

The image features four lit purple candles in the lower-left foreground, with their flames glowing. The background is a dark blue-grey with numerous out-of-focus bokeh lights in warm yellow and orange tones, creating a festive and atmospheric setting.

OUR LADY AND ST BEDE CATHOLIC ACADEMY

Advent Booklet 2023



Advent 2023

'Called by Name

"I call you by name, you are mine"
Isaiah 43

Welcome to the season of Advent, a time of anticipation and reflection that beckons us to pause and embrace the profound significance of the moments leading up to a joyous celebration. As we embark on this journey of preparation, we find ourselves seamlessly woven into the tapestry of our overarching theme for Catholic Life this year - **"Called by Name."**

Throughout this season, let us delve into the depths of our own narratives, mindful of the resonance between the theme and the timeless tale of Advent. In the quiet moments of reflection, may we discover the profound connection between being "Called by Name" and the enduring message of hope and renewal that Advent brings. As we light the candles of anticipation, let us kindle the flames of purpose within ourselves, embracing the call that beckons us forward into the promise of a brighter future.

Welcome to Advent—a season where the echoes of our names intertwine with the timeless narrative, reminding us that we are part of a story greater than ourselves.

CELEBRATING GOD'S WORD

ENRICHING OUR
WORSHIPPING AND
SPIRITUAL COMMUNITY.



LIVING GOD'S WORD

ENRICHING OUR SOCIAL
ACTION AND OUTREACH.



SHARING GOD'S WORD

ENRICHING OUR
FORMATION,
PROCLAMATION AND
EVANGELISATION.



Advent





Getting **PREPARED**

**FOR ADVENT @
OLSB 2023**



EVENTS

27th

Hamper Launch
Assemblies

28th

CPD - Fr. Mark
reflects on Advent

EVENTS

7th

Sacrament of
Reconciliation

11th

Primary School Mini-
Mission

12th

Choir at the Nursing
Home

13th

Christmas Cards
delivered to the
community (SVP)

2023

DECEMBER

SU	MO	TU	WE	TH	FR	SA
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

EVENTS

14th

St Josephs Mass

15th

Prayer Partners, Advent
afternoon tea for the
community (SVP),
Hamper Deadline

18th

SVP Distribute Hampers
Advent Liturgy 6pm

19th

Secret Santa 3:30pm
Advent Liturgy 6pm

2023

DECEMBER

SU	MO	TU	WE	TH	FR	SA
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

EVENTS

20th

Christmas Lunch and
Christmas Jumper Day

21st

Advent Liturgies for all
year groups in St
Mary's Hall

22nd

Christmas activities
and celebration

2023

DECEMBER

SU	MO	TU	WE	TH	FR	SA
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
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31						

How can I get involved?

↓ IN ADVENT ↓



STAFF CELEBRATION/ SECRET SANTA

ON TUESDAY 19TH, WE WILL HAVE OUR CHRISTMAS STAFF CELEBRATION. DURING THE CELEBRATION STAFF WILL HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO SWAP THEIR SECRET SANTA GIFTS!

CHRISTMAS LUNCH

DURING THE WEEK WE WILL ALSO BE HAVING CHRISTMAS LUNCH ON WEDNESDAY 20TH DECEMBER. ALL STAFF ARE WELCOME TO COME AND EAT THEIR DINNER WITH THE PUPILS AND SUPPORT IF POSSIBLE!

ADVENT LITURGY - COMMUNITY

WE WILL HOST OUR ADVENT LITURGY OVER TWO EVENINGS FOR OUR WIDER SCHOOL COMMUNITY. MONDAY 18TH DECEMBER 6PM AND TUESDAY 19TH DECEMBER 6PM. ALL PARENTS, CARERS, PARISHIONERS AND MEMBERS OF OUR WIDER SCHOOL COMMUNITY WILL BE WELCOMED INTO SCHOOL FOR A SPECIAL EVENING OF MUSIC, DRAMA AND REFLECTION.



CHRISTMAS CAROLS WITH THE COMMUNITY

THIS YEAR THE CHOIR WILL BE SINGING CAROLS WITH THE COMMUNITY (LOCATION AND DATE TBC). THIS IS ALWAYS A LOVELY OPPORTUNITY FOR OUR PUPILS TO SHARE THE JOY AND THE TRUE MEANING OF CHRISTMAS WITH OUR LOCAL COMMUNITY. DURING THIS TIME PUPILS ALSO RAISE MONEY TO GO TOWARDS OUR CHRISTMAS HAMPER APPEAL.

CHRISTMAS CARDS AT SAINSBURY'S

DURING ADVENT PUPILS WILL BE CHOSEN TO HAND OUT CHRISTMAS CARDS AT SAINSBURY'S. THE CHRISTMAS CARD WILL BE CHOSEN BY MISS WOOLLETT IN THE ART DEPARTMENT. THIS IS ALWAYS A MOVING EXPERIENCE FOR BOTH PUPILS AND STAFF AND IT IS PART OF OUR OUTREACH WORK IN THE LOCAL COMMUNITY.

ADVENT LITURGY - PUPILS

OUR ADVENT LITURGY WILL BE HELD IN ST. MARY'S HALL ON THE MORNING OF THE 21ST DECEMBER. PUPILS WILL BE INVITED TO REFLECT ON THE THEME OF ADVENT THROUGH PRAYER, DRAMA AND MUSIC.

AFTERNOON TEA - COMMUNITY

WE WILL BE INVITING GUESTS FROM BOTH OUR PARISHES, THE REFUGEE PROJECT IN STOCKTON AND STOCKTON HOPE TO JOIN SOME OF OUR PUPILS AND CHOIR FOR AFTERNOON TEA AND CAROLS DURING THE AFTERNOON OF FRIDAY 15TH DECEMBER.



PRIMARY MINI-MISSION

ON MONDAY 11TH DECEMBER, Y6 PUPILS FROM OUR FOUR MAIN FEEDER SCHOOLS HAVE BEEN INVITED INTO OUR LADY AND ST BEDE SCHOOL. THE MORNING WILL BE FULL OF SONG, ACTIVITIES, DANCE, PRAYER AND INPUT LED BY OUR SCHOOL MINI MISSION TEAM. PUPILS FROM THE MINI MISSION TEAM WILL PREPARE THE MORNING AND LEAD OUR PRIMARY PUPILS.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

FR. MARK ALONG WITH FR. OLLIE WILL BE JOINING US OVER LUNCHTIME ON THURSDAY 7TH DECEMBER FOR THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION. RECONCILIATION IS AN OPPORTUNITY TO REFLECT ON THE STRUGGLES WE ALL FACE IN LIFE AND TO ASK FOR FORGIVENESS FOR THE TIMES WHEN WE HAVE GOT THINGS WRONG. THE PRIEST WILL ABSOLVE US OF OUR SINS ENABLING US TO ENTER CHRISTMAS WITH A FRESH OUTLOOK. THOSE OF US WHO ARE NOT CATHOLIC ARE ALSO WELCOME TO SPEAK WITH THE PRIESTS AND TO RECEIVE A BEAUTIFUL BLESSING.

CHRISTMAS ACTIVITIES AND CELEBRATION

WE ARE CURRENTLY WORKING TO CONFIRM PLANS FOR FRIDAY 22ND. IT WILL BE A MORNING FULL OF CHRISTMAS ACTIVITIES & CELEBRATION.





Advent Hampers

- DURING ADVENT WE THINK OF THOSE LESS FORTUNATE THAN OURSELVES AND AS A SCHOOL WE CONTINUE TO SHOW OUR SUPPORT AND GENEROSITY WITH OUR FOOD HAMPER CAMPAIGN. THE HAMPERS WILL BE DISTRIBUTED TO FAMILIES IN OUR LOCAL PARISHES.
- OUR FOOD HAMPERS WILL INCLUDE BASICS SUCH AS TINS, RICE, PASTA, SUGAR, COFFEE AND TEA. ALSO SOME CHRISTMAS TREATS, BISCUITS, CRISPS AND CAKES. THIS YEAR THEIR HAS BEEN A SPECIAL REQUEST FOR TOILETRIES.



Advent Hampers

- FORM GROUPS WILL BE ALLOCATED FAMILIES. WE WILL BE GIVEN SOME BASIC INFORMATION ABOUT THE PEOPLE IN THIS FAMILY AND THEIR NEEDS. EACH FORM WILL AIM TO MAKE BETWEEN 3-5 HAMPERS EACH, OR MORE IF POSSIBLE.
- BOXES WILL BE AVAILABLE FROM THE WB 27TH NOVEMBER. WE WILL DISTRIBUTE THESE.
- ALL HAMPERS WILL NEED TO BE COMPLETED BY FRIDAY 15TH DECEMBER AT THE LATEST AND LEFT NEXT TO THE CRIB IN ST MARY'S HALL.



OUR SCHOOL DURING ADVENT

- AS WE BEGIN OUR ADVENT JOURNEY THE COLOUR PURPLE WILL BE VERY VISIBLE THROUGHOUT THE SCHOOL. IT IS THE LITURGICAL COLOUR FOR THE SEASON OF ADVENT. BOTH HALLS WILL BE OUR MAIN VISUAL FOCAL POINTS FOR ADVENT, WITH ONE OF OUR NATIVITY CRIBS TO BE SET UP IN ST MARY'S HALL.

- AS ONE OF OUR VIRTUES THIS HALF TERM IS JUSTICE, THIS YEAR WE WILL ALSO BE CREATING A VISUAL ADVENT DISPLAY OF OUR OWN. EACH PUPIL AND MEMBER OF STAFF WILL RECEIVE A CHRISTMAS TAG, ON WHICH THEY CAN WRITE A MESSAGE OF JUSTICE FOR ONE PERSON IN THEIR LIFE THAT THEY ARE TRULY GRATEFUL FOR. THESE WILL BE PLACED ON BOTH CHRISTMAS TREES AND PUPILS AND STAFF WILL BE INVITED TO STOP AND READ.

PRAYER STATIONS

- DURING ADVENT WE WILL BE CHANGING OUR PRAYER CLOTH TO THE COLOUR PURPLE. AS ALWAYS THESE WILL BE OUR FOCAL POINTS TO BE USED DURING TIMES OF PRAYER AND REFLECTION DURING FORM TIME AND LESSONS.
- THESE SPACES WILL BE OWNED BY THE PUPILS ENSURING THAT THEY ARE USED APPROPRIATELY, ARE WELL-CARED FOR AND ARE CONDUCIVE TO PRAYER. TWO PUPILS FROM EACH FORM WILL BE NOMINATED TO LOOK AFTER THE PRAYER STATION ON BEHALF OF THE FORM GROUP.
- DURING TIMES OF PRAYER AND REFLECTION (INCLUDING LITURGIES) STAFF WILL BE INVITED TO LIGHT THE CANDLE AS A SYMBOL THAT JESUS, THE LIGHT OF OUR WORLD, IS PRESENT WITH US AT THIS SACROSANCT TIME.





Wait A Minute...

It's Advent

- STAFF WILL TURN THE LIGHTS OFF AT THE START OF L4, LIGHT THE CANDLE AND PLAY THE VIDEO.

- EACH DAY, THE SHORT REFLECTION WILL FOCUS ON A DIFFERENT ASPECT ON THE RUN UP TO CHRISTMAS, PUPILS WILL BE INVITED TO PAUSE, REFLECT AND PRAY.

THIS ADVENT, WE WILL JOURNEY ALONGSIDE OUR FANTASTIC DIOCESAN YOUTH MINISTRY TEAM AND THEIR SPECIAL GUESTS FOR 'WAIT A MINUTE- IT'S ADVENT'.

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