



## THIRD WEEK OF ADVENT:    THE JOY OF HOPE

### **WORD OF THE WEEK - JOSEPH'S DREAM**

This is how Jesus Christ was born. A young woman named Mary was engaged to Joseph from King David's family. But before they were married, she learned that she was going to have a baby by God's Holy Spirit. Joseph was a good man and did not want to embarrass Mary in front of everyone. So he decided to quietly call off the wedding.

While Joseph was thinking about this, an angel from the Lord came to him in a dream. The angel said, "Joseph, the baby that Mary will have is from the Holy Spirit. Go ahead and marry her. Then after her baby is born, name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." So the Lord's promise came true, just as the prophet had said, "A virgin will have a baby boy, and he will be called Immanuel," which means "God is with us."

After Joseph woke up, he and Mary were married, just as the Lord's angel had told him to do.



### **SOMETHING TO TALK ABOUT**

- How would you define 'hope'?
- Why is it important that I have hope in today's world?
- How can we show that we are people of hope in our everyday lives?

# SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

The season of Advent is short this year: three weeks and one day. Next Sunday is the fourth Sunday of Advent and then Christmas Day is on Monday. We also break up from school quite late this year so there is an even greater sense of urgency and panic to get ready in time for Christmas Day. Despite all the chaos and busyness of this time of year it is important to take a few moments during this third week of Advent to STOP! Just stop for a minute and think about what it is we are getting ready for. We are preparing to welcome Jesus into our world and our lives. We should also think of those in need in our communities. People who are struggling financially. People who have no homes to spend Christmas in. People who are lonely and feel that they have no one to share Christmas with. It is the poor and outcasts who Jesus chose to be with. Let us also be with them...at the very least in our thoughts this Christmas time.

## SOMETHING TO DO

This is your last chance to bring presents and food items in for your parcels. Try to make a big effort to make a real difference to someone's life.

### WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

On MONDAY several of our pupils will be going to the primary schools to perform seasonal music ...we wish them well!



Friday is our final day of term. We break up late this year - just in time for Christmas. On Friday we have our Christmas assemblies led by the Chaplaincy Team.



### GAUDETE SUNDAY



The Third Sunday of Advent is called *Gaudete Sunday*, the day when we light the pink candle on the Advent wreath (hence the 'pink candle' Sunday). Rose vestments are worn to emphasize our joy that Christmas is near.

Gaudete means "rejoice". This day reminds us of the joy that is to come, and serves, amid this season of penance, as a kind of 'break' when we recall the hope we have because of the coming of Our Lord Jesus.

### PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

**GOD OF LIGHT AND LIFE**

**LET THE ANTICIPATION OF YOUR BIRTH  
FILL US WITH OVERFLOWING JOY.**

**MAY OUR EXCITEMENT AND HOPE  
BE A SIGN TO THE WORLD THAT YOU ARE  
ALWAYS NEAR.**

**AMEN.**

