas Begins!</b> John 1:1-5 Genesis 1:3 <i>The Wise Men journey closer each day...</i></p>	<p><b>27</b> Psalm 139:11-12</p>	<p><b>28</b> <b>The Holy Innocents</b>  Pray for children around the world  Matt. 19:14</p>	<p><b>29</b> Isaiah 58:10</p>
<p><b>30</b> Isa 60:19</p>	<p><b>31</b> Ps 43:3</p>	<p><b>January 1</b> Matt 5:14-16</p>	<p><b>2</b> John 8:12</p>	<p><b>3</b> 1 Peter 2:9</p>	<p><b>4</b> <i>Romans 8</i></p>	<p><b>5</b> <b>Epiphany Eve</b> <b>Christ's revealing</b> <i>Luke 4:1-21</i> <i>Move the Wise Men to the stable.</i></p>

**January 6 – Epiphany** – Chalk your lintels and the lintels of friends' houses with the Epiphany blessing 20+C+M+B+19. CMB represents the names of the three wise men (Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar), and also the Latin phrase, *Christus Mansionem Benedicat* – Christ Bless this House!

**How we spend our days is how we spend our lives.** Annie Dillard

Calendar created with joy by Susan Forshey at [ContemplativeCottage.com](http://ContemplativeCottage.com). Please share freely.