



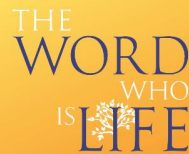
### THE ADVENT SEASON



This Sunday sees the beginning of the Advent Season during which we prepare ourselves to welcome Christ at Christmas. Advent is a wonderful time for reflection and preparation and it is sometimes easy to forget that the season of Christmas doesn't actually begin until Christmas Day! The eldest child in each family will be bringing home a leaflet today outlining the significance of Advent, suggesting some family prayers and simple activities, and summarising services and events which will be taking place at school and in the parish. We are also sending out calendars from the parish which summarise the key events taking place at St. Joseph's Church. On Monday, we will be launching our annual Advent Appeal for Mission Together. The motto of the charity is "Children helping children". This year, the focus is on supporting child refugees in Jordan to access education. The money raised will go towards funding snacks, stationery and books for the refugee schools. Your child should come home with a money box and a magazine which explains about the work of "Mission Together". Please encourage them to collect their coins during Advent and return the box to school the week before Christmas.

### Maths

Maths workshop aimed at parents of children in Years R and 1 on **Thursday 6th December at 9.00am.**



### PASTORAL PLAN FOR THE DIOCESE OF ARUNDEL AND BRIGHTON

Many of you will be aware that earlier in the year, Bishop Richard asked all of us to reflect on the mission of our diocese, and on the part we must play in that as parishes and as individuals. In September 2018, following on from this period of consultation, Bishop Richard issued his pastoral plan for the Diocese, 'The Word Who is Life'. He is now working his way round the Diocese to present his plan to each deanery. His visit to our deanery takes place on **Tuesday December 4th at St Joseph's Church in Epsom at 7pm.** This is an open meeting to which everyone is invited and I would encourage parents to come along and find out more information about the impact the plan will have on our parish and school. You can find out more about the plan from the diocesan website [www.dabnet.org](http://www.dabnet.org)

### ADVENT

#### PARENTS' ADVENT PRAYER GROUP Daily 8.50 - 9.00am during Advent

Each morning during Advent, we would like to offer parents the opportunity to gather together to reflect on the season of Advent. We hope it will provide the opportunity for a quiet, calm start to the day and a pause in the "busyness" of the season. The sessions will take place in the school library and will include for example the reading of the day or short reflections and some communal and quiet prayer. We hope that parents will take ownership of leading these short, informal sessions. So why not pop in when you have dropped your child off? All are welcome.

### THE TRAVELLING CRIB

From next week, children in Yr R will be given the opportunity to take home our travelling nativity crib set for an evening. This provides the opportunity for children to reflect on the nativity story at home with their families.



### INFANT NATIVITY PLAY

All nativity tickets for the parent performances have now been allocated and distributed. Please keep them in a safe place and bring them with you on the day of the performance in order to gain entry. The list for the grandparents' performance is also now full. Please note we will be unable to admit any grandparents who are not on our list.



## SCHOOL CHRISTMAS LUNCH

Friday 21st December 2018



A reminder that the deadline for ordering and paying for school Christmas lunch is **Friday 7th December 2018**. If your child usually has packed lunch and you would like him/her to have school dinner on this occasion, please complete and return the order slip now to avoid disappointment! **PLEASE NOTE, IF YOUR CHILD NORMALLY HAS A SCHOOL DINNER, THEY ARE AUTOMATICALLY ENTITLED TO A SCHOOL CHRISTMAS LUNCH AND YOU DO NOT NEED TO COMPLETE THE ORDER FORM OR SEND PAYMENT.**



## CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS SHOPPING MORNING



This popular event takes place on Friday 14th December. It is an opportunity for the children to buy small gifts for the members of their immediate family.

In order to run this event, FOSJ would be grateful to receive any donations of small, good-quality items to sell, please refer to their letter sent out last week for more details.

Donations can be left in the containers in the Entrance Foyer. On the morning of Tuesday 11th December, from 9.00am, volunteers are needed to help sort the donations. If you would like to help with this, please let Mrs Cook know and she will pass on your name to Mrs Bell the event organiser.



Thank you for your support, our BAGS2SCHOOL collection raised  
**£112.00**

## NEWS FROM ST. JOSEPH'S PARISH LAUNCH INTO ADVENT



**Saturday, 1st December,  
after the 6pm Mass in the Church hall.**

Mulled wine, mince pies, hamper raffle, Christmas cards, Advent calendars and other Christian gifts as well as our last traidcraft sale.

### CRIB COMPETITION

The church is running a crib competition this year. The idea is for families or groups of friends to make a crib which can be exhibited at the church. If you would like to enter, please see the leaflet



We are delighted to share the news of the arrival of Mrs Currie's new baby. We send our warmest congratulations and wish Mrs Currie and her family much happiness and many blessing in the years ahead.

*With all best wishes for the season of Advent and the weekend ahead, Carolyn Scrutton*

*"Advent increases our hope, a hope which does not disappoint. The Lord never lets us down."  
Pope Francis*

**Compliments, Comments, Concerns, Queries, Reply Slip**