

THE Wednesday
WORD ADVENT & CHRISTMAS 2024



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
11th December

Good News for Families
TOGETHER TIME

1 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 15th December 2024 Luke 3: 10-18 (the 3rd 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.

3

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**

- JOHN BAPTIST**
- ENCOURAGES**
- MERCY**
- COATS**
- FOOD**
- SHARE**
- OTHERS**

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 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 m o d r e w J o w h u n d t u h w a n d B a w p t i s t u d
_____ 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.

Wednesday
18th December

Good News for Families
TOGETHER TIME

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 22nd December 2024 - Luke 1:39-44 (the 4th 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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.....



Wednesday
25th December

Good News for Families
TOGETHER TIME

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 29th December 2024 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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Wednesday
1st January

Good News for Families
TOGETHER TIME

1 Enjoy reading this Sunday's Gospel

Jesus was born in Bethlehem when Herod was king. Wise men came from the East to Jerusalem and said, "Where is the child born to be king of the Jews? We saw his star in the sky and have come to worship him." King Herod was very worried. He called together all the priests and teachers and asked them where the Christ was to be born. "In the town of Bethlehem, in Judaea," they said. So Herod sent the wise men to Bethlehem and said, "When you have found the child let me know, so that I too may go and worship him." So they set off. The star went before them and stopped over the place where the child Jesus was. The wise men knelt down and worshipped Jesus. They opened their treasure and offered him gifts - gold and frankincense and myrrh. Then God warned them in a dream not to go back to Herod, so they returned home another way.



From the Gospel of Sunday 5th January 2025 Matthew 2: 1-12 (the Feast of the Epiphany)

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 **GUIDANCE**.



2 Wednesday's Word GUIDANCE

"We will never be disillusioned or lose our way if we are guided by God."

Pope Francis

What guided the wise men to Jesus? This Sunday the Church celebrates the Feast of the Epiphany. We remember how the wise men from the East were guided to Jesus. Ask your child what the word 'guidance' means to them. Who guides them through life, to make sensible and wise choices? Who or what guides you on your journey through life? **The wise men in the Gospel were guided by a star, but since the birth of Jesus we no longer need stars to guide us. Jesus is the way: the way to happiness, to truth, and to eternal life.**

"If, then, you are looking for the way by which you should go, take Christ, because He Himself is the way." St Thomas Aquinas

As we journey through life to God, we need good guidance to help us along the way. Ask your child if they know some of the ways in which Jesus guides us today. Perhaps it is through: listening to good and wise people; learning Church teaching; being open to correction; prayerfully considering what effect our words and actions might have on ourselves and others; reading the gospels together; going to church and listening carefully; praying to Jesus for guidance. **This year, why not resolve to head into 2025 on an enriching spiritual journey as a family - to be guided and strengthened by God's love?**

3 Dear Lord Jesus, thank you for your **guidance** - for being there to **guide** our family on our journey together through life. Amen.

WEDNESDAY WORDSEARCH

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

- SKY STAR
- GUIDED BETHLEHEM
- WISE MEN
- WORSHIP JESUS

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

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

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

esanwu nustear sunkey ewornship
"We _____ his _____ in the _____ and have come to _____ him."

Write a promise and then draw a big smile on Smiley

My New Year resolution for 2025 will be to



THE Wednesday WORD GOSPEL GALLERY



Sunday 15th December



Sunday 22nd December



Sunday 29th December



Sunday 5th January