

# FAMILY PRAYER

At Home

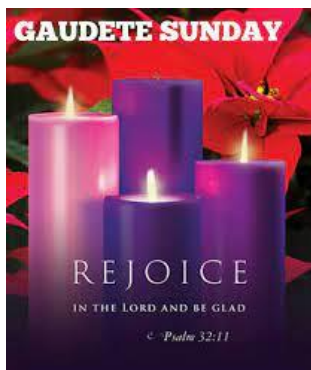
All Saints  
Catholic Academy Trust



**Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2023**

## Gather Together

Gather together as a family around your Advent wreath. You may wish to also have your nativity scene to help younger children focus on why we celebrate Christmas.



This Sunday is the third Sunday of Advent. The third candle will be lit on the Advent Wreath; this week it is the pink candle which symbolises joy. This Sunday is known as 'Gaudete Sunday,' 'Gaudete' means 'rejoice' in Latin. It is time, in our Advent preparations, to begin rejoicing for the arrival of Jesus and spreading joy amongst our communities.

## Scripture

John 1: 6-8 19-28

*There was a man sent from God whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. Now this was John's testimony when the Jewish leaders in Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to ask him who he was. He did not fail to confess, but confessed freely, "I am not the Messiah."*

*They asked him, "Then who are you? Are you Elijah?"*

*He said, "I am not."*

*"Are you the Prophet?"*

*He answered, "No."*

*Finally they said, "Who are you? Give us an answer to take back to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?"*

*John replied in the words of Isaiah the prophet, "I am the voice of one calling in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way for the Lord.'"*

*Now the Pharisees who had been sent questioned him, "Why then do you baptise if you are not the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?"*

*"I baptise with water," John replied, "but among you stands one you do not know. He is the one who comes after me, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie."*

## Reflect and Act

Just as Advent is a time of preparation for Jesus' arrival, we remember John the Baptist also helped people prepare for Jesus' arrival. He spread the joy that the light of the world was coming.

Create a poster together as a family with the word 'joy' or 'rejoice' in the centre with ideas of things you can be joyful about or ways you can bring joy to the community. Display your poster in a window to spread the message of joy to all.



Start a jar of joy ready for Advent 2024. Throughout the year, write the memories of things you have rejoiced about together as a family and add them to the jar;

during Advent 2024 you can open the jar together and reflect on joyous occasions that have happened throughout the year e.g. received a learner of the week certificate, scored a goal, learnt to tie shoe laces, know how to make a bed, went on a family picnic, made a new friend.

## Pray

Dear Jesus,

Help us keep you in the centre of all our Christmas celebrations. As a family, we will recognise the joy you bring into our lives and rejoice together. Guide us to find you in the everyday moments, as our hearts are filled with gratitude.

*Amen*

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