SACRED HEART CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL & NURSERY

Learning and loving with Christ as our teacher

PRAYER AT HOME

Advent Week 3

Dear Parents and Carers

This week, we commemorate the third Sunday in advent, commonly referred to as 'Gaudete Sunday'. During this time, we light the pink candle on our advent wreath. The pink colour symbolises joy and happiness. It reminds us that Christmas is getting closer and we should be filled with joy because Jesus is coming. The term 'Gaudete' means 'Rejoice' in Latin. It is a time of joyful celebration as we anticipate the approaching Christmas season and rejoice in the imminent arrival of Christ. On the third Sunday of Advent, we take a moment to rejoice and be happy because Christmas is almost here and we are excited to celebrate the birth of Jesus. It's a time to feel joyful and share that joy with others.

This prayer resource is designed to help families come together and engage in prayer during the Advent season.

God Bless,

Linda Payne
Executive Headteacher



Gather Together

1. Find a quiet space and sit together.
2. Begin by making the sign of the cross.



Listen

3. Read from the scripture quote from John's Gospel.



There stands among you, unknown to you, the one who is coming after me. John 1:26

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Reflect

4. "There stands among you, unknown to you, the one who is coming after me." This quote is spoken by John the Baptist, who was a special person chosen by God to prepare the way for Jesus.

John the Baptist was a special person chosen by God to prepare the way for Jesus. He said that someone very important was already among them but they did not realise it yet. He was talking about Jesus, who would come after him and bring God's love and salvation to the world.

This scripture verse reminds us that Jesus is always present with us, even if we may not always recognise Him. It teaches us to be open to His presence and to seek Him in our daily lives. Just like the people in John's time, we may not always realise the significance of Jesus' presence, but He is always there, guiding us, loving us, and offering us His grace.

Let us remember that Jesus is among us. We can find Him in the love and kindness we show to others and in the prayers we offer. He is the one who came after John the Baptist, and He is the one who continues to be with us today, guiding us on our journey of faith.

How are you going to prepare your hearts this week?

Pray



5. Spend time praying together.

Dear Heavenly Father,

As we gather here during this special time of Advent, we come before you with open hearts and minds. We thank you for the gift of Jesus, who is coming to us.

We remember the words from the scripture that say, "There stands among you, unknown to you, the one who is coming after me." Help us to understand the meaning of these words and to prepare our hearts for the arrival of Jesus.

During this Advent season, help us to be aware of the signs of Jesus' presence. Open our eyes to see the kindness and love that others show us. Open our ears to hear the words of encouragement and support from those around us. Open our hearts to feel the warmth and peace that comes from knowing Jesus is near.

As we wait for the celebration of Jesus' birth, may we grow in faith, hope and love. Fill our hearts with joy and excitement as we anticipate the coming of our Lord, Jesus.

In Jesus' name we pray.

Amen.



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Living out the Message



6. Here are a few examples of how children can live out the message, "There stands among you, unknown to you, the one who is coming after me":

1. **Kindness to Others:** Children can practice kindness towards everyone they meet, whether it's their friends, family, or even strangers. By treating others with love and respect, they may unknowingly be showing kindness to someone who needs it the most.

2. **Inclusion and Acceptance:** Encouraging children to include others and make everyone feel welcome is another way to live out this message. They can reach out to someone who may be feeling left out or lonely, making them feel valued and appreciated.

3. **Helping Others:** Children can look for opportunities to help those in need, whether it's volunteering at a local charity, assisting an elderly neighbour or simply offering a helping hand to someone who needs it. By doing so, they may be unknowingly helping someone who is going through a difficult time.

4. **Being Observant:** Encouraging children to be observant of their surroundings and the people around them can help them recognise when someone may need support or encouragement. By being attentive and aware, they may discover someone who needs a friend or a listening ear.

5. **Sharing Joy:** Children can spread joy and happiness by sharing their own positive energy with others. Whether it's through a smile, a kind word or a small act of generosity, they can brighten someone's day and make them feel special.

Remember, living out this message is about being open-hearted, compassionate and aware of the needs of others. By practising these actions, children can make a positive impact on the lives of those around them, just as Jesus did.