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"With Jesus as our guide; we love, live and learn together."

## Newsletter 12: Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2023

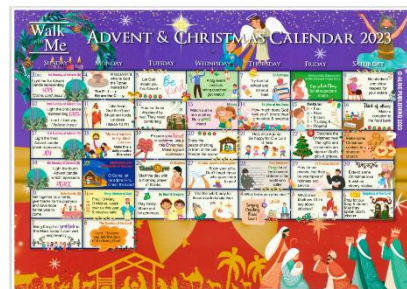
Dear Parents

I hope that you and your families have all had a good week.

Thank you again for your PTA donations today.

This Sunday, we have a special Mass of Enrolment at 10.30am for our Year Three and Year Six pupils who are preparing to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Eucharist and Confirmation. Please remember our Year Three and Year Six children in your prayers.

This Sunday is also the first Sunday of Advent. Your child will have brought home with a 'Walk With Me' advent calendar today. This will guide us as we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus on Christmas day. Please remember to follow your 'Walk With Me' calendar at home each day as we journey through the season of Advent.



### Reverse Advent Calendar

At Holy Name we know that Christmas is a time for giving so, to help us enter Christmas spirit, this year we would like to launch a reverse Advent calendar. We are asking each member of our school to bring **one item each week**. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

Week 1	Items
Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> December - Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shower gel / bubble bath</li> <li>• Soap</li> <li>• Toothpaste</li> <li>• Toothbrushes</li> <li>• Boxes of biscuits</li> <li>• Tea</li> <li>• Coffee</li> </ul>

### Parent Survey:

We have set up an online questionnaire for parents to complete to gather your views. We would be most grateful if you could complete a questionnaire **for each of your children** so that we can analyse the completed questionnaires by class. We are very interested in your feedback and will share the results with parents next term. Thank you in advance for your cooperation and responses.

[2023 PARENT SURVEY](#)

### Pray and Stay - Advent Prayer Services for Y5 and Y4 Parents:

We would like to invite our Y5 and Y4 parents into school at 2.45pm on **Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December** (Y5) and **Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> of December** (Y4) to join us for a special advent family prayer service. This is an opportunity for our family members to join with their child's class to pray together at this special time of year. Please do your best to join us for these special services:

**Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December at 2.45pm** in school with Y5.  
**Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December at 2.45pm** in school with Y4.



### Infant Nativity Tickets:

Tickets are will be on sale **from next Monday** at 50p each. There are two tickets per child for each performance. Please ensure that you collect your tickets as these will be required for admission to the performances.

If there is anyone with a disability or restricted mobility, then please contact the school office so that arrangements can be made with regard to seating arrangements.

### **Christmas Lunch:**

The school kitchen is providing a Christmas Lunch on **Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December**. If you would like your child to have a hot meal (and they do not usually have school meals) then please return the slip with payment to the school office by **Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> December**. Where possible, please have the correct change. Please note, payment is only required for children in **Year 3-6** as all children in Reception to Year 2 are part of the universal infant free school meal offer.

### **Knights of St Columba Nativity Art Competition:**

The Knights of St Columba are once again inviting you to enter their fabulous art competition to win a cash prize of £30.00, a certificate and a trophy!

All you need to do is get creative with your art materials and follow the design brief below:

- A piece of art work on A3 or A4 paper showing the Nativity Scene of our Lord.
- Bible chapter and verse that best relates to your drawing on the front of your design.



**On the back of your entry please include the following information:**

- Name of child.
- Age of child.
- Date of birth of entrant.
- School Year Group.
- Name and full address of school.

Please send all completed entries to Miss Edmunds no later than **Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December**. Good Luck!

### **Sacramental Dates for 2023-24:**

The following dates have been arranged with Father Kuriakose.

Please note that there is a special mass of enrolment for our **Y3** and **Y6** pupils and their families in church at **10.30am** on **Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December**. All parents whose children will be receiving the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist (Y3) and Confirmation (Y6) **are required to attend**.

<b>Date:</b>	<b>Information:</b>
Sunday 3 <sup>rd</sup> December 2023	Mass of Enrolment for <b>Y3</b> and <b>Y6</b> pupils preparing to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Eucharist and Confirmation in church at <b>10.30am</b>
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> January 2024	<b>Y6</b> Mass with the Rite of Confirmation in church at <b>7.00pm</b>
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> March 2024	<b>Y3</b> pupils will receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation in church at <b>2.15pm</b>
Saturday 11 <sup>th</sup> May 2024	<b>Y3</b> First Holy Communion Mass in church at <b>10.00am</b>

### **Holy Souls, November, the Month of Remembrance:**

November is the month of remembrance. We would like invite all of our school community to let us know if there someone special that you would like us to include in our prayer intentions in school.

Please follow the link below to let us know:

**[HOLY SOULS PRAYER FORM](#)**



Eternal rest grant unto them,  
O Lord,  
and let perpetual light shine  
upon them.  
May the souls of all the faithful  
departed,  
through the mercy of God,  
rest in peace.  
Amen.

### Donation Days:

We have one final donation day next Friday to help our PTA to prepare for their Christmas Fayre which is taking place immediately after school next **Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December**.

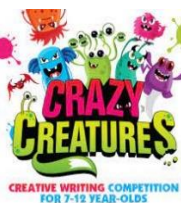
If you are able to help then your donations will be very gratefully welcomed, **please do not worry** if you are not able to make a contribution.

Thank you again in advance for your generosity and also to the dedicated members of the PTA who work so hard to raise substantial funds for our school.

Date:	Donations	Information:
Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> December	<b>BOTTLES</b>	Preferably alcohol: please check that any bottles that you have donated are unopened - for <b>PTA CHRISTMAS FAYRE</b> .

### Look out for the Reading Book Fair at the PTA Christmas Fayre:

On **Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December**, when the PTA are holding the Christmas Fayre, Usborne books will be joining us to sell books to you. Every purchase you make enables school to order books for our library and book prizes for our children.



### 'Crazy Creatures' Writing Competition:

Thank you for the phenomenal number of entries submitted! It has been very difficult to select the top three entries as it was very clear that all the children had given their absolute best. However, after careful consideration **Jessica C (Y5) Blake H (Y6) and Maisie P (Y6)** were selected as the winning entries. Keep your eyes peeled for the next writing competition to be launched next term!

### Number Fact of the Week:

It is really important for our pupils to learn their multiplication facts as quickly as possible. By the end of Y4, it is expected that all pupils will be able to instantly recall all of these up to 12 x 12.

Every week, Mr Shanahan, our maths leader, will be setting a challenge to learn a specific number fact.

Be prepared: when he sees you around school he will be testing you!

This week's number fact is:

$$11 \times 6 = 66$$

or

$$6 \times 11 = 66$$



### Masses this Half Term:

All **parents and parishioners** are warmly invited to all of our school masses in **school** at **9.15am** or in **church** at **11.30am**.

Date:	Information:
Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> December	<b>Y3 and Y6</b> joining the parish for mass in <b>church</b> at <b>11.30am</b>
Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> December	<b>No classes attending Mass</b>
Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> December	Whole school mass in <b>school hall</b> at <b>9.15am</b>

### Diary Dates:

Date:	Information:
Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> December	<b>Y3 &amp; 4</b> Cheerleading Club <b>3.15 – 4.15pm</b> Choir Club <b>3.15 – 4.15pm</b>
Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> December	<b>Y1 &amp; Y2</b> Dance club <b>3.15 – 4.15pm</b>
Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> December	<b>Y4</b> Swimming (AM) <b>KS2</b> French Club <b>3.15 – 4.15pm</b>
Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> December	Celebration Assembly in the school hall at <b>9.05am</b> (all parents welcome) PTA Christmas Fayre <b>3.15pm</b> (immediately after school)

<b>Date:</b>	<b>Information:</b>
Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> December	Infant Nativity in school at <b>2.00pm</b>
Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> December	Infant Nativity in school at <b>9.30am</b> <b>Y5</b> advent family prayer service at <b>2.45pm</b> in school
Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> December	<b>Y4</b> advent family prayer service at <b>2.45pm</b> in school
Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> December	Nursery Advent Stay and Play session <b>10.45 – 11.45am</b>
Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Crafts Day
Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> December	Whole school mass in <b>school hall</b> at <b>9.15am</b> Christmas Dinner Day in school
Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> December	<b>Nursery, Reception, Y1 &amp; Y2</b> Christmas Parties
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> December	<b>Y3,4,5,6</b> Christmas Parties Last day of term

**Happy birthday to:**

Olivia B (Y6), Kwaku O, Alyssa W (Y5), Blessing O-E (Y2) and Alexie-Rose O (Y1) who all have a special day to celebrate next week.

Yours sincerely

*A. Neenan*

Mr A.G. Neenan

Headteacher

One of the precepts of being a Catholic is to attend Sunday Mass (or the vigil Mass for Sunday) every week and on all Holy Days of Obligation. This weekly commitment gives us the opportunity to celebrate the Resurrection of Our Lord which is why Sundays are known as the Lord's day.

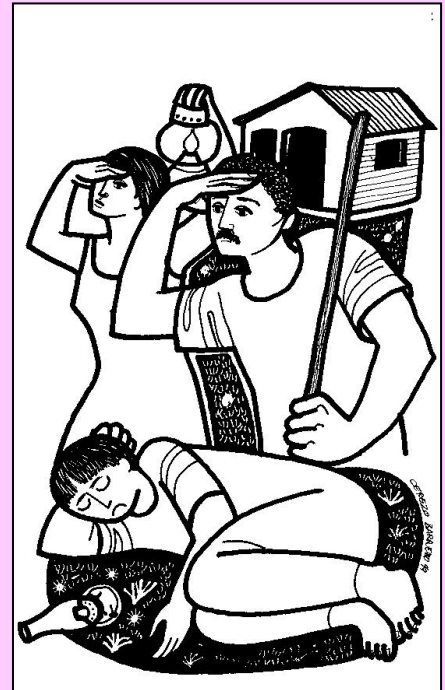
**Mass at Holy Name Church:**  
**Saturday 12.30pm**  
**Sunday 8.30am and 10.30am**

## First Sunday of Advent (Year B)

### Gospel: Mark 13:33-37

This Sunday is the First Sunday of Advent – a special time when we get ready for the coming of Jesus. Jesus asks us all to keep watch for him so that we will be ready when he comes. Today we are going to think about how we can do that:

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Be on your guard, stay awake, because you never know when the time will come. It is like a man travelling abroad: he has gone from home, and left his servants in charge, each with his own task; and he has told the doorkeeper to stay awake. So stay awake, because you do not know when the master of the house is coming, evening, midnight, cockcrow, dawn; if he comes unexpectedly, he must not find you asleep. And what I say to you, I say to all: Stay awake!'



Jesus asks us to look out and keep our eyes open for what is happening around us, so that we are ready when he comes.

What do you think Jesus wants us to see when we look around us?

Do we sometimes see people who need our help? People who are lonely? People who are sad? People who do not feel well?

### Our Catholic Mission:

What do you think Jesus would like us to do when we see people who are sad, lonely, poor or sick?

What will you do next time you see or hear about someone who needs your help?

How will you make sure you are ready for Jesus when he comes again?

### Prayer:

Living God, help us to listen to your word,  
to be kind and generous and helpful to others  
and to be ready to welcome Jesus when he comes.  
Amen.

*Reflection taken from CAFOD Children's Liturgy*