



St. Joseph's Roman Catholic High School

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Registered Charity Number: 1075795 | **Facebook/Twitter:** StJosephsRCHS

Christmas Newsletter

December 2016

Dear Parents and Carers

As I write this Christmas newsletter, our Year of Mercy announced by Pope Francis has drawn to a close. St Joseph's pupils, along with many other schools from across our Diocese, attended a Mass of celebration with Bishop John at Salford Cathedral, with St Joseph's providing the post-Communion reflection.

A reminder that our Christmas Fair takes place this coming Sunday 11th December from 12 noon – thank you for all the goods you have donated so far and thanks in advance for the valuable time that many of you so generously give. The PSA continues to provide tremendous support for the work of the school and we continue to meet half-termly should you wish to join us.

As part of our Advent preparations, pupils have participated in reconciliation services in our newly refurbished school Chapel and they will take part in our annual Carol Service on the morning of Wednesday 14th December. I would like to remind all parents, carers and family members that you are all invited to our **Parish & Family Carol Service which will take place at 7pm on Tuesday 13th December** – please just contact school reception to reserve your tickets, or just come along on the evening!

As Christmas is approaching it is traditional at St Joseph's for our Youth St Vincent de Paul (SVP) group to hold their annual Senior Citizens' Christmas Party. This year, the party is to be held on Monday 19th December from 2pm to 4pm in the School hall. There is no admission charge and refreshment and entertainment are provided. If you know someone who would like to come to attend the event, please can you pass on the details to them. Transport can also be provided if required, please contact the school on 01204 697456 to arrange this.



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We break up for the Christmas holiday on **Tuesday 20th December at 12.45pm** and pupils are invited to attend school in non-uniform for a donation of £1 – Christmas jumpers are more than welcome! The usual guidelines apply to non-uniform and all monies raised will again be given to Bolton Winter Watch – the Urban Restore Centre for the homeless of Bolton, and 'The Brick' in Wigan which also serves homeless and vulnerable people during December. Details of non-uniform regulations and bus routes will be given in our Newsletter next week.

As we approach the celebration that is Christmas we would do well to reflect again on the words that Pope Francis gave to the world from St Peter's Square last Christmas Eve:

So when we hear tell of the birth of Christ, let us be silent and let the Child speak.

In a society so often intoxicated by consumerism and hedonism, wealth and extravagance, appearances and narcissism, this Child calls us to act soberly, In other words, in a way that is simple, balanced, consistent, capable of seeing and doing what is essential.

Amid a culture of indifference which not infrequently turns ruthless, our style of life should instead be devout, filled with empathy, compassion and mercy, drawn daily from the wellspring of prayer.

Like the shepherds of Bethlehem, may we too, with eyes full of amazement and wonder, gaze upon the Child Jesus, the Son of God. And in his presence may our hearts burst forth in prayer:

"Show us, Lord, your mercy, and grant us your salvation"

I do hope that you are able to join the celebrations within your parish communities over the Christmas holidays and there will be details of all local parish services in our Newsletter next week.

The Spring term will begin for pupils on **Thursday 5th January 2017** and until then may I wish you all a happy, holy and peaceful Christmas.

Yours sincerely

Richard Woods
Headteacher