



Dear Parents and Carers,

This Sunday we begin to celebrate the season of Advent, a time of waiting and prayer. It's a special time to pause and reflect on the real reason and true meaning of Christmas and give thanks to God for the gift of Jesus to the world.

In this Sunday's Gospel, the Master represents Jesus and the servants represent us. The message from the Gospel is very clear: we are to 'stay awake!'.

Wednesday 29th November 2023

A little extra daily prayer throughout Advent is a great way to do this - to be alert to Jesus' presence around us. Prayer brings us not only closer to God but also closer to one another.

Make a great start to Advent, enjoying a special *Wednesday Word Prayer & Share* time together, discussing this Sunday's Gospel and this Wednesday's word, which is **PRAYER**.

Dom Henry Wansbrough



A **Word** from **Pope Francis**

"Dear Parents, teach your children to pray. Pray with them. Prayer strengthens family life."

"The Lord is coming. May we await him with open hearts!"

Pope Francis

THE GOSPEL IN CHURCH Sunday 3rd December 2023



Jesus said to his disciples, "Be on your guard, stay awake, because you do not know when the end time will come. It is like a man travelling abroad; he leaves his house and puts his servants in charge, each with his own task, and orders the doorkeeper to stay awake. So, stay awake - because you do not know when the Master of the house is coming; it may be evening or midnight, cockcrow or dawn. If he comes unexpectedly, he may find you still sleeping. What I am saying to you now, I say to everyone: Stay awake!"

*Adapted from Mark 13:33-37
The 1st Sunday of Advent, Year B*

Everyone can learn more about this Gospel in church: all are very warmly invited

The Year of Prayer

The Wednesday Word - it's Good News for Families

As Advent begins, Pope Francis invites us to observe the upcoming year as a 'Year of Prayer', in preparation for the 2025 Jubilee Year - learn more at cbcew.org.

Enhance the joy of Advent and enrich your family's Christmas preparations by joining in with the *Wednesday Word Prayer & Share*. Experience a very special togetherness which comes from this weekly tradition of *Family Time* prayer.

PRAYER & SHARE

OVERLEAF

Wednesday Word Prayer & Share



1 Listening & Learning Together

Jesus said, "Where two or three gather in my name, I shall be there with them"

Jesus said to his disciples, "Be on your guard, stay awake. When a rich man travels abroad, he leaves his house and puts his servants in charge and orders the doorkeeper to keep a good watch. So, always be ready - because you do not know when the Master of the house is coming; it may be evening or midnight, cockcrow or dawn. If he comes unexpectedly, he may find you unready for him. What I am saying to you now, I say to everyone: Stay awake - be ready!"



When will the Master of the house return? Which word or words stood out for you in this Gospel, and why? See the picture opposite. What does it make you think about?

2 Wednesday's Word is ...

PRAYER

3 Loving & Growing Together

"The Lord's Prayer is the most perfect of prayers." *St Thomas Aquinas*

Ask your child what the word 'prayer' means to them. Does your child like to pray aloud or quietly, alone or with others? What is their favourite prayer? It may be a well-known prayer or one that they have made up by themselves. You might like to share one of your favourite prayers with your child. Each of you name your favourite Christmas carol. Why not come along to church to join in this Advent? All are warmly invited.

"Dear young people, Christ asks you to be wide awake and alert, to see the things in life that really matter." *Pope Francis*

Advent is a time to get ready to welcome Jesus - to draw closer to God. Prayer helps us to do this. We can pray anywhere, at any time. Each say where you like to pray. Maybe at home, in bed, at church, at school, outside or elsewhere? What would you like to pray and ask God for this Advent? Who will you pray for? It could be your family, a friend, a teacher, your priest, or maybe someone in need, near or far. Besides praying, how else might you help them?



Can you complete 'The Lord's Prayer': Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day ... ?

Gospel Gallery

WEDNESDAY WORDSEARCH

SMARTSEARCHERS FIND THESE EIGHT WORDS EITHER **ACROSS** OR **DOWN**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	THIS SUNDAY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	ADVENT BEGINS	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	AWAKE READY	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	JESUS RETURNS	<input type="checkbox"/>

SUPERSEARCHERS FIND THE WORDS **BACKWARDS** OR **DIAGONALLY**



Search for at least three differences between this picture and the colour one. Then draw them in before colouring.

Cross out the letters **u b e** in the jumbled words below to find 4 real words.

usacybing bevecryonue cawaukeb wuchabt

"_____ I am _____ to you now,
I say to _____: Stay _____!"

Prayer is spending time with God, talking and listening, sharing your life with God.

This Advent, try adding an extra prayer each day and become more awake to the joy of being closer to Jesus.

Write a promise and then draw a big smile on Smiley

This week I will try my best to ...

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