

Religious Education News

St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal – Please give generously.

Thank you to all the families who have already sent in their donation for this appeal. If you haven't it is not too late. Items will be collected from school on Friday 6th December. Please have all donations in by this date. What we supply really helps our local families. ***Please ensure all toys are new items not used.*** Please give generously to help support our local community. ***Please do not wrap gifts just send in.***



Parish Family Mass

Thank you to all the families who joined us for Parish Family Mass. It was lovely to see you all there. Fr Michael and the parish community are always happy to see and involve the students from St Thomas More Primary School.

Important RE Dates:

Friday 13th December – Year 6 Graduation Mass 5.30pm St Thomas More Parish Church followed by the Catholic Club

Tuesday 17th December – End of year Whole School Mass 9,30am St Thomas More Parish Church

Advent

Next Sunday the Church season of Advent begins. The word *Advent* comes from the Latin *adventus*, which means a coming, approach, or arrival. In the Church, it refers to the period encompassing the four Sundays prior to Christmas. Advent is a special time for Christians as they wait and prepare for the Birth of Christ.

During advent the **four** candles **represent** the **four weeks of Advent**, and one candle is lit each Sunday. ... The first candle, which is purple, **symbolizes** hope. It is sometimes called the “Prophecy Candle” in remembrance of the prophets, especially Isaiah, who foretold the birth of Christ and waited patiently for his arrival.

Below are some practical ways that you can prepare to fully celebrate Advent with your kids. Perhaps as a family you could choose one way to celebrate Advent this year.

1. Get or make an Advent wreath
2. Set up a nativity scene
3. Have an Advent Tree
4. Keep an Advent calendar



Jean-Marie Morris
Religious Education Coordinator