



Wishing you a blessed Christmas from your School

**"The Child Jesus reveals the
tenderness of God's immense love
surrounding each one of us."**

Pope Francis



Wednesday
9th December

**Good News
for Families**

Enjoy reading this Sunday's Gospel

A man came who was sent by God. His name was John, John the Baptist. He came as a witness – as a witness to Jesus Christ. Priests were sent from Jerusalem to ask John, "Who are you?" John replied, "I am not the Christ." "Are you the prophet Elijah then – or the Prophet?" they asked. He answered, "No." "So, who are you?" they asked. "What have you to say about yourself?" John replied, "I am the voice of the one who cries in the wilderness: 'Make the Lord's way straight.'" Finally they asked him, "Why are you baptising if you are not the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?" John said, "I baptise with water. But someone is coming soon who is more powerful than I am." This happened at Bethany, on the far side of the River Jordan, where John was baptising.



From the Gospel of Sunday 13th December 2020 John 1:6-8, 19-28 (the 3rd Sunday of Advent, Year B)

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 **JOY**.



To colour the picture for this Sunday's Gospel, please see the back page.

2

Wednesday's Word

JOY

"Dear young people, if we are close to Jesus, we will have joy in our hearts and a smile on our face." Pope Francis

Who did John the Baptist come to tell the people about? This weekend we celebrate the third Sunday of Advent which is known as 'Gaudete Sunday', and we light the pink candle on our advent wreath. The word 'Gaudete' in Latin means 'Rejoice!'. We joyfully celebrate that Christmas is near – we rejoice that Christ is coming. Ask your child what the word 'joy' means to them. Each of you say who or what makes you feel joyful. When do you feel joyful? When was the last time you brought joy to others and what did you do? God wants us to be filled with joy – Jesus came to make our joy complete. Happiness comes and goes, but the joy that comes from close friendship with Jesus stays forever.

"Joy is very infectious; therefore, always be full of joy." St Teresa of Calcutta

Joy is something we all desire. We don't have to search around for joy: it comes from within. When we follow Jesus by loving God and others, we are filled with joy! A joyful heart is a sign of God's Spirit within us. What can you do to help bring joy to others in this coming week? Perhaps you can: give lots of smiles; give someone a gift; remind someone that they are loved by God; cheerfully do what our parents or teachers ask us to do. In these ways we prepare our hearts to be filled with a joy that lasts long after the Christmas festivities have passed.



Dear Lord Jesus, please help our family to experience the joy that you bring, and to share your joy with all those that we meet. Amen.

**WEDNESDAY
WORDSEARCH**

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

**PRIESTS
ASKED**

**JOHN
REPLIED**

**SOMEONE
SOON**

**JESUS
CHRIST**

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

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S	T	S	E	I	R	P	T	M	O	S
J	S	J	L	R	E	P	L	I	E	D

Cross out the letters **c d a** in the 4 jumbled words to find 4 real words.

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_____ the Baptist said, "Someone ____ coming
_____ who is more _____ than I am."

In this Sunday's Gospel, the humble witness of John the Baptist gave people a sense that something exciting was about to happen. John delivered the joyful news of God's arrival into our world in the person of Jesus – he recognised Jesus as the Christ.

We often don't recognise Jesus when he comes, when he is standing among us.

But be assured: Jesus is always with us, waiting to fill us with joy.

Wednesday
16th December

Five Minutes
Family Time

Good News
for Families

1 Enjoy reading the Gospel

The angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man called Joseph. The virgin's name was Mary. "Rejoice, favoured one!" said Gabriel. "The Lord is with you." Mary was disturbed and asked herself what he could mean. "Do not be afraid, Mary," the angel continued. "You have found favour with God. Listen! You will conceive and bear a son and you will call him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High and his kingdom will never end." "How can this be," questioned Mary, "since I am a virgin?" "The Holy Spirit will come down upon you," the angel said, "and you will have a child who will be called the Son of God." "I am the servant of the Lord," Mary replied. "Let it happen just as you have said." Then the angel left her.



From the Gospel of Sunday 20th December 2020 Luke 1: 26-38 (the 4th Sunday of Advent, Year B)

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 **MARY**.

2 "Mary is the one who says 'Yes'. Mary's life shows that God accomplishes great deeds through those who are the most humble." Pope Francis

What did Mary say just before the Angel Gabriel left? Each year on the last Sunday of Advent, we look to Mary, our heavenly mother. In this Sunday's Gospel, the Angel Gabriel announced God's will, and Mary accepted it and put her trust in God. Ask your child if they know the 'Hail Mary', the prayer based on the Angel Gabriel's greeting in this Sunday's Gospel. 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.

3 "Let the model of Mary be reflected in our lives." Pope Francis

Mary is a perfect example for all people – someone full of love and kindness. How can you show love and kindness in this final week of Advent? Perhaps you can: support a charity that helps to feed some of the poorest children in the world (e.g. marysmeals.org.uk, missiontogether.org.uk or cafod.org.uk); help someone who may be struggling in some way. What other ways can you think of? You may like to finish your time of prayer by saying together, on behalf of another person, a 'Hail Mary' (please see below) or find out more about the Rosary: cbcew.org.uk/category/prayer/rosary/

Hail, **Mary**, full of grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou amongst 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.

Write a promise and then draw a big smile on Smiley

This week I will try my best to...

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Wednesday
23rd December

Five Minutes
Family Time

Good News
for Families

1 Enjoy reading the Gospel

When Jesus was a baby, his parents, Mary and Joseph, took him up to the Temple to present him to God and make an offering of two young pigeons. Now in the Temple there was a good and holy man named Simeon. The Holy Spirit had promised Simeon that he would not die until he had seen Jesus, the Light of the World. Prompted by the Spirit, Simeon came to the Temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to make their offering, Simeon took Jesus into his arms and blessed God; and he said: "Now, I can die in peace because you have kept your promise. This child, Jesus, will be a light for all nations." Jesus' parents took him back to Nazareth where Jesus grew to maturity, and he was filled with wisdom; and God's favour was with him.



From the Gospel of Sunday 27th December 2020 Luke 2: 22-40 (the Feast of the Holy Family, Year B)

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 **FAMILY**.

2 "All God's children, of every people and language, are invited and called to be part of this great family, as brothers and sisters and sons and daughters of the one Father in heaven." Pope Francis

Who took Jesus to the Temple? This Sunday we celebrate the feast of the Holy Family of Nazareth (Jesus, Mary and Joseph). In the Gospel we read about the Holy Family's openness and obedience to God. Ask your child what the word 'family' means to them. Ask them what they like best about their family. It may help your child to tell them something that you like best about the family.

3 "Dear families, always live in faith and simplicity, like the Holy Family of Nazareth!" Pope Francis

Christmas is a special time for families. In what ways can we bring more of God's love and joy into our family and other families this Christmas? Perhaps we can: make an extra effort to be thoughtful; contact someone you may not have seen for a while and make them feel especially valued – maybe a relative who lives on their own, or a friend. As a family (if possible), come and light a candle in Church this Sunday. You can learn more about this celebration of the Feast of the Holy Family at: cbcew.org.uk



Dear Lord Jesus, please protect all our **families** with your loving care. Help us to be patient, kind, understanding, generous and welcoming to anyone in need – especially this Christmas. Amen

Write a promise and then draw a big smile on Smiley

This week I will try my best to...

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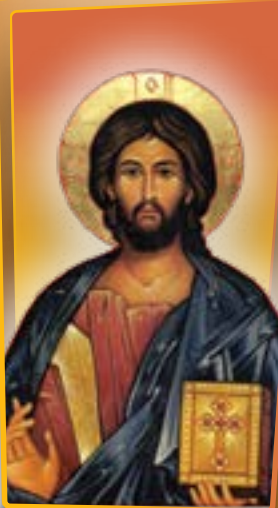
Wednesday
30th December

Five Minutes
Family Time

Good News
for Families

1 Enjoy reading the Gospel

In the beginning was the Word: the Word was with God and the Word was God. Through him all things came to be, not one thing had its being but through him. All that came to be had life in him and that life was the light of all people, a light that shines in the dark, a light that darkness could not overpower. The Word was the true light that enlightens all people; and he was coming into the world. He was in the world and the world did not know him and his own people did not accept him. But to all who did accept him he gave power to become children of God, to all who believe in the name of him who was born of God himself. The Word was made flesh, he lived among us, and we saw his glory, the glory that is his as the only Son of the Father, full of grace and truth.



From the Gospel of Sunday 3rd January 2021 John 1: 1-5. 9-14 (the 2nd Sunday after the Nativity)

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 **CHRIST**.

2

"Christ comes among us at Christmas: it is the perfect time for a personal encounter with the Lord. With Christ our life becomes full - everything makes sense." *Pope Francis*

The real point of Christmas is the birth of Jesus Christ. The Church reminds us that Christ is the Word who became flesh (he is both man and God) and he came to live among us. This is known as 'the incarnation'. Ask your child what they think the word 'Christ' means (parent help: the word 'Christ' means 'the anointed one', the one who is sent to save the world). Christ came to save us from doing wrong - to show us and to teach us how to live good lives. It may help your child if you share something that you know about Christ.

3

"If you are looking for the way by which you should go, take Christ, because he himself is the way." *St. Thomas Aquinas*

Jesus Christ is God's greatest gift to the world. His wonderful birth (and indeed his whole life, his death and his resurrection) gives witness to the fact that he is the Son of God. Christ, the 'Light of the World', came to enlighten us - to show us the way to God and to confirm our hope of heaven. He came to draw everyone into his love, so that we may joyfully share in God's own life. As a family, talk about ways that you can live and love more like Christ in 2021. Blessings and best wishes for the coming new year.



Dear Lord Jesus **Christ**,
thank you for coming into
our world to fill our lives and
families with your joy, peace and
love. Help us to share your love
with those around us. Amen

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

This week I will try my best to...



Wednesday
6th January

Five Minutes
Family Time

Good News
for Families

1 Enjoy reading the Gospel

When John the Baptist was preaching he said, "Someone is following me, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to kneel down and undo the straps of his sandals. I have baptised you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit." It was at this time that Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptised by John in the River Jordan. No sooner had Jesus come up out of the water than he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit, like a dove, descending on him. Then a voice from heaven said, "You are my son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you."



Taken from the Gospel of Sunday 10th January 2021 Mark 1:7-11 (the Baptism of the Lord, Year B)

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 **BAPTISM**.

2

"Baptism is God's most beautiful and magnificent gift." *St Gregory of Nazianzus*

What happened when Jesus came up from the water? In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus is baptised. He begins his mission to the world when the Holy Spirit comes down upon him - the same Spirit we receive through Baptism and Confirmation. Ask your child what they know about Baptism. If your child has been baptised, ask them if they know who chose their name, and why that name was chosen for them. Ask them if they know what any of the symbols of baptism represent (e.g. candle, water, oil, white garment, the sign of the cross).

3

Jesus came for everyone: to draw us all into his family so that we can become more like him and joyfully share in God's own life.

Baptism is one of the seven Sacraments which bring us closer to God. It is the start of a life-long call to reveal God's Spirit to our family and community. When we are baptised we become a new creation; we receive the Holy Spirit, to help us to live like Jesus. How can we live more like Jesus as we begin this new year? Perhaps we can: be fair and generous; always try to offer help before we are asked; be peacemakers; be ready to go out of our way to help others; regularly make an effort to let other family members know how much we love them.



Dear Lord Jesus, thank you
for the gift of **Baptism**.
Please help us to live like
you and to spread God's
love throughout this
new year. Amen.

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

This week I will try my best to...



WEDNESDAY WORDSEARCH



Wishing you and your family a happy and blessed New Year.

N Z F V M W Y W C I Q V T Z S
A B W J W W U H E M A R Y F Y
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SMARTSEARCHERS FIND
THESE **TEN** WORDS EITHER
ACROSS OR **DOWN**



BETHANY
JOY



GALILEE
MARY



NAZARETH
FAMILY



WORD
CHRIST



JESUS
BAPTISM



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



THERE ARE 5 MISSING PARTS IN THE BLACK AND WHITE PICTURE.
FIND AND DRAW THE MISSING PARTS BEFORE COLOURING IN.