



Dear Parent / Carer,

As we approach the end of our first term of this academic year, I would like to thank you for your ongoing support and cooperation. This calendar year has presented a variety of ongoing challenges due to the pandemic but we have also been able to enjoy periods of hope, joy and a glimpse of life in pre-Covid times. Unfortunately, it appears that these challenges will be with us for some time to come so let us continue to work together and support one another. On behalf of the CAUSE hamper appeal coordinators, thank you so much for your generosity in helping to bring some much needed Christmas joy to families in need. We may not see the direct impact of such acts of kindness but I have no doubt that lives have been profoundly changed.

Current guidelines permitting, there will be a number of opportunities for you to prepare for Christmas by joining in the celebration of Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral. Please bear in mind that numbers will be restricted.

Friday 24th December - Christmas Eve

- 9.30am
- 6.00pm
- 9.00pm

Saturday 25th December - Christmas Day

- 10.00am

Sunday 26th December - Feast of St. Stephen (Boxing Day)

- 10am
- 5.00pm

Amidst all of the usual trappings of Christmas and the hectic nature of preparing for the big day, it is important that we take some time to stop and think about what we are celebrating and how the birth of Jesus over two thousand years ago is so relevant to our lives today. I would like to share with you this beautiful reflection from Pope Francis, entitled 'You are Christmas':

"Christmas is usually a noisy party - we could use a bit of silence, to hear the voice of Love.

Christmas is you, when you decide to be born again each day and let God into your soul.

The Christmas pine is you, when you resist vigorous winds and difficulties of life.

Walk then as children of the light

Executive Headteacher: Mr M Macaulay | Head of School: Mrs J Coe
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The Christmas decorations are you, when your virtues are colours that adorn your life.

The Christmas bell is you, when you call, gather and seek to unite.

You are also a Christmas light, when you illuminate with your life the path of others with kindness, patience, joy and generosity.

The Christmas angels are you, when you sing to the world a message of peace, justice and love.

The Christmas star is you, when you lead someone to meet the Lord. You are also the wise men, when you give the best you have no matter who.

Christmas music is you when you conquer the harmony within you.

The Christmas gift is you, when you are truly friend and brother or sister of every human being.

The Christmas card is you, when kindness is written in your hands.

The Christmas greeting is you, when you forgive and re-establish peace, even when you suffer.

The Christmas dinner is you, when you sated bread and hope to the poor man who is by your side.

You are, yes, Christmas night, when humble and conscious, you receive in the silence of the night the Saviour of the world without noise or great celebrations; you are a smile of trust and tenderness, in the inner peace of a perennial Christmas that establishes the Kingdom within you.

A very Merry Christmas for all those who are Christmas.”

I wish you and your family a very happy and peaceful Christmas and all the very best for 2022, stay safe and well. I look forward to seeing you when we return to school on Wednesday 5th January.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Macaulay
Executive Headteacher

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