



St Francis' Catholic Primary School
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9th December 2019

Dear Parent/Carer,

Matthew 3:1-12

3 In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea ² and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near."³ This is he who was spoken of through the prophet Isaiah:

"A voice of one calling in the wilderness,
'Prepare the way for the Lord,
make straight paths for him.'"^[a]

⁴ John's clothes were made of camel's hair, and he had a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵ People went out to him from Jerusalem and all Judea and the whole region of the Jordan. ⁶ Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River.

⁷ But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to where he was baptizing, he said to them: "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? ⁸ Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. ⁹ And do not think you can say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham. ¹⁰ The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

¹¹ "I baptize you with^[b] water for repentance. But after me comes one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with^[c] the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹² His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor, gathering his wheat into the barn and burning up the chaff with unquenchable fire."

A text like this one at Christmas time may be challenging, but in fact the Advent season, when many will be in church who would not attend, it is an appropriate time to call people back to the Lord and to the changes necessary in their lives.

There is also the issue of dealing with the theme of our being like John, and of asking the question, in what way are we preparing the way of the Lord, and making straight a path for our God in our own and other's lives? During this time of waiting let's prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ.

Christmas Jumper Day

On Thursday, 19th December the Mini Vinnies (Mini Vincent de Paul Society) are inviting all pupils to take part in St Francis' Catholic Primary School Christmas Jumper Day. **We're asking pupils to make a £1 donation.** The money they raise will go to one of our chosen charities - *the Donkey Library in Ethiopia*. The donkey library has a mission of helping children in Ethiopia to read for pleasure at school and at home. In 2015, UK Literacy Association's Project Connect, supported a donkey library project based in Bishoftu, near Addis Ababa, in Ethiopia. The funds will enable Link Ethiopia to add to the library's stock, providing books in Amharic for children to borrow and enjoy.



Newham London

Headteacher: Ms Natasha Scott



Advent Appeal

You should have received a recent letter about our Advent appeal this year; at St Francis' School we believe that small changes make a big difference. As a result, we are asking each child to make a small change by donating one of the items stated in the letter to the school for the NEWway Homeless Project.

This charity opened its doors to the homeless people in Newham seven years ago. Alongside running a winter night shelter, serving hot dinner and breakfast, they offer day services where their guests can have their basic needs met: have a shower, wash their clothes and take fresh clothing. Our parish church - St Francis, currently operates one of the winter night shelters.

From Monday 2nd December each class will have a large box set up that we would like to fill with donations by **Wednesday, 18th December**.

Christmas Raffle

The letter regarding this year's Christmas raffle was sent out recently; your child should have also come home with a strip of raffle tickets today. Please support this fundraising event by purchasing one strip of tickets for one pound (£1). There are some fantastic prizes on offer!

Christmas Events

As we draw closer to the end of term there are a number of school events to celebrate Christmas. We look forward to celebrating with you, please make note of the dates and times below:

Thursday 12th December 2019 at 9:15 - Year 2 nativity performance

Thursday, 12th December 2019 - Christmas lunch (unfortunately parents are not able to attend)

Friday, 13th December 2019 at 6:00 pm - KS2 (Years 3-6) Carol Concert at St Francis Church

Wednesday, 18th December 2019 at 9:15 am - EYFS nativity performance

Thursday, 19th December 2019 - Christmas class party celebrations

Friday, 20th December 2019 9:30 -End of term Mass at St Francis Church

St Francis' School Fund

There is a payment item on ParentPay in regards to a voluntary donation to the school for activities/resources to enhance the curriculum such as resources for our focus days, concerts and other events. **The suggested fund contribution is to £40 for the year per family.** This will allow us to provide extra activities for your children to make the curriculum more hands on and practical through workshops, educational visits and special visitors/workshops in the school.

N. Scott
Head Teacher

