

Story

Moooo! Hello, everyone. My name is Kawvaw Cow. Moo! Kawvaw means hope in Hebrew. The people who care for me named me Kawvaw because when life was difficult for them, I was given to them as a gift, and things began to change. See, we cows, we may be big, and slow – but we are smart, and caring and offer a lot to a family. Especially a family with children. Oh, I love children. I love their laughter, their games, I love how they pick flowers from the field and give them to me as a snack, or as a crown for my fur (to wear on my head). I love how thoughtful and kind children can be, as well as funny and brave. In fact, children remind me a lot of cows. Moooo!

So, what does a cow like me offer her people? Well, milk, of course! Did you know that milk is really important for growing? Especially growing minds? The fat in milk is exactly what we need to grow our large, smart brains. And our big strong bones! And our shiny white teeth. And a cow like me, we produce a lot of milk, much more than my family can drink themselves. So they are able to sell my milk, which helps them buy fruit and vegetables and other healthy food, as well as other things they might need.

What are your favourite foods that have milk in them? (Ice cream, cheese, yoghurt, etc.)

Moooo! Those are all delicious!

I hear that you are in the season of Advent right now. Do any of you know what Advent means? It means, "Arriving", and usually is about the arrival of someone very important.

Do you know who we are waiting for? Who we are waiting to be born?

Jesus, that's right!

We are waiting, in hope, for Jesus' birth. I'm going to tell you the beginning of the story. Once, many, many "moooooooooooo"ns ago, there was a young woman named Mary. She was a Jewish woman, living in a city called Nazareth. She was engaged to be married to Joseph. She was visited by the angel Gabriel, and was told, "Don't be afraid" – because seeing an angel can be pretty overwhelming – "You are going to have a baby, a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be Holy, and called the Son of God." Mary said, "Here I am, the servant of God. Let what you say be true." Then the angel left.

This is the beginning of the story – and it is a story that fills me with hope! It is about looking to the future, knowing that things are going to change. There's so much to hope because of this story.

Just as when I was a gift to my family, I filled them with hope for a better future, with lots of yummy milk and a good working farm. The promise of Jesus being born to Mary fills us all with hope for a better future. I hope each of you finds hope this Advent. Well, I mean, you've already found me, Kawvaw Cow, so you're well on your way to finding lots of hope this Advent! And I hope you can share hope with others. It is a simple gift, but it turns the world around. Mooooo!

Engage

- Kawvaw's name means hope. Do you know what hope is? What things make you feel hope?
- How many things have you eaten or drunk today that have milk in them? How would you feel if you couldn't eat or drink any of those things?
- Advent is all about waiting for the birth of Jesus. Waiting can be hard. Can you think of a time that you were hoping and waiting for something and it took a long time?
- How did it feel when the thing you were waiting for happened?