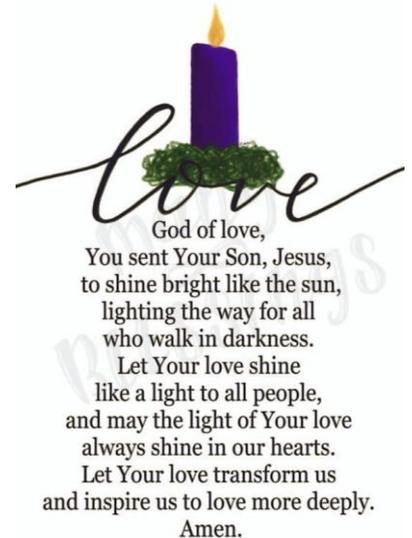


## Fourth Sunday in Advent – 18<sup>th</sup> December 2022



The birth of Jesus is now imminent and we are about to celebrate Christmas very soon. In a few days' time we will be celebrating the memory of that great event. On this, the fourth week of Advent, we light the final purple candle, called the "**Angel's Candle**" to mark the final week of prayer and penance as we wait for the birth of our Saviour. The fourth Sunday of Advent symbolises **Love**. All four candles will be lit on our Advent wreath and we will have a full circle of light. The Lord brings the light of love to his people by sending His only Son to earth for our salvation.

At this stage the anticipation is building, Christmas is coming very soon and Advent is already ending. Probably almost all preparations have been made or we are busy rushing around finalising the last-minute tasks. But have we made the most important preparation of all? Part of the meaning of Christmas is that by contemplating the experiences of Jesus and Mary, we learn from them how to say an unqualified and unconditional Yes. Because that is where the real joy and happiness of Christmas lies.....All the rest is just tinsel.

### Over to you.....

A good question to ask ourselves now is, how has our Advent journey been so far? Has it been meaningful and fruitful for us? Has it been good in preparing ourselves for the upcoming celebration of the Nativity or the birth of Our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ? Or have we instead been preparing ourselves for Christmas in the wrong way?

As we approach the celebration of Christmas, offer thanks to God this week for the greatest gift of all, Jesus Christ. And, in celebrating Christmas, strive to focus your attention on Jesus, rather than the consumerism and commercialism of this time of year. Take time in prayer to give thanks for the blessings you have been given.

### **Our Christmas Wishes and Prayers**

1. Lord, sometimes our Christmas preparations can be so overwhelming that we forget it is really our hearts which need to be prepared. Mary and Joseph couldn't find any room at the inn. This Christmas we pray that when Jesus comes knocking on the door of our hearts we find room for Him.  
**We pray to the Lord. Lord hear our prayer**
2. We pray for those who struggle at Christmastime, those who find it difficult to provide for their families, those who get depressed, those for whom Christmas is more of a burden than a joy. May God comfort them and keep them safe.  
**We pray to the Lord. Lord hear our prayer**
3. As we wait to celebrate the birth of Jesus this Christmas, let us pray for all the families within our own school community who have welcomed new babies into their lives this year.  
**We pray to the Lord. Lord hear our prayer**
4. We take a few moments to think of those people who make our lives happy. Today let us for them and ask God that they will be happy and content this Christmas.  
**We pray to the Lord. Lord hear our prayer**
5. We pray for all of us here in this school. May we have a good holiday and return refreshed and ready to do our best in the New Year.  
**We pray to the Lord. Lord hear our prayer**
6. Let us pray for all members of our school community, especially those who have emigrated and won't be home for Christmas this year. May they enjoy Christmas wherever they are and know that we are thinking of them and praying for them.  
**We pray to the Lord. Lord hear our prayer**
7. Today we also remember all those people associated with this school community who have died during the year. May they be granted peace in Gods eternal home.  
**We pray to the Lord. Lord hear our prayer**

### **Reflection**

This time and season of Advent is a really good time to remind us to reconnect ourselves with God especially if we have allowed our busy schedules and life activities to distract and make ourselves more distant from God. We cannot allow ourselves to be swayed by so many festivities that we forget to remember that even in our midst, there are people who are still suffering, and unable to rejoice or celebrate due to various reasons.

We pray that we can be the bearer of God's Love, as well as His Hope, Peace and Joy to our communities, to our families and circles of friends and even to all those strangers whom we encounter each day throughout life, so that through us, more and more people may come to experience God's love. Amen.

The  
Magic  
of  
Christmas  
NEVER ENDS  
and its greatest gifts are  
Family and Friends