

## St Louis Catholic Academy News for Advent 2020



### ADVENT AT ST LOUIS ACADEMY 2021

As we begin Advent, we are again facing the return to more stringent wearing of masks and reminders to keep safe. Despite these restrictions, we will continue to raise children's awareness about others who are less fortunate than ourselves. Once again our fundraising during Advent will be for CCAFOD is the Catholic Agency for Overseas Development, a charity that helps the poorest, most hard-to-reach people around the world.

World Gifts are a great way for pupils to learn about the joy of giving, and they help to transform the lives of people living in poverty around the world. Your child will learn about how global gifts such as cows, solar lamps and water for a family help to change lives.

We have chosen to support CAFOD as a way for our pupils to put their faith into action. By raising money for World Gifts this Advent, we will be supporting our brothers and sisters around the world, inspiring our pupils to become active global citizens and living out our school mission.

You can find out more about CAFOD together as a family by visiting [cafod.org.uk/families](http://cafod.org.uk/families). This year, we will have a busy calendar of fundraising events but you may choose to fund a world gift on behalf of your family too. Last year, we raised over £500 for CAFOD and I'm sure with your help, we can equal this. We'll also be working with FOSL to hold the brilliant school raffle that raised money for school fund.

With best wishes, Sue Blakeley

#### ADVENT MESSAGE FROM OUR PARISH PRIEST: FATHER LEO

#### Embracing Advent

I wish you all a Happy Advent . What a great time to prepare ourselves for the birth of our Lord Jesus in our hearts and home. I pray and long that this season of Advent be a truly dynamic and transformative experience of life for each one of us. Let us embrace this season with watchful prayer and waking up to God's Presence *within* and *without*.

'For me prayer is something wonderful and supernatural that expands my soul and unites me to Jesus.' *Saint Therese*

Do I pray? How much time do I spend in prayer? What happens to me when I pray? How does prayer impact on me?

*With Warmest Wishes— Fr.Leo*

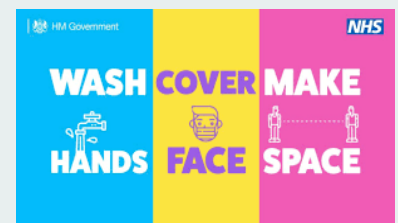


Thank you Miss Hutchings for repainting our statue of Our Lady. She looks so beautiful .

**We have spaces! Please tell your friends.** We have spaces in classes across our school.

Our nursery has wrap around care and can accommodate your child during your working day. We are an inclusive Catholic school, welcoming of all children.

Please enquire now & tell others.



## TREADING FAIRLY AND LIGHTLY ON THE EARTH DURING ADVENT

School Council and Fairtrade Group continue to be active in challenging and supporting us all to walk more lightly on the Earth, recognising that God gave us choices in caring for all that he created. We are reflecting upon COP 26.

They are wonderful stewards for our world. In response, we are using living Jesse trees in class and we will plant them ready to reuse for Advent 2022. Last year's trees are growing well at the front of our school and we are going to provide them with an opportunity to grow for a further year before we return them to classrooms.

Meanwhile, this year's living trees will appear in classrooms in 2023!



This Year school staff are filling a Fairtrade Hamper to add to your wonderful raffle baskets for each class. We wish to promote Fairtrade foods to our families.

**We are an inclusive Catholic school, welcoming of all children.**

You **must** apply for a primary, infant or junior school place for the 2022/2023 school year by the closing date of **15 January 2022**. We are always available to show prospective families around. **We have spaces in Nursery immediately. This year all children attending Nursery who applied for a place were able to move to our Reception classes and transitioned to our main school.**



### Christmas in the School Kitchen

Trina has ordered her Christmas Turkeys early for the annual Christmas Lunch. She wanted her meal to be perfect! This will be served on Tuesday 14th December. We plan to serve in the school hall, with phases eating together for their sitting. Trina will be working hard to make this celebration a great one for our children. Teaching staff and MDSAs will join their



classes for a turkey feast. We are so thrilled to welcome our nursery children who usually stay for packed lunch to join in the celebrations.

#### HOW TO APPLY ONLINE FOR FREE SCHOOL MEALS

Children in Reception and KS1 are eligible for a free meal. **If your child is attending a nursery school:**

- they must be in a maintained school nursery as a registered pupil at the school
- your child must be in receipt of education before and after lunch on the same day
- you must be in receipt of a qualifying benefit. You should apply online by clicking the green button below visiting:  
<https://suffolkone.capitaone.cloud/CitizenPortal/en>

**Thank you Mrs Cox, Mrs Hodson and Ms Coetzee**

**The roof works are progressing well and our three brilliant teachers and the teaching support team have continued to deliver the full curriculum in the hall and at Treetops. The children have been flexible and on-task. High winds permitting, it is planned that all children will return to their classrooms by next week at the latest.**



#### GOD WITH US: A MESSAGE FROM POPE FRANCIS

**"Advent is a continuous call to hope," the Pope underlined. "It reminds us that God is present in history to lead it to its ultimate goal and to its fullness, which is the Lord Jesus Christ. God is present in the history of humanity, He is the 'God-with-us', He walks beside us to support us."**

**Pope Francis concluded by saying, "The Lord never abandons us; He accompanies us through the events of our lives to help us discover the meaning of the journey, the meaning of everyday life, to give us courage when we are under duress or when we suffer. In the midst of life's storms, God always extends His hand to us and frees us from threats."**

## OUR PRAYERS DURING THE SEASON OF ADVENT

Sun, 28 Nov 2021 – Thu, 24 Dec 2021

We plan to continue come together as a whole school for lighting of our Advent wreath in the hall this year, commencing next week ,but for this week, Fr Leo will join us on Tuesday to bless class wreaths and light the candle of our hall wreath with some representatives from each class attending. This is because the hall is being used as a classroom and space is limited. Our children unable to come to the hall will joined by Microsoft Teams to share in this ritual. Each week, we will be holding reflections and prayers to help us prepare for the birth of Jesus. We come together in prayer in many ways. On Mondays we hold Gospel Assemblies in the hall. On Wednesday, we hold class celebration and on Wednesday, phases gather to pray and provide time for children to develop their faith through meditation and prayer. On Thursdays, children sing together in phases. We use TenTen Catholic resources to support our daily classroom prayer life and each day starts with a reflection and prayer linked to the Monday assembly theme of the Gospel. Children are being increasingly supported to lead and develop the prayer life in their classrooms and wider school. Each class has their own advent wreath and Jesse Tree as symbols of Advent and stimulus for prayer and reflection.








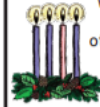























Download a daily calendar ppt to use at home This Advent calendar for families has a daily reflection and free activity for you and your children in preparation for Christmas. Join us as we journey throughout the season of Advent with our global family.

<https://cafod.org.uk/Education/For-families/Family-Advent-Calendar>



We are going to use our CAFOD fundraisers to buy world gifts this year. We will ask School Council to involve classes in prioritising how we will spend the money raised on the gifts that we donate through CAFOD.

# Mission Together Advent Calendar 2021 **missio**

| Sunday                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Monday                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Tuesday                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Wednesday                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Thursday                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Friday                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Saturday                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p><b>1st Sunday of Advent</b><br/>What is the promise the prophet Jeremiah speaks of in today's first reading?<br/><i>Jeremiah 33:14-16*</i></p>  <p>28</p>                            | <p>Advent wreaths help us prepare for Christmas. Find out why they are round and made of evergreen leaves.*</p>  <p>29</p> | <p>As a class, learn our Advent Carol <i>We are Waiting</i>,* and think carefully about what the words mean.</p>  <p>30</p> | <p>An Advent wreath's candles are a symbol of Christ's light. Think of ways you can be a light for others today.*</p>  <p>1</p>                          | <p>Write an Advent prayer or poem. Try to include the words: God, promise, wait, hope, light, world, Jesus.</p>  <p>2</p> | <p>Today is the feast of St Francis Xavier, to share the light of Jesus, where and how did he travel?*</p>  <p>3</p>                                | <p>Say the Mission Together Prayer:<br/><i>May all children in the world, share love, share friendship and live in the peace of God's love. Now and forever. Amen.</i></p>  <p>4</p> |
| <p><b>2nd Sunday of Advent</b><br/>In today's Gospel reading, John the Baptist told the people to prepare for Jesus. How can we prepare for Jesus?<br/><i>Luke 3:1-6*</i></p>  <p>5</p> | <p>Today is the feast of St Nicholas. What did he do to bring hope to the poor?*</p>  <p>6</p>                             | <p>Make a <i>Peace Paper Chain</i> and think about how you can be a peace-maker in school this week.*</p>  <p>7</p>         | <p>We can prepare for the coming of Jesus by being peace builders. Say the Mission Together prayer today for children living in war zones.</p>  <p>8</p> | <p>The prophet Isaiah told us to expect a child called 'Immanuel'. Find out what the name 'Immanuel' means.</p>  <p>9</p> | <p>As a class sing, <i>Go Tell it on the Mountain</i>*. Listen carefully to the words and think about what they mean.</p>  <p>10</p>                | <p>Draw or make a Christmas crib. If you can, use recycled materials.</p>  <p>11</p>                                                                                                 |
| <p><b>3rd Sunday of Advent</b><br/>The prophet Zephaniah shares God's joy in today's first reading. How can we share God's joy this week?<br/><i>Zephaniah 3:14-18*</i></p>  <p>12</p>  | <p>Find out why the candle for the third Sunday of Advent is pink and not purple.</p>  <p>13</p>                           | <p>Be an Advent light today; look out for someone who is sad and invite them to play.</p>  <p>14</p>                        | <p>Find out how Christmas is celebrated in another country.</p>  <p>15</p>                                                                               | <p>Create a <i>Gift for the World</i> decoration and think about the gifts God has given you to share.*</p>  <p>16</p>    | <p>As a class sing <i>Joy to the World</i>.* Listen carefully to the words and think about what they mean.</p>  <p>17</p>                           | <p>Say a prayer for children who will not have enough food to eat today. Ask God to help us share more.</p>  <p>18</p>                                                               |
| <p><b>4th Sunday of Advent</b><br/>In today's Gospel, Mary visits Elizabeth. How can you make visitors feel welcome this Christmas?<br/><i>Luke 1:39-45*</i></p>  <p>19</p>             | <p>Find a way to help at home today, to prepare for Christmas.</p>  <p>20</p>                                              | <p>Be an Advent light today, make a special Christmas card for an elderly relative or neighbour.*</p>  <p>21</p>            | <p>Sing your favourite carol. Think about the words. Tell someone what they mean.</p>  <p>22</p>                                                         | <p>Pray for children who have no home. Ask God to keep them safe, and for us to find ways to help them.</p>  <p>23</p>    | <p><b>Rejoice!</b><br/><b>Jesus is born!</b><br/>Remember to thank God and your family for all the gifts their love brings.</p> <p>24 &amp; 25</p>  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |

Cross symbol\* refers to abridged scriptures found in our accompanying liturgical prayers. Asterisks refer to activities, assemblies, or carols. Download all for free from the Advent page of the Mission Together website.

Mission Together, 23 Eccleston Square, London, SW1V 1NU. Web: [missiontogether.org.uk](http://missiontogether.org.uk) Reg. Charity No. 1056651



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## FoSL News

We need your generous donations to create our Family Christmas Hamper raffle prizes. Please send them in all week. Raffle tickets will be on sale in classes as soon as we fill the baskets.

We will have large family baskets and child treat smaller baskets to raffle in every class with your help please.

There is also a staff filled Fairtrade hamper to win.

We need chocolates, crackers, toiletries, cakes, biscuits (all with use by dates beyond December 2021 please).



## The Change Race Is On !

During Advent, we are asking you to once again empty your drawers, bags, pockets and jars of all your loose change to fill classroom jars. The class that raises the most money will be given a fun-filled Winter -themed extended sports session in the hall to replace any lesson of their choice on that day- hopefully not PE! All money raised will be donated to our International Advent Charity Cafod ([cafod.org.uk](http://cafod.org.uk)). The winning class teacher gets a free session too! **Please remind your children to please ask before taking change from home.**

**CAFOD**  
Catholic Agency for  
Overseas Development



DIGITAL PAYMENTS

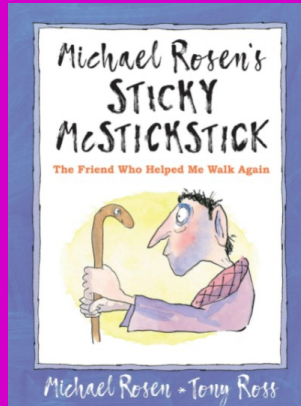


## Reading and Buying Books During Advent

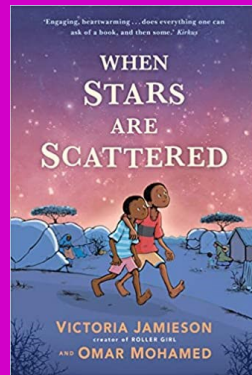
### Christmas Stories



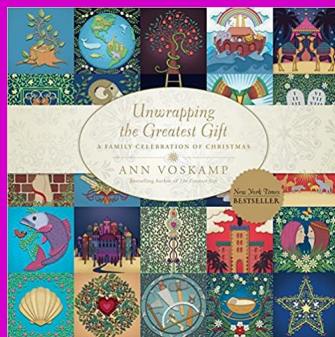
### Covid Recovery and Hope



### A fairer World



### The Jesse Tree

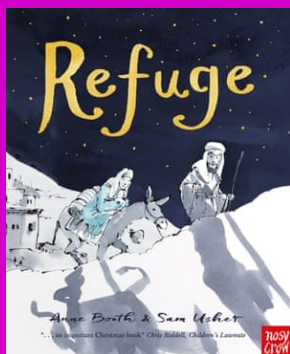


### The Nativity



### Helping others

### Supporting Charities



<https://childrensbookproject.co.uk/>  
Helping all children to enjoy books



Give £10 today and send a special book gift to a vulnerable child.

Christmas won't be magical for every child. A special book gift can add sparkle.

Can you help? >

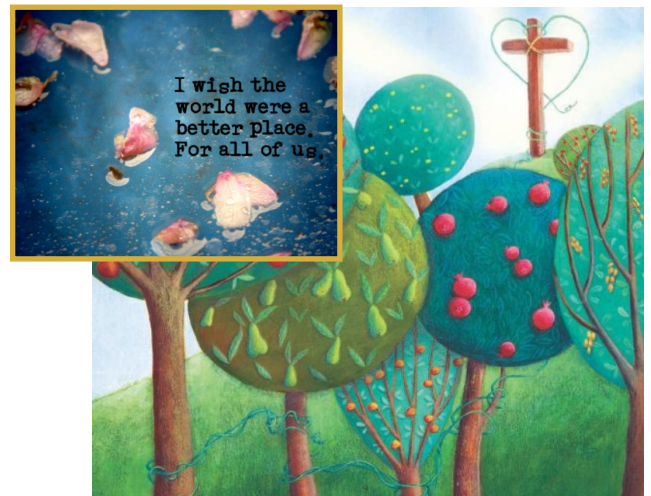
<https://www.booktrust.org.uk/support-us/give-ten-pounds-today-and-bring-joy-to-a-vulnerable-child-this-christmas/>

## The Book that We Share in School During Advent

We are using Unwrapping The Greatest Gift by Ann Voskamp to help us to develop our understanding and use of our Jesse Trees (kindly gifted to each class by FoSL). The name comes from Jesse who was the Father of the great Jewish King David. One prophecy in the Bible, in the book of Isaiah, says: *1 A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit. 2 The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him-- the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of power, the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD-- 3 and he will delight in the fear of the LORD. He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes, or decide by what he hears with his ears; 4 but with righteousness he will judge the needy, with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth.* Isaiah 11:1-4 (NIV)

A branch is a sign of new life and new beginnings. Jesus was a descendent of King David and as Catholics, we believe that Jesus is this new branch. The first Jesse trees were large carvings, tapestries or even stained glass windows put in Churches that helped illiterate people (people who can't read or write) to learn about the Bible from creation to the Christmas Story. But now Jesse Trees are used as a kind of Advent Calendar. Throughout Advent, the children will be learning some of the Bible Stories in this book and creating special decorations and ornaments in their classes to hang on their trees. These will reflect their learning and understanding of these stories.

The Christmas wishes that are usually hung in the school hall will be added to the Jesse Trees. These hopes and wishes for a better world will be retained to burn at Pentecost, as is our usual tradition.



<https://books2africa.org/>



## Dates for your Advent Diary

KS2 8th December

KS1 9th December

**Dress as a shepherd, king or an angel.** Our

non uniform day: A fundraising day towards the Friends of St Louis who support the school in its ongoing improvements.

**Please wear your school uniform if you do not wish to dress as an angel, shepherd or king.**



Season of Advent 28th November - 24th December 2020 : A Focus for Catholic Charitable Giving.

### Christmas Carols from Afar

This year, each phase will sing a Christmas Carol on Friday 17th December for you to enjoy at a distance when you collect your child. Please remain socially distanced, alone and wearing a mask but we feel this will be safe if sung outdoors with separation.

We'll sing very loudly!



December 10th  
2021 Christmas

Donations are invited and all proceeds will be gifted to the charity 'Save the Children'.

**Christmas Jumper Day**



### Christmas lunch and class party day

**Tuesday 14th December** Dress in your own clothes (no football kits please).

School will provide snacks and we will not accept food from home to simplify things and based upon this being successful last year.

### CINDELLA—WEAR YOUR SCHOOL UNIFORM

8th December : Reception and KS1

9th December : KS2



### Spare Change to Make a Change for our International Charity

Send in your loose change to help our Advent International Charity Cafod.

The winning class who raises the most money gets a special fun –filled prize too.

### CLASS CAFOD FUNDRAISERS

Each class has chosen their own fundraisers on 3rd December

**Nursery and Reception and KS1 Cafod Christmas jumper day**  
**KS2 PJ and movie afternoon**  
**Cafod fundraiser**

### Milkshake Sale

Strawberry or Chocolate

Order on 30th November to be delivered on 1st December (Strawberry or Chocolate 50p each)

**KS2 Hot Chocolate** sale—order on 7th December to collect on 8th December 50p

Christmas raffles —tickets on sale from week 2 of Advent Further details to follow.

