



## **Pupil Chaplaincy Newsletter School/Home/Parish**



**December 2018**

Hello everyone and welcome to the December issue of the Pupil Chaplaincy Newsletter.

### **December is the month dedicated to The Divine Infancy of Jesus**

The first day of December falls during the liturgical season of ordinary time (green). The following 22 days fall within the liturgical season of Advent and are represented by the colour purple. The remaining days in December fall within the Christmas season. The season of Christmas is represented by the colour of white or gold – symbolising purity, innocence and joy.

#### **Monthly Quote**

**“If Mary and Joseph were looking for a home for Jesus, would they choose your heart, and all it holds?”**

**- St Teresa of Calcutta**



#### **The Pope's Monthly Prayer Intentions for December**

##### **Evangelisation: In the Service of the Transmission of Faith**

We pray that people who are involved in the service and transmission of faith, may find, in their dialogue with culture, a language suited to the conditions of the present time.

### Important Dates for this Month

|                           |                                                     |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> December  | St Francis Xavier, Priest                           |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> December  | St John Damascene, Priest                           |
| 6 <sup>th</sup> December  | St Nicholas, Bishop                                 |
| 7 <sup>th</sup> December  | St Ambrose, Bishop                                  |
| 8 <sup>th</sup> December  | Immaculate Conception of<br>The Blessed Virgin Mary |
| 10 <sup>th</sup> December | Human Rights Day                                    |
| 11 <sup>th</sup> December | St Damasus, Pope                                    |
| 12 <sup>th</sup> December | Our Lady of Guadalupe                               |
| 13 <sup>th</sup> December | St Lucy                                             |
| 14 <sup>th</sup> December | St John of the Cross, Priest                        |
| 21 <sup>st</sup> December | St Peter Canisius, Priest                           |
| 25 <sup>th</sup> December | Nativity of the Lord                                |
| 26 <sup>th</sup> December | St Stephen, First Christian Martyr                  |
| 27 <sup>th</sup> December | St John, Apostle                                    |
| 28 <sup>th</sup> December | The Holy Innocents                                  |
| 29 <sup>th</sup> December | St Thomas a Becket                                  |
| 30 <sup>th</sup> December | Holy Family                                         |
| 31 <sup>st</sup> December | St Sylvester, Pope                                  |

### Focus of the Liturgy – Sunday Mass and Friday Assembly

The Gospel readings for the Sundays in December are taken from St Luke and are from Year C, Cycle 1 of the readings.

December 2<sup>nd</sup> - 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Advent

Jesus tells us about signs in the sun, the moon and the stars and how on the earth, all nations will be in dismay.

December 9<sup>th</sup> - 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Advent

In this Gospel we learn about John the Baptist preaching in the wilderness.

December 16<sup>th</sup> - 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Advent

In this Gospel we learn how the crowds ask John the Baptist who he is.

December 23<sup>rd</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Advent

In this Gospel we learn of Mary's visit to Elizabeth.

## **Red Wednesday**

On Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> November the children of St Peter's School wore red accessories to raise awareness of persecuted Christians worldwide. The pupil chaplains visited classes to ask children to pray for those who are not allowed to pray themselves.

## **Advent**



## **Advent visit to the Nazareth Room**

The children of St Peter's have been learning all about Advent and the significance of the Advent Wreath. Last Friday 30<sup>th</sup> November, the Pupil Chaplains visited the Nazareth Room (with help from the Noah's Ark puppets) to talk to the children about Advent. A good time was had by all.

## **Advent Bible Study**

During the season of Advent, we will be holding three special Bible Study sessions. We are inviting back our Year 2 children who attended last year. We will be following the Gospel stories leading up to the Nativity.

## **Advent Rosary**

We are delighted that our Rosary Prayer Group is now being held every day throughout December. This is due to the increasing interest being shown by our year 3 and 4 children who attend regularly.

## **Advent Prayers**

Please remember to place any Advent prayer intentions in the prayer box in the Good Shepherd Prayer Room.

## **Advent Activity for the Month – Jesse Tree**



Why not try making a Jesse Tree? The Jesse Tree has symbols which represent stories from the Old Testament leading up to the birth of Christ. We have a Jesse Tree on the Chaplaincy Table in the back of the Infant Hall that you could look at for ideas.

## **Advent Carols at Catherine Godfrey House**

The Pupil Chaplains are visiting Catherine Godfrey House on 6<sup>th</sup> December to entertain the residents with Christmas carols and readings.

## **Prayers for the children by the children**

As part of our daily class worship we would like to invite children to take turns to lead the morning or evening prayers. They could do this by saying a prayer, reading a passage from the bible, reading a piece of religious poetry or asking for a special intention. It would be fantastic if they could write the prayers themselves (perhaps with a little adult help though). We would be very grateful if you could encourage your child/children to take part in this special act of worship. Thank you.

We are asking all classes to pray The Angelus throughout the month of December.

### The Angelus



V. The Angel of the Lord declared unto Mary.  
R. And she conceived of the Holy Spirit.

Hail, Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

V. Behold the handmaid of the Lord.  
R. Be it done unto me according to thy word.

Hail Mary.

V. And the Word was made flesh.  
R. And dwelt among us.

Hail Mary.

V. Pray for us, O holy Mother of God.  
R. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let us pray. Pour forth, we beseech Thee, O Lord, Thy grace into our hearts; that we, to whom the Incarnation of Christ, Thy Son, was made known by the message of an angel, may by His Passion and Cross be brought to the glory of His resurrection. Through the same Christ, our Lord, Amen.

## **St Peter's Church Parish Christmas Fayre**

St Peter's Church will be holding their Christmas Fayre on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> December 12 – 4 pm.

### **Altar Servers**

If you are currently an altar server please give your name to Joshua so that we can include you on our rota for school Masses. If you are interested in becoming an altar server, have made your First Holy Communion, and attend Mass regularly please speak to Father Edward.

### **Guild of St Stephen**

On 26<sup>th</sup> December, Altar servers who have completed one year of regularly serving at Mass will receive their Guild of St Stephen medals. Please keep them in your prayers on their special day.

### **Christmas Services at St Peter's Church**

Please remember to look in the Church newsletter, or on their website, for a full list of all the services being held over Christmas.

Wishing you all a happy and holy Advent and Christmas  
God bless,

The Pupil Chaplaincy Team

