

2025

ADVENT

What is Advent?

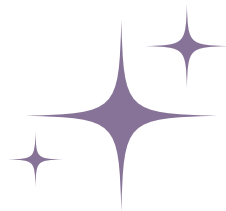
The liturgical season of Advent is the beginning of the Church's year. It is a season of waiting, hope and preparation for the coming of Jesus at Christmas.

Why is everything purple?

This is because we are in a season of preparation and repentance. Purple also often represents royalty!

What does Advent mean?

The word Advent comes from the Latin word **adventus**, which means **coming** or **arrival**.



Advent this year begins on Sunday 30th November, and continues through the four weeks leading up to Christmas.

PLEDGE

"Come, Lord Jesus." - Revelation 22:20

The weeks running up to Christmas can be busy and full of distractions, but this promise helps us to focus on what truly matters - preparing our hearts for Jesus.

This Advent, I will place my **HOPE** in God by...

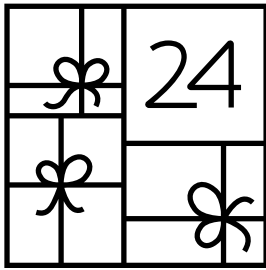
I will bring **PEACE** to others by...

I will share **JOY** by...

I will show **LOVE** by...

Symbols of Advent

During Advent, the Church uses special symbols to help us to prepare for the coming of Jesus.



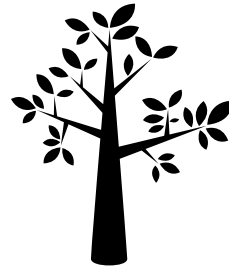
ADVENT
CALENDAR

The first Advent calendars would have a piece of scripture or a bible story behind each door as a way to help people prepare for Christmas. You'll often find paper Advent calendars at the back of Church, with a challenge or reflection for each day of Advent.



ADVENT
WREATH

You'll see Advent wreaths appear in Churches everywhere, and they all look the same! The evergreen and the circular shape represent the eternal life promised to us and the never ending love of God. The four candles (three purple and one pink) represent the four weeks of Advent.

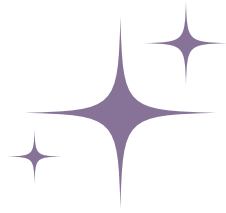


JESSE
TREE

Jesse trees are visual representations of Jesus' family. Throughout Advent, many people will prepare by reading scripture based on a member of Jesus' family. Once they get to know them, they add their name to the tree. The Jesse Tree is named after one of Jesus' earliest ancestors.

"The light shines in the darkness" - John 1:5

The Joyful Mysteries of The Rosary



The Annunciation

LUKE 1: 26-38

The Visitation

LUKE 1: 39-45

The Nativity of Jesus

LUKE 2: 4-19

The Presentation at the Temple

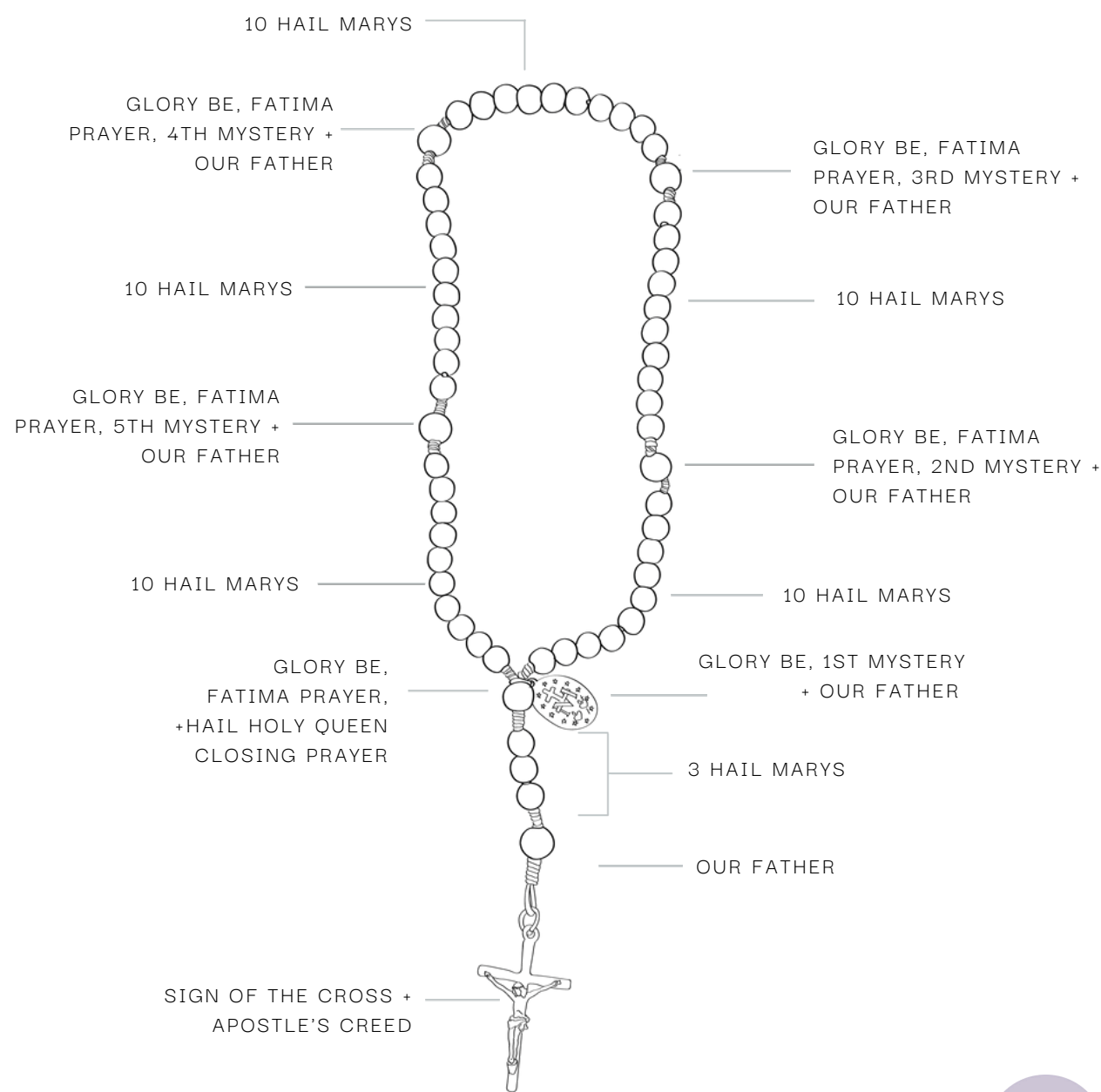
LUKE 2: 22-40

The Finding of Jesus in the Temple

LUKE 2: 41-52

The Rosary

The Rosary inspires us to meditate on the mysteries of the lives of Jesus and Mary. Meditation is an important part of our lives as Catholics. Whilst praying the rosary and reflecting on the key moments in Jesus’ life, we are not only learning about His ministry, but also honouring his mother Mary and how she brings us closer to Him.



The Prayers

THE CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; he descended into hell; on the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; from there he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.

OUR FATHER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.

HAIL MARY

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus.

Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

GLORY BE

Glory be to the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

FATIMA PRAYER

O my Jesus, forgive us our sins, save us from the fire of hell, lead all souls to heaven, especially those who are in most need of Thy mercy. Amen.

HAIL HOLY QUEEN

Hail, holy Queen, mother of mercy, our life, our sweetness, and our hope. To thee do we cry, poor banished children of Eve. To thee do we send up our sighs mourning and weeping in this valley of tears. Turn then, most gracious advocate, thine eyes of mercy toward us, and after this our exile show us the blessed fruit of thy womb, Jesus. O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary. Pray for us, O Holy Mother of God. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ. Amen.

CLOSING PRAYER

Let us pray, O God, whose only begotten Son, by His life, death, and resurrection, has purchased for us the rewards of eternal salvation. Grant, we beseech Thee, that while meditating on these mysteries of the most holy Rosary of the Blessed Virgin Mary, that we may both imitate what they contain and obtain what they promise, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, have mercy on us. Immaculate Heart of Mary, pray for us. Amen.

6

BIG DAYS

Before the BIG day...



St Nicholas

6th December

Patron Saint of children, travellers +



The Immaculate Conception

8th December

Celebrating the birth of Mary, without original sin



St Juan Diego

9th December

Patron Saint of indigenous people



Our Lady of Guadalupe

12th December

Patron Saint of Mexico, Latin America +



St Lucy

13th December

Patron Saint of blind people/ those with sight difficulties



John of the Cross

14th December

Patron Saint of mystics and Spanish poets

Notes

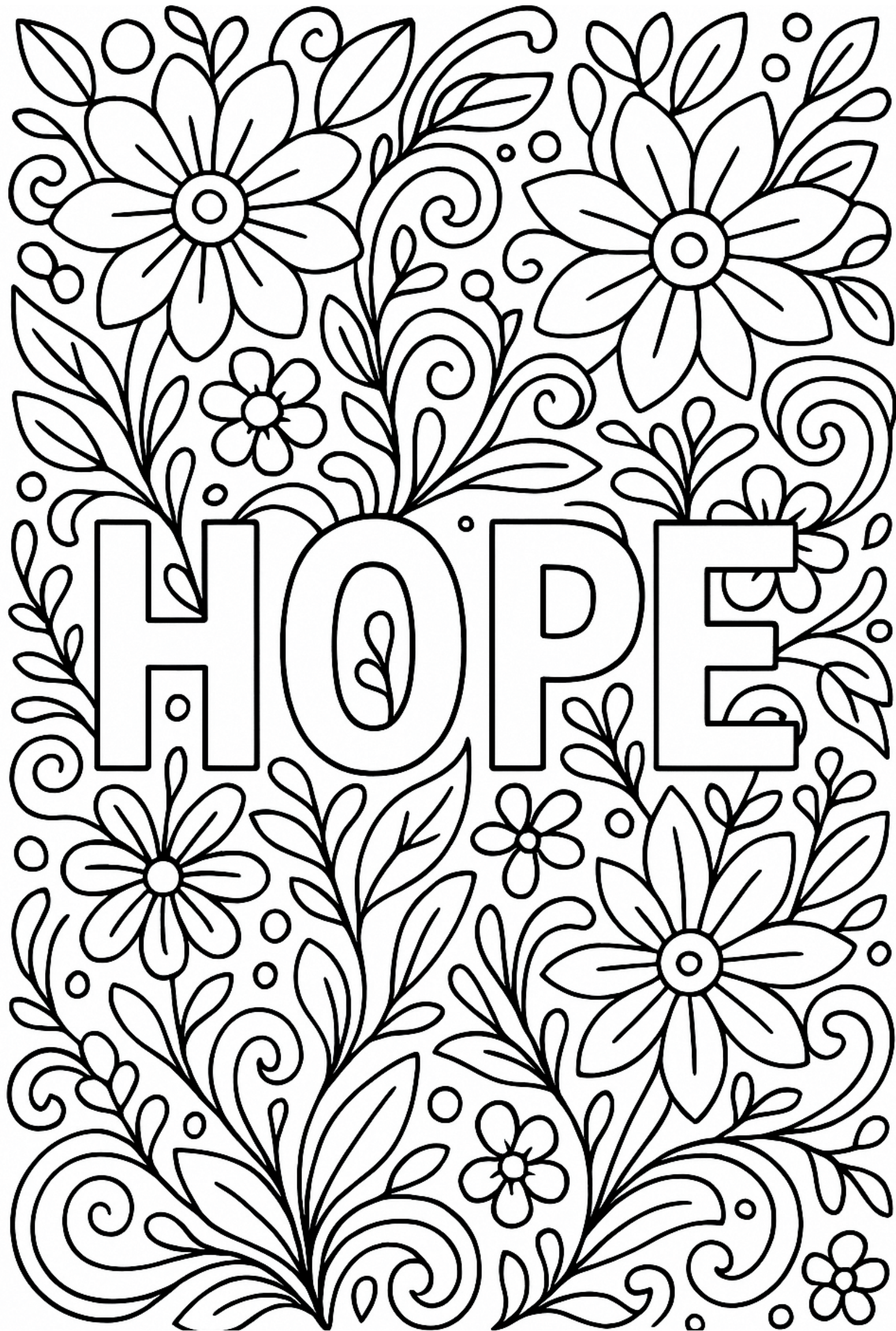


30th November

Week One
HOPE

*"The people who walked in darkness have seen
a great light." – Isaiah 9:2*

HOPE



REFLECT

Advent begins in the dark – not only because the days are short, but because it reminds us that hope often begins when things feel uncertain. Hope doesn't mean pretending everything is fine; it means trusting that light still exists even when we can't yet see it.

Each small act of kindness, each honest conversation, each step toward healing – these are sparks of hope that grow into something brighter.

WORSHIP SONG

O Come (let us adore) - Hillsong Worship

*"O come all ye faithful, come let us
adore Him, Christ the Lord"*



ST. JOSEPH

St. Joseph trusted God's plan even when he didn't understand it. His quiet faith and courage remind us that hope can be steady, humble and strong without being loud.

CONSIDER

What gives you hope when life feels uncertain?

Who around you might need a little light right now?

CHALLENGE

*Advent invites us to look for signs of light and to
become light for others.*

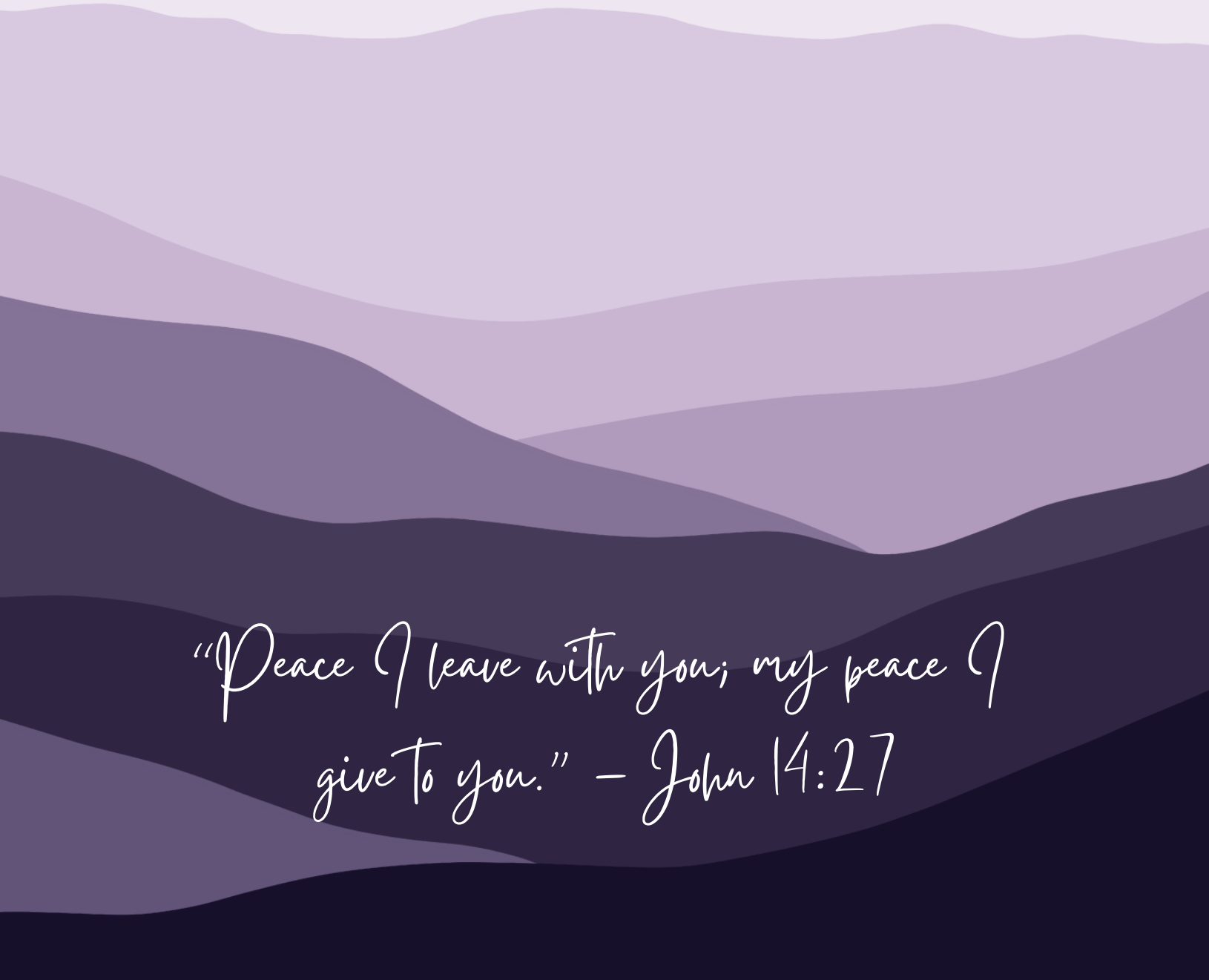
This week, be a light for someone. Offer encouragement, help someone who’s struggling, or simply listen without judgment.

7th December



Week Two

PEACE



*"Peace I leave with you; my peace I
give to you." – John 14:27*



REFLECT

Peace is more than the absence of conflict; it's a calm that helps us move through life's noise with balance and compassion.

Advent invites us to slow down, breathe and find that calm. For Christians, this peace comes from trusting that we are held in God's love. For others, it may come from mindfulness, gratitude, or simply connecting deeply with others.

WORSHIP SONG

Peace be Still - Hope Darst

*"Peace be still, say the word and I will set my
feet upon the sea, till I'm dancing
in the deep."*



ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

St. Francis sought peace within himself and shared it with others;

in nature, in service, and even among enemies. His prayer

Lord, make me an instrument of Your peace reminds us that
peace begins inside and spreads outward.

CONSIDER

What helps you find inner peace when life feels chaotic?

How can you bring peace into your relationships or our school community?

CHALLENGE

Whatever your path, peace grows when we stop reacting and start responding with understanding.

Take five quiet minutes each day. Turn off your phone, breathe, and let yourself rest. Share peace through one small act of gentleness or forgiveness.

14th December

Week Three

JOY

*"Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say,
rejoice." – Philipppians 4:4*



REFLECT

Joy is not the same as happiness. Happiness depends on what happens; joy is deeper. It's a steady current of gratitude that runs beneath everything, even the hard parts.

In this third week of Advent, marked by the rose coloured candle, we are reminded to rejoice, not because life is perfect, but because goodness can still be found.

WORSHIP SONG

Joy - Housefires

*"In Your presence there is joy, joy
forevermore"*



ST. PHILIP NERI

Known as the "Apostle of Joy," St. Philip Neri brought laughter, kindness, and energy into his ministry. He reminds us that faith and life are meant to be joyful, not always heavy!

CONSIDER

What small things bring you joy each day?

How can gratitude change the way you see your life?

CHALLENGE

Joy grows when we notice what is already good.

Keep a ‘joy journal’ for a week. Write down three things that made you smile or feel thankful each day. Notice how your perspective changes.

21st December



Week Four LOVE



*"Let us love one another, for love is from
God." – 1 John 4:7*



REFLECT

Advent reaches its conclusion in love; the love of God that gives life to our hope, peace, and joy. Love is at the very heart of the Christmas story: God loved the world so deeply that He came among us in Jesus, the baby born in Bethlehem.

When we live in love, we share in God's life. Love transforms families, friendships, and communities. It is both a gift and a calling!

WORSHIP SONG

Reckless Love - Cory Asbury

*"Oh, the overwhelming, never-ending, reckless
love of God."*



ST. TERESA OF CALCUTTA

Mother Teresa showed love through small, practical acts of care for those who were forgotten. She taught that *"not all of us can do great things, but we can do small things with great love."*

CONSIDER

How can you show love to the people around you this week?

What helps you to see God’s image in others?

CHALLENGE

*Love calls us to see beyond ourselves, to act with empathy,
and to believe that every person has worth.*

Choose one act of love each day: forgive someone, reach out to someone lonely, or spend time in prayer for those in need.

Word Search

U	P	A	J	O	S	E	P	H	I	W	L	Z	I
T	Z	D	K	B	D	N	H	X	H	R	E	M	Z
P	N	V	G	E	E	J	S	G	O	E	P	E	P
E	H	E	J	T	T	Z	O	A	P	A	R	S	R
A	S	N	C	H	R	I	S	T	E	T	O	S	A
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ADVENT
LOVE
JOSEPH
REJOICE
PROMISE

CANDLE
EMMANUEL
BETHLEHEM
HOPE
MESSIAH

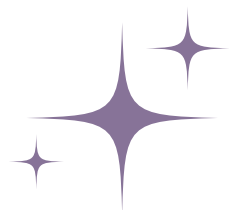
PREPARE
WREATH
CHRIST
SHEPHERD
LIGHT



Reconciliation Week

RECONCILIATION WEEK

"The old has gone, the new is here!" 2 Corinthians 5:17



What happens?

Our Reconciliation sessions are our opportunity to really prepare ourselves for the Christmas season using prayer stations. Some of us may benefit from the chance to reflect on where God is in our lives, and how we see Him in our friends and family. Others may simply appreciate the time to just slow down at the end of a busy term.

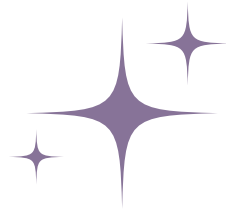
Prayer Stations

We will all take part in a variety of prayer stations. Each of these will have a different theme, and give us the chance to focus our prayer at this important time of year.

Each prayer station will have clear instructions on how to take part, and will invite us to pray in a variety of different ways. This time of prayer is for you and you alone; you will benefit from it most if you allow yourself to remain free from distractions.

Reconciliation

Reconciliation means bringing things back together; in the Catholic faith we have the chance to take part in a sacrament that allows us to come back to God through the forgiveness of our sins.



Confession

The Sacrament of Confession allows us to be honest with God about where we've got something wrong, hurt others or turned away from good. By speaking these things aloud to a priest, we're really speaking to Christ, who listens with compassion and offers us a fresh start through penance and forgiveness.

Examination of Conscience

Before going to Confession, we take time to examine our conscience. This simply means thinking honestly about our lives and the things we've done, said, or thought that may have hurt God, others, or ourselves.

- It helps us prepare for Confession in a meaningful way.
- It reminds us that God loves us and always forgives.
- It gives us a chance to make peace and start again.

Examination of Conscience

"You shall not have other Gods beside me"

Do I put God first? Do I put myself or others before Him? Do I pray or go to Mass as often as I should? When I do, do I take part respectfully and well?

"You shall keep God's name holy"

Do I use God's name in anger or frustration? Do I swear or use inappropriate language, seriously or as a joke?

"Keep the Sabbath day holy"

Do I go to Mass each week and on Holy Days of Obligation? Do I ever intentionally not go to Mass?

"Honour your father and your mother"

Am I respectful to those who care for me outside of school in my actions and in my language? Am I respectful to those who care for me in school?

Examination of Conscience

“You shall not kill”

Do I cause harm to others, either physically or through unkind behaviour? Do I do the same to myself? Do I take part in harmful/addictive activities such as drugs, alcohol or overuse of social media?

“You shall not commit adultery”

Do I respect those that I am in a relationship with? Have I ever watched inappropriate content online?

“You shall not steal

Have I ever stolen from friends, family or somewhere else?

You shall not bear false witness”

Do I ever lie, or not tell the whole truth? Do I start or spread rumours about someone else, or take part in gossip?

“You shall not envy your neighbour’s wife or goods”

Am I ever jealous of what others have, do I ever wish I had their talents or their material things? Do I try to share what I do have with others through charity?



Name:

Formation: