

# OUR LADY AND ST BEDE CATHOLIC ACADEMY

Advent Booklet 2024







# Advent 2024

## 'We are One'

*"For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ."*

**1 Corinthians**

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 theme for Catholic Life this year - "We are One."

We are called as one, united community to be 'pilgrims of hope' for our brothers and sisters around the world who experience hardship of any kind and, in solidarity, bring them hope and peace.

Pope Francis has declared 2025 a Jubilee year. For everyone, may the Jubilee be a moment of genuine, personal encounter with the Lord Jesus" The year is centred around the theme of 'hope'. The world is often plagued with negativity, doubt, confusion, absence. The focus for this year is to find and establish renewed hope. This can be achieved in our community if we stand together as '**one**'.

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



# 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 2024**





NOVEMBER							2023	
SU	MO	TU	WE	TH	FR	SA		
5	6	7	1	2	3	4		
12	13	14	8	9	10	11		
19	20	21	15	16	17	18		
26	27	28	22	23	24	25		
			29	30				

# EVENTS IN NOVEMBER

**25th**  
Hamper Launch  
Assemblies



# EVENTS IN DECEMBER

**3rd**

Bishop Stephen  
Primary School Y6 Mini  
Mission.

**3rd**

**CPD** - Fr. Mark Lyden Smith  
Reflections on Advent.

**4th**

Staff Advent Prayer  
School Chapel  
8.15am - 8.30am

**5th**

Parish Priest's in school for  
Reconciliation.  
Lunchtime - RE Department.

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

**6th**

Prayer Partners  
School Chapel  
Lunchtime.(SVP)

**9th**

St. Joseph's Form Mass.

**11th**

Staff Advent Prayer  
School Chapel 8am - 8.15am.

**12th**

Afternoon Advent Tea for the  
Community.

**11th - 13th**

Y7 Retreat

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

**13th**

Deadline for Christmas Hampers.  
MFL Mass, School Chapel 8am.

**16th - 17th**

Advent Liturgies for the Community  
6pm.

Distribution of Christmas Hampers.  
(SVP)

Staff Celebration and Secret Santa.

**18th**

Christmas Lunch and Christmas  
Jumper Day.

Christmas Cards at Sainsbury's (SVP)

Staff Advent Prayer  
School Chapel  
8.15am - 8.30am

Singing in the Care Home. pm.



# EVENTS

**19th**

Advent Liturgies for all year groups.

**20th**

Christmas Celebration  
morning.

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						



# How can I get involved?

↓ IN ADVENT ↓





## STAFF CELEBRATION/ SECRET SANTA

ON TUESDAY 17TH, 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 18TH 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 16TH DECEMBER 6PM AND TUESDAY 17TH 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, DANCE 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.

## 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 19TH DECEMBER. PUPILS WILL BE INVITED TO REFLECT ON THE THEME OF ADVENT THROUGH PRAYER, DRAMA, DANCE 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 THURSDAY 12TH DECEMBER.





## **BISHOP STEPHEN WRIGHT PRIMARY MINI-MISSION**

ON TUESDAY 3RD DECEMBER, BISHOP STEPHEN WRIGHT AND 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. BISHOP STEPHEN WILL BE SPENDING THE MORNING WITH US ALL.

## **SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION**

FR. MARK ALONG WITH FR. OLLIE AND FR. COOPER WILL BE JOINING US OVER LUNCHTIME ON THURSDAY 5TH 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 20TH. 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 2ND DECEMBER. WE WILL DISTRIBUTE THESE.
- ALL HAMPERS WILL NEED TO BE COMPLETED BY FRIDAY 13TH 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 AND HOPE 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**

**THIS ADVENT, WE WILL JOURNEY ALONGSIDE OUR FANTASTIC DIOCESAN YOUTH MINISTRY TEAM AND THEIR SPECIAL GUESTS FOR '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.



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