



20 November 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

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This half term has already been a busy one! The start of November is a time of remembrance in the Catholic Church. November 1st is All Saints Day – a day to remember all the Saints in the Catholic Church. We celebrated Mass to mark the day and it was a special occasion which over 200 of our students celebrated. November 2nd is All Souls Day. A day set aside to remember all those who have died. We marked this day and Remembrance Day by holding special Remembrance Masses for each year group. These Masses were very moving occasions, and all the Priests who came into school to celebrate Mass complimented our students on the compassion, empathy and respect they showed each other.

During this half term we come to the end of the Churches liturgical year (Year A) and start the new one (Year B) with the season of Advent. This season starts 4 weeks before Christmas and is a time of preparation. It is when we look forward to the birth of Jesus.

Advent is of great importance to the community of St Bernard's. During this period, we take time to think of others who may be in need, and what we can do within our own lives to make a difference for others. With this in mind, all students will be taking part in a number of charity initiatives over the coming weeks. At St. Bernard's we are inspired to try our best to live by the principles of Catholic social teaching, always ensuring we give a '*preferential option for the poor*' *Saint John Paul II* and that the needs of our most vulnerable are put first. In addition to supporting our charities, each form will put together a food hamper. These hampers will be distributed locally to people who will benefit from them.

We have a wide and varied calendar of events for the season of Advent, which is attached but I would like to draw your attention to a few of these events:

- Christmas lunch for students will take place on Tuesday 12th December. The cost is £2.65. Students need to sign up for Christmas lunch with their form tutor by Friday 1st December and payment for the lunch will be taken on Friday 8th December, please ensure there are sufficient funds in your child's account if they wish to have Christmas lunch. Students entitled to free school meals do not need to pay for Christmas lunch, they simply need to sign up with their form tutor by 1st December.
- Each Wednesday during Advent we will be celebrating Mass. On Wednesday 6th and Wednesday 13th December these Masses are at 8am. They are open to staff, students and parents. Last year we had a number of families with younger children join us before going to their primary school which made the Masses very special. It is a wonderful way to allow ourselves to step back, and be reminded of how we can prepare ourselves to welcome Christ into our hearts, our families and our homes. We would love to welcome you into school for either, or both of these Masses. The Tea Room will not be open on these days but there will be breakfast snacks for any students who do attend. On Wednesday 20th December our Mass is at 3:15, again everyone is very welcome.



Outstanding
2011-2012

- Once again, we are delighted to be hosting our annual parishioner's party. This is a wonderful event and one where our students really do shine. They take great delight in serving Christmas lunch to the parishioners and entertaining them with singing and seasonal festivities. We are expecting around 100 parishioners to attend this year.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your continued support. If you have any questions or queries about our Advent programme or fundraising projects, please do not hesitate to contact me at school.

God bless,

T Neal

Tammy Neal
Lay Chaplain

ADVENT AT ST BERNARD'S 2023

DATE	EVENT	VENUE	TIME
28th November	Students singing at The Hospital	Rotherham Hospital	1pm
1st December	Candlelight Christmas Market	School	4pm
1st December	Christmas Lunch order deadline	School	3pm
3rd December	1 st Sunday of Advent	All Churches	
6th December	Advent Mass	Main Hall	8am
8th December	KS3 Advent Mass	The Rock	11:30am
8th December	Y7 Santa Sleepover	Main Hall	7pm- 9am
10th December	2 nd Sunday of Advent	All Churches	
12th December	Christmas Lunch	Main Hall	11:45am
13th December	Advent Mass	Main hall	8am
14th December	Parishioners' Party	Canteen	2-4pm
15th December	KS4 Advent Mass	The Rock	11:30am
15th December	Y8 Santa Sleepover	Main Hall	7pm-9am
15th December	Hamper deadline Charity deadlines	Please take to the hall	3pm
17th December	3 rd Sunday of Advent	All Churches	
19th December	Staff Panto	Main Hall	3:15pm
20th December	Christmas Jumper Day	Whole School	
20th December	Advent Mass	Main Hall	3:15pm
21st December	Advent Liturgies KS3	Main hall	
21st December	Christmas Showcase	Main Hall	6-7:30pm
22nd December	Advent liturgies KS4	Main hall	