

On a Journey of Hope to the Manger

Advent Appeal 2025

A Reading from the Holy Gospel According to Matthew (25:31–46)

Jesus said to His disciples:

“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit upon his glorious throne... And the King will say to those on his right: ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father. Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food, thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me.’

Then the righteous will answer him and say, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? And the King will say to them in reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’

Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me.’

“They also will answer, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?’ “He will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.’ “Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life.”

This week we launch our Advent Appeal where we as a school community aim to bring hope into the lives of those who are in our locality.

Advent is a season of waiting, hope, and preparation. As we light candles and count down the days to Christmas, it's also a time to reflect on generosity and compassion. For many the festive season is filled with warmth, family, and celebration—but for those experiencing homelessness, it can be the hardest time of year. During Advent we are called to be bringers of hope, to bring hope into the lives of those who are finding it difficult to be hopeful. We will be supporting the homeless in Preston through the Metanoia project.

*“Never worry about numbers.
Help one person at a time and
always start with the person
nearest you.”*

Mother Teresa

Advent Appeal: Metanoia Project

Each year group is challenged this year to bring in as many items as possible to help the homeless in Preston.

Keep an eye on the form board in your form room. There will be a list of items that we are asking you to bring in – as many as you can.

You can decide to bring in one item or a variety of items. The more the merrier!

Our aim as a school is to gather as much as we can to help those who need it most. Metanoia are forever grateful for any help they receive from our school.



Supporting a homeless charity during Advent is a powerful way to live out the spirit of the season:

- Offer practical help: Donations of food, warm clothing, or blankets can make a real difference.
- Share financial support: Even small contributions help charities provide safe spaces, hot meals, and vital services.
- Spread awareness: Talking to friends, family, or colleagues about the cause can inspire others to act.

Advent reminds us that light shines brightest in the darkness. By helping a homeless charity, we become part of that light—bringing hope, dignity, and love to those who need it most.

Prayers for the week

Merciful God,

Fill our hearts with hope. May we remember those who wait not for celebration, but for shelter and safety. Inspire us to bring hope to the homeless, that they may know Your love through our actions.

Amen

Merciful God,

Open our eyes to those who live in darkness and cold. Teach us to share warmth, food, and kindness, so that every person may feel the dignity You give. Let our compassion shine bright and may we be a light to those who need it most.

Amen

Merciful God,

You are the source of all comfort. We lift up to You those who are homeless and displaced, especially during this cold season. Grant them the strength to endure the hardships they face. Surround them with Your presence and fill their hearts with hope. May they find warmth in Your love and in the care of others.

Amen

Merciful God,

Softens the hearts of all people, especially those in positions of power and influence, so that they may work toward creating a society where no one has to go without a home. Inspire us all to see the dignity of each person, regardless of their circumstances, and to work for justice and peace for all Your children.

Amen

Awaiting Christ in Advent

A candle glows in winter's night,

A flicker small, yet burning bright.

We wait in silence, hearts awake,

For Love to come, for peace to break.

The prophets spoke, the promise near,

A Saviour born, the world to cheer.

Through shadows deep, His light shall shine,

Eternal gift, both yours and mine.

So lift your eyes, the dawn is here,

The Christ-child comes, the King draws near.

In Advent's hush, our souls take flight,

Awaiting Him, the world's true Light.



