



# Catholic Life & Religious Education

Advent 2025 Issue №2 | Parents' Newsletter

## Our Hope is in the Child of Bethlehem!

This half term at school we turn our focus from Ordinary time to the celebration of the season of Advent. With all the excitement and anticipation of a huge and busy celebration on December 25th, we can find ourselves to easily rushing through Advent in eagerness to arrive at Christmas day. Each year, we remind ourselves that Advent is a season of preparation and take time to focus ourselves on being ready for the coming of Christ. We have lots planned in school to help us do just this and look forward to preparing ourselves alongside families and our community for this happy and holy time.

Mr Booth - Headteacher



### Advent at St Catherine

We prepare ourselves for Advent in school in three ways: through charity, prayer and worship. These three, core focuses allow us to reflect truly on the miracle of the Season and enrich our community through the development of the Catholic Social Teachings that underpin our school mission.

#### Prayer

Throughout Advent children will encounter a variety of opportunities to pray and further their relationship with God. Each week in phase prayer, the children will focus on the four themes of Advent: Hope, Peace, Joy and Love: the Power of Prayer Group will also lead parents and children in prayer each Wednesday morning at 8:20am. Father Brian will lead the school in a penitential service to allow children to think about how they can prepare spiritually to welcome Jesus.

#### Charity

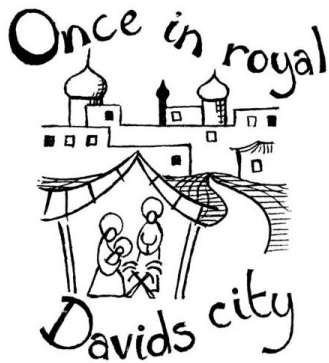
As a school we will be collecting items for the Caritas Reverse Advent Calendar. You can find out more information on the Caritas Advent Project [here](#). We will also be running a project to provide Christmas Cards for the Burroughs Care Home (see the school office for how your family can become involved). Other fundraising opportunities will raise money for the Catholic Children's Society.

#### Worship

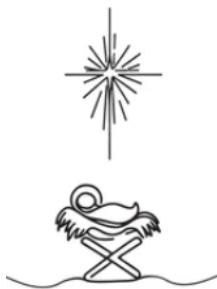
Each week our whole school worships will focus on the nativity scene and the importance of the characters who first witnessed the birth of Christ. Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 will perform their Nativity production and Key Stage 2 children will wow our community with their celebration of The Word - both spoken and sung - at our Carol Concert. We hope as many families can join us for these events as possible, for more information keep reading!



We really hope you can join us at some of our Advent celebrations. The Carol concert is an especially special way of marking the importance of the season. There is an opportunity to listen to The Word of God and sing together. Here are some lyrics that might be useful...but do you know the tune?



He came down to earth from heaven  
 Who is God and Lord of all  
 And His shelter was a stable  
 And His cradle was a stall  
 With the poor, and mean,  
 and lowly  
 Lived on earth, our Savior  
 holy



## Prayer Corner

This half term, we have an Advent prayer written by the Power of Prayer Group. It helps us focus on the meaning of the season and the magnificence of the event. We hope you may enjoy saying this prayer together at home.

Dear Lord,  
 Remind us in Advent of the importance of the birth of Christ.  
 Help us to take time and pause this season.  
 Give us the strength to be witnesses of your birth.  
 Amen



# Dates this Advent

Save the dates! More information on each event can be found in the parent dates letter sent home last week.

Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Fayre (in parish hall)
Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> December	Penitential Service led by Father Brian
Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> December	Nursery Carol Concert. <b>Both morning and afternoon children and parents are asked to attend.</b>
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> December	Reception Nativity (9:30am) in school hall.
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> December	Year 1 & Year 2 Nativity (6:00pm) in school hall
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> December	Year 1 & Year 2 Nativity (6:00pm) in school hall
Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> December	Reception Nativity (1:45pm) in school hall.
Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> December	Key Stage 2 Carol Concert (6:00pm) in school playground

# Our School Church & Parish Priests



Our school is proud to serve the parish of St Catherine of Alexandria just at the top of our road. Many of our students celebrate Mass in these parishes. Each newsletter we will keep you updated with news in parish.



## News from St Catherine of Alexandria Parish- with Fr. Brian

Alongside the school, the parish will also be collecting items for the Caritas Advent giving calendar. Items donated can be added to the box in the church porch and Mr Booth will collect these items to be delivered to the food bank on December 15<sup>th</sup>. Many thanks for your support.

Any parents wishing to take their children to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation at church on Saturday at 10:30am and 6:30pm.



### Weekend Parish Mass times:

Our Lady of Fatima: **Saturday: 7pm Sunday: 9am, 11am & 6pm**

## Caritas Giving Advent Calendar

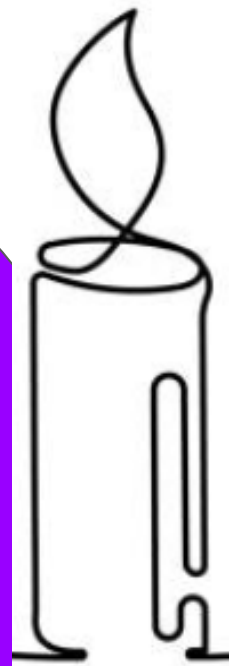
This year we will be supporting Caritas Westminster's Advent giving calendar to try and focus on the most in need in our community during this time of preparation. We understand that this time of year can be hugely expensive and so we ask that each child donates just one item on one day during advent. Collectively that should amount to a huge difference that we can make as a school. Each child will receive a letter home explaining more. If you are able to make more than one donation throughout Advent this would be hugely appreciated.

## Burroughs Christmas Card Appeal

Just up the road from our school is the Burroughs Care Home. There, over seventy residents living with varying stages of dementia are cared for by an amazing team of carers.

The names of each resident has been placed in a basket just inside the main office at school and we are asking families to choose a name each and make a Christmas Card for that resident – homemade cards are always hugely appreciated.

Cards can be dropped off into the box in the office anytime before Monday December 15<sup>th</sup> at which point all the cards will be delivered to the residents at The Burroughs.



*“An education in the fullness of humanity should be the defining feature of Catholic Schools.”*

Pope Francis

**This half term the children's RE Topic is Prophecy & Promise.**

Our children's Religious Education leads them towards Jesus' birth at Christmas and is furthered by our school nativities, Carol Concert, class worship and prayer .

The RE lessons allow children to understand more about the prophecies of Jesus' birth in the Old Testament and how Mary is the fulfilment of God's promise the world.

**For more information on our RE curriculum, visit our school website.**

At the end of this half term, each child will bring home a report card that will include current attainment in RE and a target for next half term.



## PoP Group

This half term our Power of Prayer Group have been visiting all classes to watch prayer in our school. They were really impressed and are looking forward to thinking of ways to create more opportunities to enhance prayer. During Advent, we are visiting Field Heath School alongside some students from St Mary's Primary School to think about ways that our schools can work together to provide opportunities for prayer. We will also be leading parents and children in prayer each Wednesday morning. See you there!



**We wish all of our families a very peaceful Advent and - when it comes - a very happy and holy Christmas.**

All at St Catherine Roman Catholic Primary School and Nursery