



**St. John the Baptist**  
Catholic Primary School

*We will prepare the way by loving, living and learning with the Lord*



"The word became a human being  
and, full of grace and truth, lived  
among us" John 1:14



**Newsletter**



**A  
Holy  
and Blessed  
Christmas**

This half term's virtues are:

Friday 17.12.21

*Learned*

**and**

*Wise*

## **Christmas Wishes from all at St John's!**

Well it's the time of year when Mrs Rodgers is allowed to go crazy with the Christmas themed clip art - as I'm sure you'll notice throughout this letter.

I'd like to take the opportunity, on behalf of everyone at St John's, to wish you all a very happy, holy and healthy Christmas and a wonderful new year.

Thinking ahead to January, it is highly unlikely that schools will be required to close nationally, even if any form of lockdown were to be reintroduced. There may be a very small possibility that an individual school would have to close due to staffing issues, if too many staff were absent because of illness however such a measure would be a complete last resort.

We fully expect to re-open to children, as usual, on Wednesday 5 January. If any changes to this intention do happen, we will contact you on Tuesday 4 January with an update.



### **Fourth Sunday of Advent**

This Sunday the final Advent candle will be lit, to mark the final week of prayer and penance as we wait for the birth of our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Let us meditate on the truths of Scripture and allow them to comfort our hearts this Advent season!

## **Midnight Mass - St Chad's Cathedral**



The first Mass of Christmas to be televised on the BBC this year will be broadcast from St Chad's Cathedral, our Diocesan Mother Church. Midnight Mass will be shown on BBC One with coverage starting at 11.45pm on Christmas Eve. You can find further information on the Birmingham Archdiocese website.



THE ARCHDIOCESE of BIRMINGHAM



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# Admissions Deadline - Reception

If you are a parent/carer of a nursery child please be reminded that the admission deadline for Reception is January 15th 2022. All applications must be completed via the SMBC online portal, which you can access by following the below link.

<https://www.solihull.gov.uk/Schools-and-learning/School-admissions>

An absolutely fantastic well done to all those children who received 100% attendance. Well done!

## Reception

Harry E

## Year 2

Lilly M

Taylor S

## Year 3

Harvey E

Kushal M

## Year 4

Toby B

Tyler-James c

Samuel O

Lincoln C

## Year 6

Logan B

Alissia M



# CAFOD - Advent Activity

## Fourth week of Advent

*"You are the most blessed of all women, and blessed is the child you will bear! Why should this great thing happen to me, that my Lord's mother comes to visit me?" Luke 1:42-43*

### Create your own bauble

The gospel this week reminds us of Mary and Elizabeth's love and joy at seeing one another. Write or draw on your bauble the names of those you love and who love you.

### Share the love

Just as Mary showed her love for her cousin Elizabeth by going to visit her, we can show our love for other people this Advent.

You could make and send a Christmas card for someone, go to visit someone who might be lonely, or phone someone you haven't spoken to in a while.

For a printable Christmas card to colour in go to [cafod.org.uk/childrensiturgy](http://cafod.org.uk/childrensiturgy)

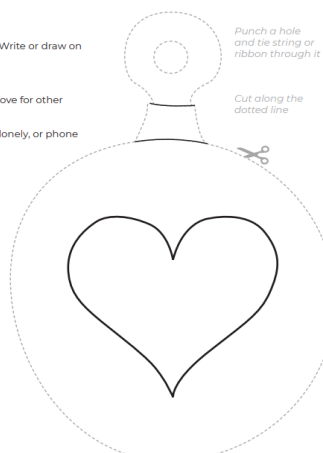
### Prayer

Light three purple candles and the pink candle on your Advent wreath this week and say this prayer together as a family:

God of love,  
Thank you for loving us  
and all the world.  
Hear our prayers of love:

(share your family's intentions)

Help us to share the love that  
we have found in you.  
Amen.



Punch a hole  
and tie string or  
ribbon through it

Cut along the  
dotted line

So here is our final Advent activity. We hope you enjoy completing the final activity and that they have all helped you reflect on Advent and what it means.



**CAFOD** Catholic Agency for Overseas Development

Charity no 160384 and a company limited by guarantee no 09387396



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# Excellent Work

This week's excellent work comes from Year 6 children, who created their own hymn about the coming of Christ.

O come O come Emmanuel

One day the Lord our Saviour saved us from the temptation of evil and sin. We can work together to stop the devils and claim our spot in heaven by proving ourselves. The birds and life on this earth is the right to save, not those who have harmed. Come come the Lord of night banish Satans power out of this World.

O come O come the light of the world!  
Save us from satanic wrath and  
open the gates of heaven.

O come O come Emmanuel Save us  
from being induced or being  
in very much danger and save  
us from being in harm and  
take care of us.

I came I came Emmanuel save us from  
temptation from evil. Jesus Christ our savior  
will fulfil our hearts from darkness.  
Christ our divine guardian defend us  
from Satan's wrath. Rejoice Rejoice:  
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

O come, O come, O Messias, light of the world. Baptize the innocent souls in lonely exile which mourn aching - Lamb of God take away the sins of the world. Have mercy on us. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel, shall come to thee O Israel.

O come, O come, Key of David, the  
door to shining light. Unlock the path  
to Heaven and lead us to God. Rejoice  
Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come O Israel.

O come, O come Messiah,  
Our gracious caretaker;  
Bring your presence and love,  
Take us wholly once like a new dove,  
Rejoice, Rejoice Messiah,  
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Dayspring, from up high,  
You view our reaching with your eagle eye.  
For you, we pray, joy,  
Belice! Belice! Dayspring,  
Shall come to thee. O Belice!

O come, O come, Rod of Jesse,  
thine I watch for ever.  
In this time, & hither to us,  
Rejoice! Rejoice, Rod of Jesse,  
shall come to thee O Israel.

O come, O come, Prince of  
Heaven, come down and  
save us from this terrible  
disease.

O come, O come, Healer of  
Earth, heal us in temptation  
and lead us out of the  
evil and strengthen us.

O come, O come, Rod of  
Jesse, we pray to you even  
though it may be hard,  
come to us and forgive  
our sins.

O come, O come, Lamb of  
Heaven, no matter what  
happens I will forgive you  
and you will forgive me.

O Come, O Come Thru Joy & David,  
We fast-worship and prepared,  
although he thinks we're thinkers we are  
dependent in all ways  
Even though Christmas is rising we will  
still be with the Lord's table all loved in  
the Father's heart we have to behave on  
Some of the <sup>Jesus</sup> Lord's Birthdays

O come, O come, Thou Dayspring,  
 The <sup>beginners</sup> ~~beginners~~ watch hereby, while the night still  
 waits; we offer thee and with God our  
 chosen Christ's mercy till His signs be  
 mostly done his Son's birthday with mankind  
 we should not blame <sup>people</sup> ~~people~~ hellen, to classify  
 this old time, we <sup>how</sup> ~~how~~ burn our candle for  
 our and his land as <sup>new</sup> ~~new~~ light.

○ Come, O come. The hour is mighty, we  
have to be clever to be bold, surely, that we  
cannot get our vision on Easter Sunday. We have  
to convince the people who still believe in Communist  
baiting the extraordinary legacy.

O come a crow thou key off Devils  
 with ~~the~~ warty and pomegranates,  
 although he thinks with traitors we are  
 dependent in all ways  
 even though Christmas is missing we will  
 still be with the lord we are based in the  
 southern heavy we have to believe on Jesus  
 birthday.

2 Come, O Come, Thou Day-Spring  
The beginners watch everyday while the  
old still wait, we suffer, bowed and win  
some who choose Christ, many who resist but  
God mostly saves his sons birthday with men kind  
we should not blame people's beliefs to classify  
that all take us to know and clap for  
our God, the longest holy night.

○ Convince - The heart of night, we have to be closer to be. I wish every Christian had committed for our sins on Easter Sunday, we have to convince the people who don't believe to cooperate by testing the Creator's will.

# KS2 Virtual Christmas Performance

KS2 children have created and delivered a wonderful Christmas performance, parents/carers will be able to view the performance virtually via a school link on YouTube, we will be uploading the link via Class Dojo so please keep a look out!





# Christmas Mass Schedule

Times of Holy Mass and Liturgies, at Mother of God and Guardian Angels				
Saturday	18 <sup>th</sup>	6.00 pm	Vigil Mass of Sunday	Francis Harris (INT)
Sunday	19 <sup>th</sup>	9.45 am	Fourth Sunday of Advent	Michael Nicholson (RIP)
Monday	20 <sup>th</sup>	9..30am	Advent Feria	Maurizio & Teresa Bonaccorsi (RIP)
Tuesday	21 <sup>st</sup>	9.30 am	Advent Feria	Michael Maddon (RIP)
Wednesday	22 <sup>nd</sup>	9.30 am	Advent Feria	Gabriel Fox (RIP)
Thursday	23 <sup>rd</sup>	9.30 am	Advent Feria	Faustina Thomas (RIP)
Friday	24 <sup>th</sup>	6.00 pm	Christmas Eve Vigil Mass	Deceased members of Wilson & Stokes Family (RIP)
Saturday	25 <sup>th</sup>	* 12.00 midnight	Solemnity of The Nativity of The Lord	Nancy Darby (RIP)
		9.45 am		Geraldine Delaney (RIP)
Sunday	26 <sup>th</sup>	9.45 am	Feast of The Holy Family	People of The Parish
* may need to be cancelled if emergency call to Hospital				
Times of Holy Mass and Liturgies, at St. John the Baptist				
Sunday	19 <sup>th</sup>	12.00 midday	Fourth Sunday of Advent	People of The Parish
Tuesday	21 <sup>st</sup>	11.30 am	Advent Feria	Private Intention
Saturday	25 <sup>th</sup>	12.00 midday	Solemnity of The Nativity of The Lord	Helen Sheehan RIP
Sunday	26 <sup>th</sup>	12.00 midday	Feast of The Holy Family	Elizabeth Coleman (INT)

**Confessions at both Mother of God & Guardian Angels and St. John's are on request**

**Please pray for all those Parishioners who are sick and for their Carers, & for all those who have the Virus & their Carers**

Eileen Dalton, Robert and Annie McEvoy, Jeanne Love, Hugh Gilligan, Ruth Morris, Ann Oliver and Frances Harris.

**Please keep in your pavers those who have died recently:**

Helen Sheehan, Rose Patterson and Mair McKeown. May they rest in peace.

**and those whose anniversaries will occur during this coming week.**

***The Collection at the Christmas Masses will be for any Christmas Offering you may wish to make to Father Michael***  
***Father Michael wishes you all a happy and Holy Christmas***  
***and a happy and healthy New Year***



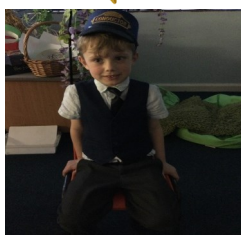
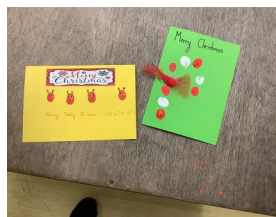
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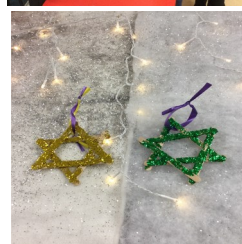
# Christmas Fun!

EYFS have had lots of fun preparing for Christmas. We delivered Christmas decorations and chocolates to some of our MAC family schools on Monday.

We made some very beautiful Christmas cards for our families and we enjoyed watching the Cinderella pantomime!



This week, Year 1 have enjoyed watching the Santa Live Panto, Cinderella Panto and the Polar Express film while munching through popcorn and other refreshments. Thank you Jacob for being our Ticket Conductor for the Polar Express.



The children created some lovely Christmas tree stars and split pin Santa's to take home.

On Thursday, we had a lovely Christmas party with lots of music, singing, games and food to enjoy.

Year 1 would like to wish everybody a wonderful and safe Christmas 😊

Year 2 children had a blast playing musical chairs and enjoyed their Christmas party!



Year 4 children have enjoyed all the Christmas festivities, they had lots of fun cracking open their Christmas piñata and showed true Christmas spirit by raising funds for CAFOD.



In Year 5 we have had a busy week. We enjoyed lots of singing of our favourite Christmas carols (watch out on YouTube) and we have made some Santa-style Christmas cards. The panto (on-line) was great and our party on Thursday was fun - and very loud at times. Today we are enjoying wearing our Christmas jumpers.



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**JOY**  
to the world

## Dates for your Diary

**Wednesday 5th January 2022**

8.55am - Children return to school

**Wednesday 19th January 2022**

9.15am - Reception & Year 6 NCP checks

**Friday 18th February 2022**

2.00pm - Break up for February Half-Term

**Tuesday 1st March 2022**

8.55am - Children return to school

**Friday 8th April 2022**

2.00pm - Break up for Easter Holiday

**Monday 25th April 2022**

8.55am - Children return to school

### Inset Days

**Tuesday 4th January 2022**

All day - Inset Day

**Monday 28th February 2022**

All day - Inset Day

**Monday 6th June 2022**

All day - Inset Day

Online safety hero says...



*Before you give a device as a Christmas present make sure you set it up first. Switch on parental controls and make sure the apps and games are suitable for the age of your child*

*#staysafethischristmas*

*#parentalcontrols*



## Sports Star of the Week



This week's Sports Star of the Week is De'On M in Year 4 for a great term in PE all round.



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## STARS OF THE WEEK!

Congratulations to

Lizzy-Shay B-H

in Reception

and Amelia E

in Year 5

We're all really proud of you

This week's virtues awards were given to

Willow T

Ashton B

Kane S

Ryan M

Conal S

Reception

Year 1

Year 2

Year 3

Year 6

For being Learned and Wise.

### Attendance



Our school strives for 100% attendance. This week the class with the highest attendance was Year 3 with 94.3% *Well done!*

### Ready to learn Award



Congratulations, our most punctual class this week was Nursery and Year 6.

### Birthdays



Happy birthday this week to: Brogan W, Paisley McK, Baylie K, Kalem M-W, Jacob N and Ryah McN.

We would also like to wish happy birthday to those children who celebrate their birthday during the Christmas holiday: Sophie H, Saffire M, Abigail M, Joshua C, Jack L, Carter H-B, Ruairi T, Nj L, Scarlett M-P and Briana McC.



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## Fourth Sunday of Advent

*Caring God, Elizabeth was filled with joy when she saw Mary and knew how special her baby would be. May all parents and their babies around the world have the chance to live healthy and happy lives, with hope for the future.*

In Sunday's gospel, we hear how cousins Mary and Elizabeth rejoiced when they saw each other and how Elizabeth knew straight away that Mary's baby was very special.

**Gospel:** Luke 1:39-45

*Soon afterwards Mary got ready and hurried off to a town in the hill country of Judea. She went into Zechariah's house and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby moved within her. Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and said in a loud voice, "You are the most blessed of all women, and blessed is the child you will bear! Why should this great thing happen to me, that my Lord's mother comes to visit me? For as soon as I heard your greeting, the baby within me jumped with gladness. How happy you are to believe that the Lord's message to you will come true!"*

While Mary was pregnant with Jesus, she went to visit her cousin Elizabeth who was also expecting a baby. As soon as Elizabeth saw Mary she was filled with joy as she recognised that Mary's baby would be the Son of God.



God loves us all, even the tiniest baby. Let us remember God's love for us, and for all people, and think about how we can show love to others in this coming week.



What will you do this week to show love for others?

*God of all, fill us with joy at the coming of your Son, as Mary and Elizabeth were filled with joy. Help us to spread your love by caring for all our brothers and sisters around the world. Amen*

*Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year*