



Dear Parent / Carer,
here is an electronic version of our Prayer Bag
for the fourth week of Advent

Celebrating Advent

Please take some time over the next few days
to come together, as a family, in prayer.

The **fourth** Sunday of Advent is celebrated on **19th December.**



A Message from Bishop David



When the angel visited Mary and told her God's plan, that she was to become the mother of the Messiah, Mary could have hidden away from everyone else around her. But the angel also told her that her elderly close relative, Elizabeth, was also going to become a mother. What did Mary do? She shows her enormous loving concern for this elderly relative, by travelling the difficult journey into the hill country of Judea. Mary wants to be with Elizabeth to support her in what must have been a challenging time. This is what being a disciple of Jesus involves. It means living out our faith in acts of charity and kindness towards others.

Christmas is very near now.

Let us ask Mary, the Mother of Jesus, to pray for us so that like her, we might reach out to others and not think about our own needs first. This can be very difficult, especially when every instinct within us wants to look after our own needs. On the other hand, as the saints discovered in their experience, when we take the first steps into living a life of love towards others, we discover this is the most wonderful way to live a fulfilling life.

✠ **David**

Rt Revd Dr David J Oakley
Bishop of Northampton



Find a comfortable place to sit,
light a candle
and begin with the Sign of the Cross



In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

Advent



Week 4

Loving



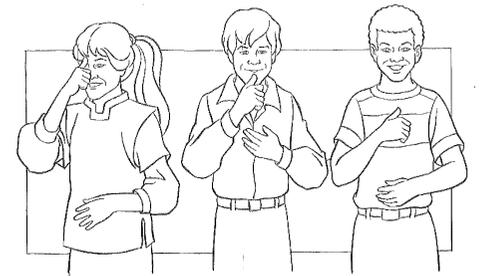
**Who do you love
and how do you show your love to others?**



**This week
we hear how the Angel Gabriel
visited Mary
and told her that she was
to be the Mother of God's son**



A Reading from the Gospel of St John
Glory to you O Lord





**Why should I be honoured with a visit
from the mother of my Lord?**

Mary set out and went as quickly as she could to a town in the hill country of Judah. She went into Zechariah's house and greeted Elizabeth. Now as soon as Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. She gave a loud cry and said, 'Of all women you are the most blessed, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. Why should I be honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord? For the moment your greeting reached my ears, the child in my womb leapt for joy. Yes, blessed is she who believed that the promise made her by the Lord would be fulfilled.'



The Gospel of the Lord
Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ



**The angel said:
'Hail, full of grace!
The Lord is with you'**

**How did Mary feel
when the angel appeared
to her?**

What did Mary say?

Mary said 'yes'
It was a small word to say but a
huge commitment to make.

When we say yes to God
We put our trust in him
just like Mary did



Jesus asks us to say 'yes' to following him.

We respond - Our hearts are ready Lord

Our hearts are ready Lord

**We pray for all countries at war that they will
strive for peace**

Our hearts are ready Lord

**We pray that people will be generous
and look after the poor**

Our hearts are ready Lord

**We pray for the lonely that we will
reach out to them in love**

Our hearts are ready Lord

**We pray for those who are suffering from corona
virus, that they will feel God's love at this time**

Our hearts are ready Lord

**We pray that we will open our hearts to Jesus
in all those we meet**

Our hearts are ready Lord

Let us Pray

Loving God,

We thank you for Mary's 'yes' to be the Mother of Jesus.

Help us to follow her example in saying yes to what you ask us to do.

We pray that we will always bring messages of joy and hope to those we meet.

Amen



Let us ask Mary to pray with us and for us as we say.....

**Hail Mary, full of grace,
the 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**



Who or what will you say 'Yes' to today?



**We end our prayer time together
by making the Sign of the Cross**

**In the name of the Father
and of the Son
and of the Holy Spirit
Amen**

