

Advent Service

Oratory

S3 Cfe



THE ANNUNCIATION

This service is to mark the period of time that Christians wait and prepare for the Celebration of Christ’s Birth.

This service will be led by your teacher or a senior CARITAS student.

Please be respectful with your time in the Oratory and take time to pray with each other as part of this catholic community.

![C:\Users\mmarks.CL20.001\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\CQ0TBJVY\MC900297963[1].wmf]()Leader: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen

Leader:

* We take time together as a class community to reflect on the wonder of Mary and her place in the birth of Christ Jesus.
* We understand that she too, waited patiently for the birth of the Messiah, just as we wait in these four weeks of Advent to celebrate His Birth.

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<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2MxQgZb8MJE>

As we watch this clip I ask you to think carefully of Mary, her reactions and emotions as she is asked to be the Mother of God.

LEADER:

* The annunciation story reminds us that we too are challenged to say YES to the call from God. Through these weeks of Advent we wait patiently for the birth of Christ.

Christ himself waits for us to answer his call to be closer to Him and to lead our lives filled with goodness and compassion.

* We are reminded that Mary was chosen by God from the first moment of her existence to be the mother of our Saviour.
* We pray that we will be inspired by her goodness and faith in God the Father.

Mary is a role model for us; she demonstrates to us great courage, bravery and strength.

The Magnificat, taken from Luke’s Gospel (1:46-55), is the Blessed Virgin Mary’s hymn of praise to the Lord. It is also known as the Canticle of Mary in the Liturgy of the Hours, a special collection of scripture readings, psalms, and hymns that constitute what is known as the prayer of the church.

We take time today as a class community to say this prayer together.

![C:\Users\mmarks.CL20.001\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\CQ0TBJVY\MC900297963[1].wmf]()ALL: My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour
for he has looked with favour on his lowly servant.
From this day all generations will call me blessed:
the Almighty has done great things for me,
and holy is his Name.

He has mercy on those who fear him
in every generation.
He has shown the strength of his arm,
he has scattered the proud in their conceit.

He has cast down the mighty from their thrones,
and has lifted up the lowly.
He has filled the hungry with good things,
and the rich he has sent away empty.

He has come to the help of his servant Israel
for he remembered his promise of mercy,
the promise he made to our fathers,
to Abraham and his children forever.

Glory Be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be world without end.

Amen

LEADER: At this point our focus returns to the idea of waiting. Throughout our life there will be many times where we are asked to wait, waiting for a bus, exam results... and so on. Mary, as with all expectant mothers waited patiently for the birth of her child. During Advent we are asked to wait and also to prepare for the celebration of Christ’s birth. We may do this in many different ways, praying more, helping those in need, giving to charity, going to sacramental confession…

During this next reflection I ask you to take time to remember why we celebrate Christmas and reflect on the importance of waiting.

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LEADER:

During Advent we recall the history of God's people and reflect on how the prophecies and promises of the Old Testament were fulfilled.

Today we can reflect on the past and begin to understand what faith means to us now, to think about what is still to come, in our own future and that of our world.

We listen to this reading from Isaiah which tells us that Christ will bring light into our darkness:

PUPIL 1: A reading from the prophet Isaiah ( 9:2, 4-6)

ALL: Thanks Be to God

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The theme of light into darkness is common during the period of Advent. Our period of waiting is marked in many ways, traditional an advent calendar and by the lighting of an Advent wreath.

Each candle represents a theme, one which we are asked to reflect on each week of Advent.

Today as we light our advent wreath we will bring our prayers before God our Father in our intercessions.

Each candle calls on us to reflect on our lives and our actions…

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We take time to light our Advent Wreath, bringing us from darkness into the light…. Advent God, who comes to us in love, peace and joy.

![C:\Users\mmarks.CL20.001\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\CQ0TBJVY\MP900341448[1].jpg]()As we are in week \_\_\_\_ we will light \_\_\_\_ candles.

We thank you for love that nourishes and sustains our hearts, for peace that enables us to live in friendship with others for joy that illuminates and inspires our lives. We bring forth our prayers to you.

**The response is Lord Bring us your light**.

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1st candle –prophecy - Hope

We pray for people in need

We pray for homeless people and for refugees who have no country to call their own. Let your blessing be with those who work to help the homeless this Christmas, and give to all of us the determination to help where we can.

We pray for people who are lonely, those who are lonely because they have lost a partner, those who are lonely because no-one seems to care, those who are lonely because of handicap or illness. Let your presence be with those who are alone at this season of friendship and may we take your friendship and hope to those who we know will be alone this Christmas,

![C:\Users\mmarks.CL20.001\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\HFI1ROMP\MC900390616[1].wmf]()Lord Hear Us

PUPIL 4

2nd candle – Bethlehem – Peace

Give peace to the world

Give peace to the victims of war, the refugees, the widowed and the orphans.

Give peace to family and friends; to those who have quarrelled and need to be reconciled.

Give peace in our own divided hearts.

Your Son came as the Prince of Peace and brought a message of Peace for all people. Help us to be Peacemakers in our own homes, at our work or wherever we meet people, so that the peace and goodwill of Christmas can find a place in the hearts of all people.

Lord Hear Us

ALL: Lord Bring Us Your light.

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PUPIL 5

3rd candle – Shepherds – Love

We pray for friends and family who are ill at this time, and remember them in the quietness of our hearts. We bring them to you in the confidence that you love them and know their every need and that your healing power is still the same today. Bless all that is being done for their recovery and answer our prayers as you see best.

Lord Hear Us

ALL: Lord Bring Us Your light.

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4th candle – Angels – Joy

Heavenly Father, as once again we prepare for Christmas, help us to find time in our busy lives for quiet and thought and prayer, that we may reflect upon the wonder of your love and allow the story of the Saviour’s birth to penetrate our hearts and minds. So may our joy be deeper, our worship more real, and our lives worthier of all that you have done for us through the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Lord Hear Us

ALL: Lord Bring Us Your light.



PUPIL 7

5th candle – this will be lit on Christmas Day to celebrate the birth of our Lord and Saviour.

Prayer for Pope Francis

We ask God, in his infinite mercy to continue to guide Pope Francis. May he bring forth the light of Christ to those who seek the presence of Christ in their lives, especially at this time of year. We ask that he encourages the faithful to be compassionate to those in need and to stay steadfast to the teachings and traditions of your universal Church.

Lord Hear Us

ALL: Lord Bring Us Your light.

**Recognising the light within us**

![C:\Users\mmarks.CL20.001\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\HFI1ROMP\MP900448422[1].jpg]()Our school community worked together to bring light to many through our annual shoebox appeal. We thank God for the opportunity to help others.

We give thanks to those who contributed to make life brighter for others.

We recognise the contribution of this class and we celebrate your collective achievement by presenting you with this class certificate.

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We bring our service to a close now by saying together the prayer that asks Our Blessed Mother to be with us throughout our lives.

ALL:

 Hail Mary, full of grace.
Our Lord is with thee.
Blessed art thou among women,
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb,
Jesus.
Holy Mary, Mother of God,
pray for us sinners,
now and at the hour of our death.
Amen.

This reflection reminds us of the great event of Christ Jesus’ birth

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We thank her for saying Yes to God and we too will do what we can to bring Christ into our lives through Advent and the Christmas season.

We make this prayer through Christ Our Lord. AMEN.

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**Advent Calendar**

He will come like last leaf's fall.
One night when the November wind
has flayed the trees to bone, and earth
wakes choking on the mould,
the soft shroud's folding.

He will come like frost.
One morning when the shrinking earth
opens on mist, to find itself
arrested in the net
of alien, sword-set beauty.

He will come like dark.
One evening when the bursting red
December sun draws up the sheet
and penny-masks its eye to yield
the star-snowed fields of sky.

He will come, will come,
will come like crying in the night,
like blood, like breaking,
as the earth writhes to toss him free.
He will come like child.

*Rowan Williams (The Poems of Rowan Williams, Perpetua Press 2002)*