

Monday 2 December 2019.

Today is the first weekday of Advent which is a time when we prepare for the Birth of Jesus. This was a birth which had been long foretold. When the time in history had arrived God sent the Angel Gabriel to a young girl in Nazareth.

'God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favoured! The Lord is with you."

Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favour with God. You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. '

Let us pray to Mary, the mother of Jesus that she will be with us in our preparations for the Birth of her Son.

Hail Mary.....

Tuesday 3 December 2019.

The word "advent," from the Latin *adventus*, means "coming" or "arrival." The season of Advent is focused on the "coming" of Jesus as Messiah (Christ or King). Our worship, scripture readings, and prayers not only prepare us spiritually for Christmas (his first coming), but also for his eventual Second Coming. This is why the Scripture readings during Advent include both Old Testament passages related to the expected Messiah, and New Testament passages concerning Jesus' Second Coming as judge of all people.

The word Messiah means 'annointed one', one who is called by God to do a special task. Each of us are called by God and today we pray for those being called by God to a life as priest. We pray that our Catholic Community and indeed our school will continue to provide us with priests to bring us the Sacraments and the teaching of our Church.

Our Father...

Wednesday 4 December 2019.

Today we pray for refugees and victims of War.

Lord God, no one is a stranger to you

and no one is ever far from your loving care.

In your kindness, watch over refugees and victims of war,

those separated from their loved ones,

young people who are lost,

and those who have left home or who have run away from home.

Bring them back safely to the place where they long to be

and help us always to show your kindness

to strangers and to all in need

Grant this through Christ our Lord.

Our Father.....

Thursday 5 December 2019.

There are five themes of Advent explored during the Advent season. These are waiting; expectation; hope; longing and joy. As we approach the Christmas period these are all emotions that we can identify with and look forward to.

However, it is important that we realise the value of family and friends over material possessions. It is the time that we have to spend with our families during the season of advent that is most precious. The gifts that we gladly give and receive are merely tokens of our affection and appreciation for those we are blessed to share our lives with.

We thank God for all of our families and loved ones, the most precious possessions of all.

Our Father...

Friday 6 December 2019.

St Nicholas is a well-known saint yet there are a lot of facts that are still uncertain about his life, including his birth date.

Saint Nicholas is called "Wonder-Worker" because of the number of miracles attributed to him. One example being, as a young man Saint Nicholas is said to have made a pilgrimage to the Holy Land travelling by sea and when a storm arose the sailors thought that they were doomed. Nicholas prayed calmly. The wind and waves died down and they were all spared.

It is for his gift giving that perhaps St Nicholas is best known. He had a habit for secret gift giving, especially to poor children. He would put a coin in a shoe if it was left out for him. Today in countries across Europe children celebrate this day by giving each other gifts.

At this time of year it is important to remember those children who are less fortunate.

Our Father...