

St Gabriel's Catholic Primary School

Friday Note

22nd December 2023



Dear Parents and Carers

We have reached the end of a busy, fun-filled first term with lots of hard work. During this season of Advent, children have been working hard to prepare for their performances. We have certainly had a week filled with the Joy of Advent as we lit the rose candle on our Advent wreath.

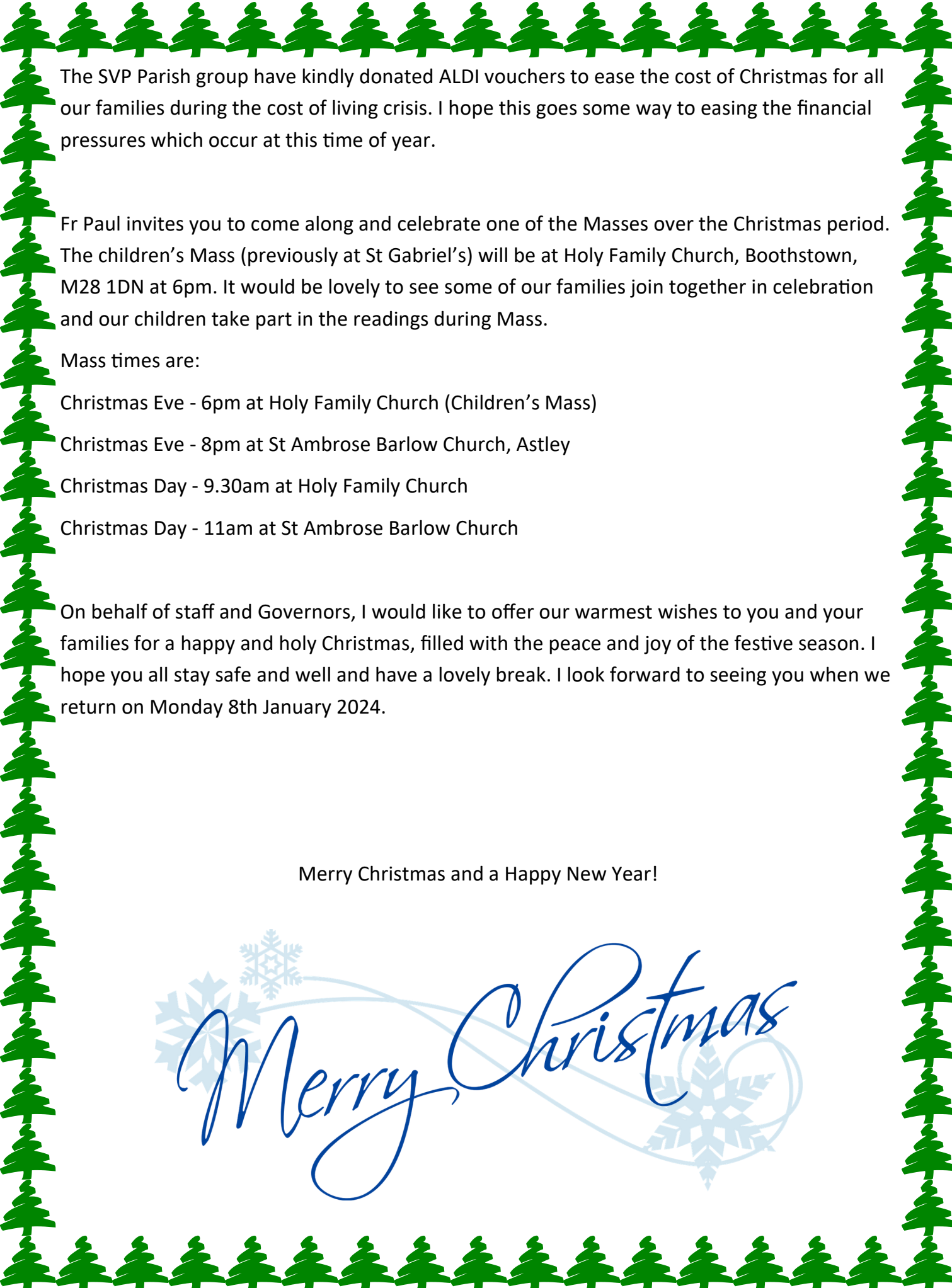
We are very grateful for your support in attending the performances and providing a real audience for our children to perform to. I know they are really appreciative of your time and support at this busy time for all of us. I hope that you enjoyed watching your children and were filled with pride and joy at their amazing courage and talents. We were treated to some wonderful singing, enthusiastic dancing and acting, and clear narration of the Christmas story. They all looked fabulous in their costumes. It is a reminder to us that we can fulfil our mission to, 'Pray, Learn, Achieve and Celebrate Together' when we work as a team.

Pre School entertained us with their Christmas Spectacular, Reception classes staged their Nativity and Key Stage 1 treated us to a performance of 'What a Star'. Key Stage 2 have been rehearsing for their Christmas carol concert. All of these events take a tremendous amount of time, patience and preparation. I would like to take the opportunity to acknowledge the amazing work of all our teachers and teaching assistants who go above and beyond to ensure our children are cared for, supported and given the very best experiences.

My thanks also extend to Mrs Ashurst, our Safeguarding Manager, Mrs Doyle, our Site Manager, Mrs Secombe, Mrs Worden and Mrs Eatock in the school office, and kitchen staff, who are all fundamental in the organisation of the extra events that are arranged at this time of year.

The Christmas Fun Days were a huge success once again. Children enjoyed the Christmas themed activities and had lots of fun and a visit from Father Christmas to make this last week of school extra special. Many thanks for your contributions to enable us to facilitate this event. Please follow us on Twitter and have a look at all the fun we have had. **@stgabrielsleigh**

Our term concluded with a visit to Holy Family Church this morning. It was lovely to celebrate Mass together as we near the end of this season of Advent and look ahead to the joy of Christmas and the birth of Jesus. As always, our children were a real credit to us and demonstrated respect and reverence. Their singing was amazing - many congratulations to the children who sang with such confidence: Praise, Kara, Jensen, Phoebe, William and Leah; you all showed real courage and it was wonderful to listen to you.



The SVP Parish group have kindly donated ALDI vouchers to ease the cost of Christmas for all our families during the cost of living crisis. I hope this goes some way to easing the financial pressures which occur at this time of year.

Fr Paul invites you to come along and celebrate one of the Masses over the Christmas period. The children's Mass (previously at St Gabriel's) will be at Holy Family Church, Boothstown, M28 1DN at 6pm. It would be lovely to see some of our families join together in celebration and our children take part in the readings during Mass.

Mass times are:

Christmas Eve - 6pm at Holy Family Church (Children's Mass)

Christmas Eve - 8pm at St Ambrose Barlow Church, Astley

Christmas Day - 9.30am at Holy Family Church

Christmas Day - 11am at St Ambrose Barlow Church

On behalf of staff and Governors, I would like to offer our warmest wishes to you and your families for a happy and holy Christmas, filled with the peace and joy of the festive season. I hope you all stay safe and well and have a lovely break. I look forward to seeing you when we return on Monday 8th January 2024.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



Merry Christmas