

Chaplaincy

Christmas

NEWSLETTER 2019



Reflection by Joanna

Have you ever wondered who Christmas is truly about? Have you ever thought of what Advent means?

Christmas is not about receiving gifts or presents, it is about giving to others. Mother Teresa said “it is not how much you give but how much love you put into giving.” What do you think these words mean?

It means that we can give so much money to the poor but it is the love that we put into it that counts. Due to God’s unconditional love he gave his son to grant us peace (John 3:16). The Good Samaritan helped an injured man because of love and compassion. But are we always willing to accept this love? When the Angel Gabriel came to Mary, although this was a sudden shock, she answered “I am the Lord’s servant.”

When God call us we must always accept it in love. His call is always for a good reason and we must believe it.

Mary can influence us by making us understand that we must send our worries to the Lord and trust him. Then others will be influenced by your example and the world will be at peace. To have a better understanding of god’s love you can go to Prayer Group, Bible Story and Rosary Clubs.



Acrostic Poems

Christ will come

Happy Christmas

Rudolph is waiting

Is it time yet? Wait!

Say sorry for sins

Talk to others

Merry Christmas

Ask and you will receive

Sing Christmas carols

Jesus' birth is

Entering

Sooner and sooner

Use your time to pray

Start to prepare

By Phoebe Winter

Christmas

By Grace

At Christmas I go to Church to celebrate the birth of baby Jesus. We go to Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve from 10pm to the next day till 2am.

We make festive food and invite friends and family over to our house and celebrate Christmas. During Mass fireworks explode. We normally have a special day dedicated to fireworks. We have a travelling crib that goes round to all the houses in the Church community.

Christmas Time

By Aleena

Christmas is my favourite time of the year. We prepare in many different ways like: fasting for 24 days, praying, attending Mass on Sundays and the days of obligation and doing charity work. In the Syro-Malabar tradition, in England we start with Midnight Mass at around 10.45pm and ends on Christmas day at 3am. After the Mass we cut a cake with our parish priest. We have a lot of special prayers and praises during the Mass. Before the Mass starts the children always begin with a special Carol, this symbolises the angels singing to God. We make festive food and invite family and friends for a celebration.

In India we start the Midnight Mass at 12am and ends at 10am the next day. Fireworks usually blow up half way through. Before the Mass starts all children in India go to people's houses with a statue of baby Jesus and a little spear. People come out of the house, kiss the spear and put some money as a gift to God/Jesus. While this is happening one person will be dressed as Santa Claus and the rest of the children will be singing carols or dancing. At people's houses they put up a crib and high up a star representing the visit of the Wisemen. Christmas is a time of joy and love, us welcoming Jesus into the world again.

The Chaplaincy Team wish you all a joyful Christmas!