

# St James the Great Catholic School Newsletter

[www.stjamesthegreat.southwark.sch.uk](http://www.stjamesthegreat.southwark.sch.uk) "Doing our best for God, for others and for ourselves" Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> December 2022



Christmas Nativity Play 2022

## A Happy Christmas to all

It is very nearly Christmas, so it's time to send our compliments of the season to you all. Advent has been a busy, and wonderfully certain one this year, which has made a change from the ups and downs of the last few years. Fr Jack reminded us at our Advent Mass that we are not preparing for the coming of baby Jesus, as he came 2000 years ago, rather the coming of Jesus, of God, in our own hearts. Reflecting on the birth of Jesus is a beautiful way of doing just that.

## Christmas Story retold

Well done and thank you to all the children throughout the school who have prepared for the retelling of the Christmas story in so many different ways over the last week and to their teachers and assistants. They were brilliant!

## Christmas in Our Parish

Christmas Masses at  
**St James the Great Church**  
Elm Grove, Peckham SE15 5DD

Saturday 24<sup>th</sup>  
Christmas Eve

Vigil Masses at 6pm & 8pm

Sunday 25<sup>th</sup>  
Christmas Day

Mass at 8:30, 10 and 12noon



REMEMBER! GO TO MASS AT CHRISTMAS,  
REMEMBER WHO'S BIRTHDAY IT IS!

## Finance Champions

Well done to the following children who are now trained and ready to help run our Wednesday Savers Club. A very important part of the school's Financial Education offer.

Our Finance Champions are: Sara, Sophia, Alexis, Ore and Danielle, Y6 Rebecca Y5 and Nathan Y4.



## Meal Vouchers-holiday update

These will be emailed, to those entitled to this support, on Monday and will cover the duration of this holiday. Thanks go to Southwark Council who have again agreed to fund this.

## GOLD STAR AWARD



Year 1 Anna  
Year 2 Yemaryam  
Year 3 Ethan  
Year 4 Solihom  
Year 5 Faith N  
Year 6 Christina



*We wish you all a happy and peaceful Christmas and every good wish for the New Year*

Remember  
NEW TERM begins on....  
Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2023

## The Twelve Days of Christmas (our Christmas hall display) - explained

Did you know???????

The song, "The Twelve Days of Christmas" is an old English Christmas carol dating from the time when being a practising Catholic was against the law. The song has a hidden meaning. Each number in the carol has a code word for a religious point of faith which the children could remember.



1. One, a partridge in a pear tree

The "True Love" is **Jesus Christ**, because truly Love was born on Christmas Day. The partridge in the pear tree also represents Him because that bird is willing to sacrifice its life if necessary to protect its young by feigning injury to draw away predators.

2. The two turtle doves were the **Old and New Testaments**

3. The three French hens stood for **virtues of faith, hope, and love.**

4. The four calling birds were the **four gospels** of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.

5. The five golden rings represented the **first five books of the Old Testament**, which describe humanity's weaknesses (sin) and the great love of God in sending a Saviour.

6. The six geese a-laying stood for the six days of **creation.**



7. Seven swans a-swimming represented the sevenfold **gifts of the Holy Spirit**----- (wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety, and fear of the Lord.)

8. The eight maids a-milking were the eight **Beatitudes.**

9. \*Nine ladies dancing were nine **fruits of the Holy Spirit**----- charity, joy, peace, patience [forbearance], goodness [kindness], gentleness, faithfulness, modesty,

self-control [chastity])

10. The ten lords a-leaping were the **Ten Commandments.**

11. The eleven pipers piping stood for the **eleven faithful Apostles.**

12. The twelve drummers drumming symbolised the twelve points of belief in The **Apostles' Creed.**



**Learn or find out some more about these things over Christmas**

\* To fit the number scheme, when you reach number 9, representing the 12 Fruits of the Holy Spirit, the writer combined some that were similar to make 9.