

THE Wednesday
WORD ADVENT & CHRISTMAS 2022



Wishing you a blessed Christmas from your School

**"The Birth of Jesus brings us
the good news that we are loved
immensely and uniquely by God."**

Pope Francis



Wednesday
14th December



Good News
for Families

Enjoy reading this Sunday's Gospel

This is how Jesus Christ came to be born. His mother Mary was engaged to a man called Joseph; but before they could be married she became pregnant by the power of the Holy Spirit. Joseph was a good man and did not want to embarrass Mary so he made plans to break the engagement privately. But the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because it is by the power of the Holy Spirit that she is going to have a son. You must name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." When Joseph woke up, he did as the angel of the Lord had told him to do and took Mary into his home as his wife.



From the Gospel of Sunday 18th December 2022 Matthew 1:18-24 (the 4th Sunday of Advent, Year A)

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 **MARY**.

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"We go to Mary as a way leading to the goal we seek - Jesus, her Son." *St Louis de Montfort*

What two things did the angel tell Joseph to do? Each year on the last Sunday of Advent, we look to Mary, our heavenly mother. The Gospel tells us something about Mary who was chosen by God to be the mother of his Son, Jesus (the name 'Jesus' means 'the LORD saves'). Ask your child what else they know about Mary. It may help your child to tell them something you know about Mary, or the Rosary.

"Mary is the first and most perfect model of Jesus."

St Teresa Benedicta of the Cross

Mary accepted God's will with a thankful heart; she is a perfect example for all people - someone full of thoughtfulness, kindness and joy. How can you show thoughtfulness and kindness and bring joy to others in this final week of Advent? Perhaps you can: give lots of smiles; cheerfully do what your parents or teachers ask you to do; be a good and patient listener; get involved with a charity that helps to feed some of the poorest children in the world (e.g. visit marysmeals.org.uk or Cafod.org.uk); help someone who may be struggling in some way. You may like to finish your time of prayer by saying together, on behalf of another person, a 'Hail Mary' or the Rosary.



Hail **Mary**, full of grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

WEDNESDAY WORDSEARCH



Cross out the letters **c q z** in the 4 jumbled words to find 4 real words.

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

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- JOSEPH**
- DREAM**
- ANGEL**
- APPEARED**
- MARY**
- SON**
- JESUS**
- SAVES**

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

S	S	E	V	A	S	D	V	S	M	S
A	N	G	G	U	H	D	A	O	P	A
N	J	O	S	E	P	H	R	N	D	V
G	V	E	S	O	J	A	Y	E	V	E
J	J	O	S	Y	M	J	R	Y	A	S
A	E	A	P	P	E	A	R	E	D	M
J	E	S	U	S	E	N	R	E	R	D
V	E	A	Y	P	M	G	N	Y	P	R
P	A	S	P	H	P	E	S	O	J	E
S	M	A	R	Y	V	L	E	G	N	A
M	Y	N	O	S	N	A	Y	R	Y	M

zafraciqd Macqrzy wiqfecz Joqsecphz
 " _____, son of David, do not be _____
 to take _____ home as your _____."

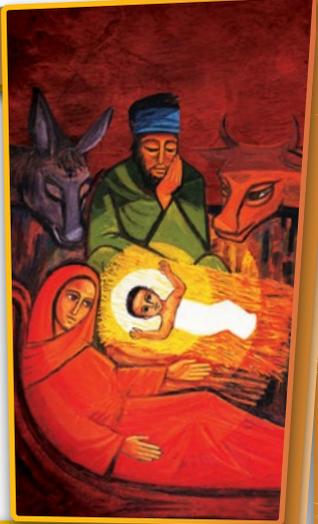
Write a promise and then **draw** a big smile on Smiley

This week I will try my best to



1 Enjoy reading the Gospel

Joseph set out from Nazareth to a town called Bethlehem with Mary, who was expecting a baby. When they reached Bethlehem, Mary gave birth to a son, wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger because there was no room for them at the inn. In the countryside, close by, there were shepherds. During the night the angel of the Lord appeared to them and said, "I bring you news of great joy, a joy to be shared by all people. Today in Bethlehem a saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. Here is a sign for you: you will find him warmly wrapped up and lying in a manger." And suddenly a great crowd of angels appeared singing, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace to all people on earth."



From the Gospel of Sunday 25th December 2022 Luke 2:1-14 (Reading at Midnight Mass)

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 **CHRISTMAS**.

2

"Christ comes among us at Christmas: it is the perfect time for a personal encounter with the Lord." *Pope Francis*

What Joyful news did the angel of the Lord bring to the shepherds? This Sunday is Christmas Day. This is the day when people throughout the world celebrate the birth of Jesus. Ask your child what the word 'Christmas' means to them. What do they like best about Christmas? You may want to share with your child what you like best about Christmas. The Gospel above (which we read at Midnight Mass) reminds us that the real point of Christmas is the birth of Jesus, God's gift to the world.

3

"May we stop before the Child of Bethlehem and allow the tenderness of God to warm our hearts." *Pope Francis*

Christmas is a special time for families. Each of you say what you like best about your family. Then each of you choose a way to bring more of God's love and joy into your family this Christmas? Perhaps you can; make any visitors feel welcome and special; as a family, visit someone who is lonely, sick or housebound; be more patient and forgiving with each other. Jesus Christ came for everyone and his birthday is a celebration for everyone. Come and celebrate the joy of Jesus' birthday in church this Christmas Day. All are warmly invited.

Dear Lord Jesus, thank you for **Christmas**, for coming into our world to fill our lives and families with your joy, peace and love. Help us to welcome you with love and to share your love with all who are in need - near or far. Amen.

Write a promise and then draw a big smile on Smiley

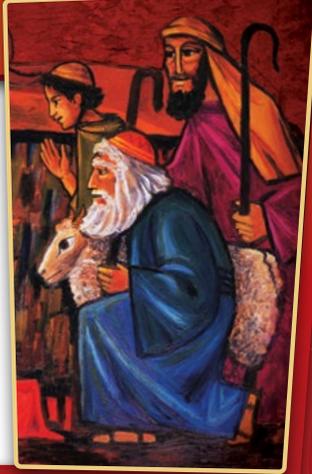
This week I will try my best to...

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1 Enjoy reading the Gospel

The shepherds hurried away to Bethlehem and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger. When the shepherds saw the child, they told everyone what the angel had said about him, and everyone who listened was amazed at what the shepherds said to them. Mary listened to them and treasured all that they had to say and pondered it in her heart. Then the shepherds went back to their fields praising God for all that they had heard and seen; it was exactly as they had been told by the angel. When the eighth day came, Mary and Joseph named the child 'Jesus', which was the name the angel Gabriel had given him before he was born.



From the Gospel of Sunday 1st January 2023 Luke 2:16-21 (the Feast of Mary, Mother of God)

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 **PRaise**.

2

"God is full of love: to him be praise and glory forever!"

Pope Francis

What did the shepherds do as they went back to their fields? This Sunday's Gospel continues the story proclaimed in the Gospel at the Midnight Christmas Mass. After seeing Jesus, the Shepherds praised God. As we grow in our knowledge and love of Jesus, it's natural to want to praise God. Ask your child what the word 'praise' means to them. Ask who regularly praises them and lets them know how good they've been. How does your child feel when they receive praise? Does your child praise anyone - and why? It may help to share an example of someone you feel deserves praise.

3

"Praise God always, no matter the time of day,
no matter the season in life." *St Benedict*

Praising God brings happiness; it's what we were made for! What could we praise and thank God for today (e.g. a loving family, good friends, our school and for always having a good friend - Jesus - who loves us and never forgets us)? How can we praise God? Perhaps we can: think of all the good things that we have received from God and say a quiet prayer of thanks and praise; pray the 'Glory Be' - a simple prayer of praise. Why not come to church and praise God this Sunday, to start the New Year in the best possible way? All are warmly invited.

A great prayer to **praise** God:
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the
beginning, is now and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen.

Write a promise and then **draw** a big smile on Smiley

This week I will try my best to...

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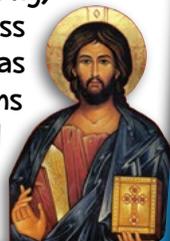
Wednesday
4th January



Good News
for Families

Enjoy reading this Sunday's Gospel

Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptised by John. John tried to dissuade him. "It is I who need baptism from you," he said, "and yet you come to me!" But Jesus replied, "Leave it like this for the time being; it is fitting that we should, in this way, do all that righteousness demands." At this, John gave in to him. As soon as Jesus was baptised he came up from the water, and suddenly the heavens opened and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming down on him. And a voice spoke from heaven, "This is my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on him."



From the Gospel of Sunday 8th January 2023 Matthew 3: 13-17 (The Baptism of the Lord, Year A)

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





The newness which God brings into our life is something that gives true joy." *Pope Francis*

In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus makes a new start and begins his mission to the world. This new year presents an opportunity for us to make a new start. We can be sure that our efforts will always be rewarded when we take the time to make a new start with Jesus. Spending time with him (through prayer) helps us become the best we can be. Each of you say what is the best thing that you've ever started. What did you like about it? Ask your child if they have made any new starts in 2023. If so, how is it going? It may help your child if you mention any new starts or resolutions which you have made for 2023 and tell them how it's going for you. How does your new start help you or others?

As we begin this new year, are there any new starts that we can make with our family, friends or with God?

Perhaps we can: always try to help around the home before having to be asked; 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; 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, please help me to be always ready to make a **new start** with you and with others as we start this New Year. Amen.

WEDNESDAY WORDSEARCH



Cross out the letters **f k u** in the 4 jumbled words to find 4 real words.

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

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JOHN BAPTIST
BAPTISED JESUS
HEAVEN VOICE
BELOVED SON

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

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

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And a _____ spoke from _____ saying:

"This is my _____."

Write a promise and then draw a big smile on Smiley

This week I will try my best to



THE Wednesday WORD Gospel Gallery



Sunday 18th December



Sunday 25th December



Sunday 1st January



Sunday 8th January

w: wednesdayword.org