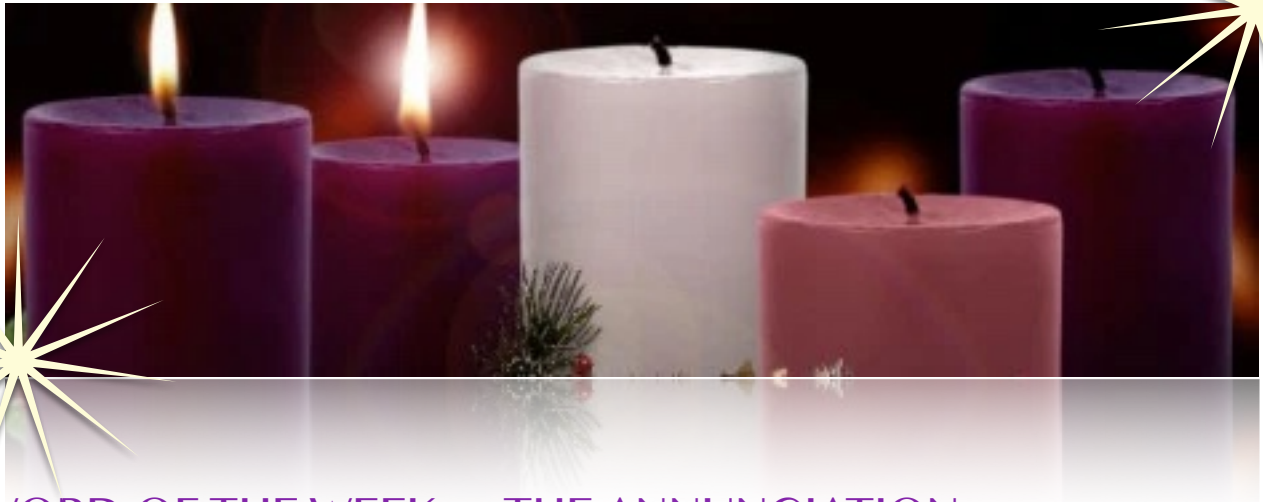




ADVENT: Mary's "Yes"



WORD OF THE WEEK THE ANNUNCIATION

In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to the Galilean village of Nazareth to a virgin engaged to be married to a man descended from David. His name was Joseph, and the virgin's name, Mary. Upon entering the house, Gabriel greeted her: "Good morning! You're beautiful with God's beauty, beautiful inside and out! God be with you."

She was thoroughly shaken, wondering what was behind a greeting like that. But the angel assured her, "Mary, you have nothing to fear. God has a surprise for you: You will become pregnant and give birth to a son and call his name Jesus. He will be great, be called 'Son of the Highest.' The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David; He will rule Jacob's house forever— no end, ever, to his kingdom.

Mary said to the angel: "But how? I've never slept with a man."

The angel answered: "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, the power of the Highest hover over you; Therefore, the child you bring to birth will be called Holy, Son of God.

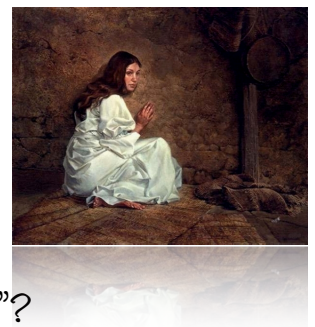
And Mary said: "Yes, I see it all now: I'm the Lord's servant, ready to serve. Let it be done to me just as you say."

Luke 1:26-35

Something to talk about...

Read the Gospel passage again:

- What is the most difficult decision you have ever had to make?
- How influential are your beliefs/morals/values on whether you say "yes" or "no"?
- How can you be more of a "yes" person, rather than a "no" person?





Something to think about...

“Yes” and “no” – these two short words are often one of the first words that we learn when we are small children. Throughout our day, we make countless decisions stemming from a simple “yes” or “no.” Yes, I will get up and get ready for school (maybe after hitting the snooze button a few times). Yes, I will share that Facebook post. No, I won’t take this road because there are road works on it. No, I won’t stay a minute after 3:05pm today. When you think about it, it’s rather astounding just how many choices we make in a day!

Advent is a great time to think about Our Lady – Mary, whose “yes” changed the world forever... Her “yes” allowed God to come into the world! She teaches us to be “yes” people, rather than “no” people, especially when we face situations which scare us, and which make us go against the crowd.

This week, try to say “yes” rather than “no” – you never know how important that “yes” will turn out to be!

SOMETHING TO DO...

IN THIS WEEK’S SCRIPTURE PASSAGE, THE SOON-TO-BE-BORN JESUS IS GIVEN HIS NAME...THIS WEEK, FIND OUT WHAT YOUR NAME MEANS, AND HOW YOU CAME TO BE GIVEN IT!

Prayer for the week...

Heavenly Father, we give you thanks for choosing **Our Lady** to be your ‘yes’ person, and, through her, sending your **Son** to be with us in the **world**. During this **Advent** season, inspire us by **Mary’s example**, that by our daily answers of ‘yes’ we may **build** a civilisation of loving kindness, and make you **known** throughout our world. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK?

THURSDAY is the feast of the Immaculate Conception...pray a ‘Hail Mary’ today for all expectant mothers!



On SUNDAY the Youth SVP group will go to St Teresa’s parish to help out at the annual Christmas Party for the elderly and housebound... thank you for saying “yes” and giving up your time!

