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Dear Parents,

During the next few weeks we will be celebrating Advent. Advent is a four week period of preparation for Christmas and marks the beginning of the Church's year. It is a joyful season full of waiting and expectancy as we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus. Advent begins on Sunday 27th November and between then and the end of term we will be helping the children to deepen their understanding of the importance of Jesus' birth.

Advent Wreaths

We are encouraging the children to make an Advent wreath at home and to bring it into school on Wednesday 30th November where it will be blessed by Fr Reg. Wreaths are traditionally circular and decorated with evergreen leaves representing God's everlasting love. There are three purple candles and one pink candle for the four Sundays of Advent and one white candle for Christmas day reminding us that Jesus is the light of the world. The wreaths will be taken home at the end of the day so they can be used during family prayer times.

Advent Paper Chain

During Advent we are asking the children to do simple acts of kindness for others. We are sending out a separate document, containing some tasks written on strips of paper which can be used to make a paper chain. Please help your child to complete the daily tasks and to make the chain by adding a link each day.

Playground Prayers

On Monday 5th December and Monday 12th December we will start the week by gathering the whole school on the playground for morning prayers. Parents are welcome to join us for a quiet five minutes of reflection to start the week.

Prayer tree

A "Prayer Tree" will be displayed in the entrance hall throughout Advent. During December the children will write prayers to hang on the tree. Parents are also welcome to add their prayers. Just write the names of people you would like to pray for on a gift tag and pop it into school so we can hang it on one of the branches.

Nativity Set

During Advent, we are encouraging your family to setup a Nativity Set and place the shepherds on the way to the stable, and the kings behind the shepherds. Each day your children can move the figures a bit closer to the manger/stable (make sure the wise men don't arrive until 6th January – the feast of the Epiphany - and you have hidden Baby Jesus until Christmas Day!). If you do not have your own Nativity set at home, you will find some templates you can use on the separate document. All you need to do is print off the crib cut-outs, colour them in and cut them out. Please ask your child's teacher for a paper copy if you do not have access to a printer.

"Together in Christ"



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Gifts to place under the tree

This year we are collecting food items to support Nailsea food bank. All contributions of non-perishable food items will be great fully received but the group are particularly looking for the following:

Milk (UHT or Powdered)	Fruit Juice (Carton)	Pasta Sauces	Tinned Fruit
Rice	Sponge Pudding	Biscuits or Snack Bars	Tinned Soup
Rice Pudding (Tinned)	Tea Bags/Instant Coffee	Instant Mash Potato	Tinned Meat/Fish
Jam	Breakfast cereals	Sugar (500g)	Tomatoes (Tinned)
Toothpaste	Toothbrushes	Toilet Rolls	Feminine Hygiene
Soap	Washing up liquid	Toilet cleaner/bleach	Washing powder/liquid

Disposable nappies size 4 are also useful.

The items will be placed under the "Prayer Tree" and collected by a representative from the food bank during the last week of term.

Christmas Non-Uniform day

The children are invited to wear Christmas jumpers, Christmas colours, Tinsel, Christmas hats etc on Wed 14 Dec (Christmas dinner day) and to make a donation of a food item to place under the Prayer Tree (see note above).

Christmas Mass

We will end our term with Mass in the school hall on Friday 16th December at 10am. We hope parents will be able to join us for this joyful occasion. Please keep an eye on the newsletter for updates.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

With many thanks and best wishes

Miss A Parry



The circle of evergreen leaves represent God's everlasting love.

The candles represent Jesus the light of the World. There are 3 purple candles and 1 pink candle for the four Sundays of Advent and 1 white candle for Christmas day.

Advent Prayer

Come Lord Jesus, come.
Come to the old, come to the young,
Come to the lonely, come to the poor,
Come to me and mine, come this Christmas time,
Come Lord Jesus come. Amen.

"Together in Christ"