

**THE** Wednesday  
**WORD ADVENT & CHRISTMAS 2021**



**Wishing you a blessed Christmas from your School**



**"May the joy of the Gospel be always in our hearts, especially this Christmas." Pope Francis**

Wednesday  
8<sup>th</sup> December



Good News  
for Families

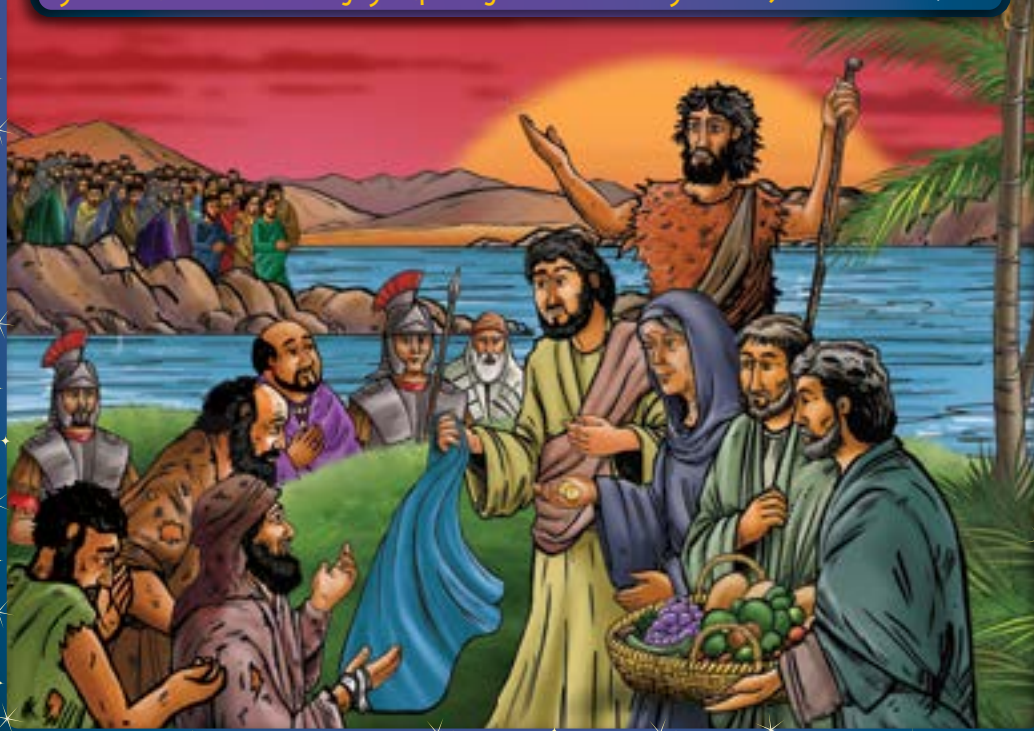
## Enjoy reading this Sunday's Gospel

When the crowds asked John the Baptist, "What must we do?" He answered, "If anyone has two coats they should share with the one who has none, and anyone who has food should do the same." There were tax collectors too who came for baptism, and they said to him, "Master, what must we do?" He said to them, "Don't collect any more than you should." Then he said to some soldiers, "Don't force people to pay money to make you leave them alone, but be satisfied with your pay." By now, a feeling of expectancy had grown among the people, who were beginning to think that John the Baptist might be the Christ, so John declared before them all, "I baptise you with water, but someone is coming, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not good enough even to untie his sandal strap."



From the Gospel of Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> December 2021 Luke 3: 10-18 (the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent, Year C)

Which words stood out for you in this Gospel, and why? What does the picture make you think about? Now enjoy exploring this Wednesday's word, which is **MERCY**.



2

Wednesday's Word

MERCY



"Read the gospels! This way we will learn what is most essential in our lives: love and mercy." *Pope Francis*

Who did the people think that John the Baptist might be? In this Sunday's Gospel, John the Baptist prepares the people for the coming of Jesus. He tells them to share with others and to show mercy - to put people (not money or power) first; to feel for those who suffer and to do something to help. Within the Catholic Church, these actions, attending to people's basic needs, are known as Corporal (or physical) Works of Mercy. Ask your child what the word 'mercy' means to them. You may want to share with your child what the word 'mercy' means to you. Can you or your child remember a time when you were merciful and gave someone another chance?

"God is merciful towards us. We too should learn to be merciful." *Pope Francis*

The Church also encourages us to perform Spiritual Works of Mercy. These include: being compassionate; being patient with others even if we are being treated unfairly; forgiving others (even if we feel they don't deserve forgiveness); sometimes giving people more than they deserve. Merciful people do things out of their love and care for others and this helps make the world a better place. Who do you know to be a merciful person? Each time we show 'mercy', we open ourselves to receive mercy from God. Each of you say if there is someone to whom you could show mercy this Advent.



Dear Lord Jesus, please help us to grow in the virtue of **mercy** - to be open to receiving your **mercy** and showing **mercy** to others. Amen.

WEDNESDAY  
WORDSEARCH

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

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**JOHN BAPTIST**

**ENCOURAGES MERCY**

**COATS FOOD**

**SHARE OTHERS**

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

E	N	C	O	U	R	A	G	E	S	I	Q
T	T	L	M	E	R	C	Y	Y	B	L	R
Y	O	J	O	H	N	W	F	O	O	D	F
C	T	L	P	D	W	C	O	A	T	S	S
R	H	S	E	G	A	R	U	O	C	N	E
E	E	N	B	U	K	Q	D	H	W	B	G
M	R	S	H	A	X	E	N	S	A	S	
E	S	R	R	O	P	C	S	F	H	P	T
S	R	Z	X	E	J	T	O	V	A	T	A
I	M	A	K	A	H	O	I	Q	R	I	O
V	I	C	H	S	D	T	B	S	E	S	C
I	U	C	W	S	U	C	O	Z	T	T	G

Cross out the letters **u d w** in the 4 jumbled words to find 4 real words.

**u**modrew **J**owhund **t**uhwand **B**awptistud  
\_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ said, "Someone is coming,  
someone who is \_\_\_\_\_ powerful \_\_\_\_\_ I am."

The Catholic Church encourages us to prepare for Christmas and experience God's mercy through the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession). During Advent, many parish churches also offer special Reconciliation Services for us to experience God's love, mercy and forgiveness. All are warmly invited. *Pope Francis* reminds us, "Don't be afraid to ask God for forgiveness. God is pure mercy."

1 Enjoy reading the Gospel

Mary had been told by an angel that she was to give birth to a son named Jesus. When she heard that her cousin, Elizabeth, was also going to have a baby, she went as quickly as she could to visit Elizabeth. Mary went into Zechariah's house and greeted Elizabeth. Now as soon as Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. Elizabeth gave a loud cry and said to Mary, "Of all women you are the most blessed, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. Why should I be honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord? For as soon as your greeting reached my ears, the child in my womb leapt for joy. Yes, blessed are you for believing the promise made to you by the Lord."



From the Gospel of Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> December 2021 - Luke 1:39-45 (the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent, Year C)

Which words stood out for you in this Gospel, and why? What does the picture make you think about? Enjoy exploring this Wednesday's word, which is **VISITORS**.

2 "Spend time with someone in need, visit someone who is sick, offer a smile." Pope Francis

What did Mary do when she heard about Elizabeth? In this Sunday's Gospel, even though Mary had many of her own preparations to make for the birth of Jesus, she still went out of her way to visit her elderly relative Elizabeth. Ask your child who they like to go and visit most? When did they last get a warm welcome and how did it make them feel? Who always makes them feel especially welcome and looked after? Tell your child about the people you like to visit.

3 "Working together to practice hospitality, will make us better human beings." Pope Francis

As a family, think about people who visit your home. Each of you say who most fills you with joy when they call to visit. What are some of the things we can do to make visitors feel more welcome this Christmas? Is there someone that you can invite for a meal, or to play, and make them feel especially valued - maybe a relative who lives on their own, or maybe a friend from school? Come and visit Church together this Sunday, giving thanks to God for all your family and friends and for the many blessings that Christmas brings. All are warmly invited.



Dear Lord Jesus, please help us to see all **visitors** to our home this Christmas as special people who are loved by you. Amen.

Write a promise and then draw a big smile on Smiley

This week I will try my best to...

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1 Enjoy reading the Gospel

Every year Joseph and Mary went to Jerusalem to celebrate the feast of the Passover. When Jesus was twelve he went with them. After the feast, on the way home, Mary and Joseph realised that Jesus was missing from the group. So they went back to Jerusalem to look for him. After three days, they found Jesus in the Temple, listening to the teachers and asking them questions. The teachers were amazed at his intelligence. His parents were overcome when they found him and told him how worried they had been. "Why were you looking for me?" asked Jesus. "Did you not know that I would be in my Father's house?" Then Jesus went back home to Nazareth and lived in obedience to his parents. He grew in wisdom and grew in favour with God and the people.



From the Gospel of Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> December 2021 Luke 2:41-52 (the Feast of the Holy Family, Year C)

Which words stood out for you in this Gospel, and why? What does the picture make you think about? Enjoy exploring this Wednesday's word, which is **WISDOM**.

2 "Wisdom is the grace of being able to see things through the eyes of God." Pope Francis

In which ways did Jesus grow when he went back to Nazareth with his parents? In this Sunday's Gospel we discover that, from a very young age, Jesus was filled with wisdom because of his closeness to God the Father. Our families can also be filled with wisdom, if we stay close to God. Ask your child what the word 'wisdom' means to them. Who do they know to be a wise person? What makes a person wise? It may help your child if you talk about someone who you know to be wise.

3 "We can ask the Lord to grant us the gift of wisdom." Pope Francis

Wisdom is a gift from God and helps us to see things more clearly and make the right choices in life. It's about using knowledge well - having good judgement. Each of you choose a way in which you will try to grow in God's wisdom throughout the coming year. Perhaps it is through: not rushing when making decisions; thinking before we speak; being open to correction; trying to consider what effect our words and actions might have on ourselves and others; reading the gospels together and listening carefully; praying to God for the gift of wisdom.



Dear Lord Jesus, please help us to grow in **wisdom** and to live in obedience to you and to all those who care for us. Amen.

Write a promise and then draw a big smile on Smiley

This week I will try my best to...

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1 Enjoy reading the Gospel

In the beginning was the Word: the Word was with God and the Word was God. Through him all things came to be, not one thing had its being but through him. All that came to be had life in him and that life was the light of all people, a light that shines in the dark, a light that darkness could not overpower. The Word was the true light that enlightens all people; and he was coming into the world. He was in the world and the world did not know him and his own people did not accept him. But to all who did accept him he gave power to become children of God, to all who believe in the name of him who was born of God himself. The Word was made flesh, he lived among us, and we saw his glory, the glory that is his as the only Son of the Father, full of grace and truth.



From the Gospel of Sunday 2nd January 2022 John 1:1-5. 9-14 (the 2nd Sunday after the Nativity)

Which words stood out for you in this Gospel, and why? What does the picture make you think about? Enjoy exploring this Wednesday's word, which is **CHRIST**.

2 Christ is the light who brightens the darkness. Let us ask Christ that our hearts become free and filled with light, so that we can rejoice as children of God." Pope Francis

The real point of Christmas is the birth of Jesus Christ. The Church reminds us that Christ is the Word who became flesh (he is both man and God) and he came to live among us. This is known as the 'incarnation'. Ask your child what they think the word 'Christ' means (parent help: the word 'Christ' means 'the anointed one', the one who is sent to save the world). Christ came to save us from doing wrong - to show us and to teach us how to live good lives. It may help your child if you share something that you know about Christ.

3 "Let's welcome the light of Christ into our hearts. When Christ is your friend, you have joy, serenity and happiness." Pope Francis

Jesus Christ is God's greatest gift to the world. His wonderful birth (and indeed his whole life, his death and his resurrection) gives witness to the fact that he is the Son of God. Christ, the 'Light of the World', came to enlighten us - to show us the way to God and to confirm our hope of heaven. He came to draw everyone into his love, so that we may joyfully share in God's own life. As a family, talk about ways that you can live and love more like Christ in 2022. Blessings and best wishes for the coming new year.



Dear Lord Jesus **Christ**, thank you for coming into our world to fill our lives with your light. Please help us to be open to receive and share your love with those around us. Amen.

Write a promise and then draw a big smile on Smiley

This week I will try my best to...



1 Enjoy reading the Gospel

Filled with excitement, the people were wondering if John the Baptist might be the Christ, so John said to them, "I baptise you with water, but someone is coming, someone who is more powerful than I am and he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit." Then, after the people had been baptised by John, Jesus himself was baptised. While Jesus was praying the sky opened and the Holy Spirit came down on him like a dove. And a voice from heaven said, "You are my beloved Son, and with you I am very pleased."



Taken from the Gospel of Sunday 9th January 2022 Luke 3:15-16. 21-22 (the Baptism of the Lord, Year C)

Which words stood out for you in this Gospel, and why? What does the picture make you think about? Enjoy exploring this Wednesday's word, which is **BAPTISM**.

2 "Faith is a gift which we receive in Baptism and which allows us to encounter God." Pope Francis

What was John the Baptist doing? In Church this Sunday we celebrate a special feast - the Baptism of the Lord. The new year presents an opportunity to remember, or to discover, the blessings received at Baptism. Ask your child what else they know about baptism. If your child has been baptised, do they know where they were baptised and who baptised them? Do they know their godparents? You might also like to share with your child any memories you have of their baptism and how you chose their name. Perhaps you have photographs to show them.

3 At Jesus' Baptism, the Holy Spirit came down on Jesus making him ready to begin his great work: to draw us all into his family so that we can become more like him and joyfully share in God's own life.

How can we live more like Jesus as we begin this new year? Perhaps we can: always try to help around the home; remember to start each morning with a prayer and thank God for each new day and for each other; make a new start with church; as a family, resolve to support a charity in 2022; be peacemakers and try to make friends with someone we've fallen out with. You may like to choose something new to start together that will strengthen your family.



Dear Lord Jesus, you are God's beloved Son. Thank you for the gift of **baptism**. May we always remember that we too are the beloved children of God. Amen.

Write a promise and then draw a big smile on Smiley

This week I will try my best to...



# WEDNESDAY WORDSEARCH



Wishing you and your family a happy and blessed New Year.

J	H	W	C	N	F	W	V	V	C	I	J	M	E	N
E	V	G	S	H	O	W	N	I	H	O	C	I	E	E
S	M	D	O	T	E	E	W	T	R	S	W	H	Q	W
U	E	K	K	R	W	X	L	S	I	T	O	I	A	B
S	R	W	I	A	D	I	A	I	S	A	H	Y	N	Y
H	C	I	Z	T	T	S	A	R	T	R	S	N	C	M
Z	Y	S	Z	S	J	Q	F	H	Z	T	J	R	O	C
S	V	I	S	I	T	S	M	C	P	S	E	D	U	M
V	U	D	H	P	P	H	V	K	S	M	S	G	X	W
V	I	S	T	X	J	B	X	U	A	I	X	M	F	Z
B	V	S	E	F	K	X	V	H	W	O	K	S	X	L
M	T	Y	I	J	A	W	I	S	D	O	M	W	W	I
A	F	M	S	T	P	G	J	T	J	A	X	G	B	G
R	Y	R	A	M	S	J	J	K	T	H	G	I	L	H
Y	I	Z	R	B	S	U	P	S	F	O	Y	Q	J	T

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



**SHOW  
MERCY**



**MARY  
VISITS**



**JESUS  
WISDOM**



**LIGHT  
CHRIST**



**NEW  
START**



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



THERE ARE 5 MISSING PARTS IN THE BLACK AND WHITE PICTURE.  
FIND AND DRAW THE MISSING PARTS BEFORE COLOURING IN.