**Monday 9 December 2019.**

Today is the feast of the Immaculate Conception which celebrates the belief of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. From the first moments of her existence she was preserved from any sin. Most importantly she said ‘yes’ to God and became the Mother of our saviour. Therefore, today is a celebration of her holiness.

To mark this great Solemnity we have our Service at 4.00pm today and during which we will honour Our Lady who leads us to her son.

We pray for purity of heart and mind, that like Mary, we may always be available to God and fully open to his inspirations.

***Hail Mary….***

**Tuesday 10 December 2019.**

*From Luke’s Gospel :*

 *‘Prepare God's arrival! Make the road smooth and straight!*

*Every ditch will be filled in, every bump smoothed out,*

*the detours straightened out, all the ruts paved over.*

*Everyone will be there to see the parade of God's salvation."*

Is your Christmas tree up? What about decorations? Cards on the mantelpiece? When John was telling people to prepare for Jesus he warns people that this was not merely about doing some decorating. It wasn’t just for a few weeks either. The verses we read talk about the preparation making a lasting difference to ditches and detours, bumps and ruts – a road made smooth and straight for the arrival of God’s salvation.

Lord, we want to say sorry if we have treated your offer of friendship as ‘decoration’. Help us to allow Jesus to rule in our lives and make a real difference.

***Our Father…***

**Wednesday 11 December 2019.**

Life is a constant Advent season: we are continually waiting to become, to discover, to complete, to fulfil. Hope, struggle, fear, expectation and fulfilment are all part of our Advent experience.

The world is not as just, not as loving, not as whole as we know it can and should be. But the coming of Christ and his presence among us — as one of us — give us reason to live in hope: that light will shatter the darkness, that we can be liberated from our fears and prejudices, that we are never alone or abandoned.

May this Advent season be a time for bringing hope, transformation and fulfilment into the Advent of our lives.

***Our Father……***

**Thursday 12 December 2019.**

Today is the feast day of Our Lady of Guadalupe. A poor Indian man called Juan Diego was walking to mass on December 9th 1531. He was walking by a hill when he heard beautiful music and a radiant lady appeared. The lady spoke to Juan Diego and sent him to the Bishop telling him to build a chapel on the very spot she had appeared. The Bishop told Juan Diego to bring him a sign. Juan Diego avoided the lady as his uncle became seriously ill. Nevertheless, the lady found Juan Diego and assured him his uncle would recover.

Mary’s appearance to Juan Diego as one of his people is a powerful reminder that Mary and the God who sent her accept all people. No matter our background, our needs or our stresses, God’s love and guidance is there for us all.

In the famous image of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Mary is shown as being pregnant and this has led to Our Lady of Guadalupe being adopted as Patron of the Unborn and of Pro-Life Groups. We asks for Our Lady’s intercession that our country will be a place where the unborn are protected and cherished.

***Hail Mary……..***

**Friday 13 September 2019.**

Today is the Feast day of Saint Lucy.

Saint Lucy was a young brave woman who put her faith in God during a difficult time in history when many Christians were tortured for their beliefs.

Lucy means light and as such she is the patron saint for those who suffer visual impairment.

As we grow each day, let us pray to saint Lucy to make us strong in our beliefs and to have the courage to profess our faith without fear or intimidation.

We pray that inspired by the example of St Lucy we will be a light of true to our faith to others and be strong enough to do and say what is God even if in difficult situations.

***Hail Mary….***