

TSC Advent Campaign 2023 - 'There is room at the inn!'

We are all living through challenging times. The cost of living crisis, lingering effects of the pandemic, and conflict overseas all can contribute to a sense of hopelessness, where the bright horizon seems far away. As people are forced to 'look after number one', there is a risk of communities becoming fractured and divisions deepening. We see this in the way the most vulnerable people in our world are treated in the media, particularly migrants and refugees, who are too often regarded as a problem to be solved, rather than brothers and sisters to be loved and welcomed.

As a community rooted in faith in Jesus, our school values of compassion, forgiveness, service, gratitude, compel us to challenge hopelessness and division in our world. As children of a loving God, we believe that all people should be able to dare to dream, without being woken from those dreams by the circumstances of life. Advent is a time where we look forward to the arrival of God's kingdom, where justice, peace and reconciliation reign.

This Advent, our school community will strive to look at the Christmas story from a new perspective, as our theme suggests: ***There is room at the inn!***

All staff, students and families are encouraged to put our Gospel values into action by:

'Little Acts of Welcome'

St Teresa of Calcutta said: **"Not all of us can do great things. But we can do small things with great love."** We would like to mark this Advent by carrying out little acts of welcome throughout our school and wider community. This week each student will be given a pledge card during form time to write down an action they will commit to this Advent to contribute to a more welcoming community for all. These pledge cards will decorate the Christmas trees around school during Advent. This initiative supports the work of Caritas Salford, who are encouraging us to consider how we might 'Bee There' for each other this Advent - [take a look at their campaign resources by clicking here](https://www.caritassalford.org.uk/BeeThere).



Sponsor a room - Caritas fundraiser

Mindful of people on our own doorstep who will be struggling this winter, we would also like to support Caritas Salford, by raising enough money to sponsor a room for a person experiencing homelessness. These rooms cost £1500 per room, per year. As part of our Advent liturgies, a representative from Caritas will come to speak to us about the impact of this social action. For more information about where this money will go [please visit the Caritas website by clicking here](#).

Meals on Jesus - Urban Outreach

As a school we have pledged £1000 to support the Meals on Jesus campaign for Urban Outreach. This money will be used to provide Christmas dinners to families in need around Bolton this Christmas. For more information about the work of Urban Outreach [please visit their website by clicking here](#).

If you would like to help us to reach our ambitious fundraising targets this Advent, you can now donate through School Gateway.

Christmas Celebrations:

Our whole school community is invited to join us for the following events, which are always a highlight of our school year:

- **'There is room at the Inn' - Christmas Carol Service**
Wednesday 20th December, 6pm
Thornleigh Salesian College Chapel, followed by refreshments in the school hall.
- **First Mass of Christmas**, celebrated with the Thornleigh Salesian community
Sunday 24th December, 7pm
Thornleigh Salesian College Chapel

[Please click here to complete a Google form to indicate if you would like to attend either/both of these events.](#)

We wish you a very happy and holy Advent season.

