



## St Alban's Catholic Academy Newsletter

Friday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2020

[www.st-albans.essex.sch.uk](http://www.st-albans.essex.sch.uk)



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This week was the feast of Christ the King, marking the end of the Liturgical Year. In assembly we reflected on the things we do now to help others and what more we could do. Helping others was then reflected in our Young Carers assembly this week. Sunday was also Youth Sunday – we have focussed on how young people can help spread the message of Laudato Si in Caring for our Common World. Year 5 wrote prayers of thanks for the world – I share a prayer here:

*Dear God, Everyday I wake up to a lovely day and it is all because of you! Thank you for the world you have made for us. Thank you for all the people on the planet, I appreciate every single person. Thank you for everything Lord, it is appreciated by me!*  
Amen

*Mrs A M Black, Head of School*

**“God does not love you because you behave well. He loves you, plain and simple. His love is unconditional; it does not depend on you.”**

- Pope Francis

**Advent:** This Sunday marks the first Sunday in Advent. Do visit our school [website](#) for links to [virtual Masses](#). Please also find a prayer card we wish to share for each family to use during Advent.

**Home Crib:** Our Travelling Crib cannot travel this year, however the Mini Vinnies are asking for families to make and share their own family cribs. We would love to receive photos of the cribs via the home learning email address. These photos may then be shared in assemblies or on the website. Please find attached a lovely flyer made by Michelle y6 (Mini Vinnies) on how to make your own crib at home.

**Diocese of Brentwood:** The Diocese have shared a free Jesse Tree package, available for download from the [Diocesan website](#). Again, please do send in your pictures of these to the home learning email if you do make a Jesse tree.

**Reading Champions:** We celebrated today the first of our Reading Champions to receive their badges in recognition for their wide reading. Congratulations to  
Year R – Elsie                      Year 4 – Rianne  
Year 1 – Oskar                      Year 5 – Ikenna  
Year 2 – Anthony                      Year 6 – Jack  
Year 3 – Annah-Maria

**House Points:** Well done to St Theresa.

St Theresa – 179	St Anne Line – 173
St Francis – 148	St Bernadette - 137
St Thomas More- 124	St Paul – 124

**Christmas Cards:** As you know it is very difficult for us to receive items from home. Therefore, this year if your child wishes to send their class Christmas good wishes they can send in their own creation of a Christmas card to the home learning email and the teachers will produce a virtual whole class one on their screen.

**Our Lady of Fatima Church:** The Church will be open for private prayer for families every day before school 8.30-9.00am during advent. Pupils, accompanied by their parent/carers, may also choose to put a coin in to light a candle and say a prayer. Funds from the candles will go to a local cause. Parents can also pray after drop off, too until 9am. It is hoped Christmas Masses will be able to be booked. More details will be given – hopefully in next week's newsletter.

**Winter Reading Challenge:** This winter Essex Libraries are running the 'Reading Agency Winter Reading Challenge'. It will be held online and FREE to complete! Children will need to read three books of their choice and add each title to their Winter Reading Challenge website profile with a review which will unlock a virtual badge and certificate to print off and keep! [The Winter Challenge](#) starts Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> December and finishes Friday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2021 and is great fun to do.

**Pupil of the Week:** Pupils who gained a certificate this week are:

Year R – Lyla	Year 4 – Kaydn
Year 1 – Tyrone	Year 5 – Rosie
Year 2 – Telcie	Year 6 – Lola
Year 3 – Chima	

**Poetry Competition:** Calling all children in Key Stage 2. Today we are launching our poetry competition. Children are invited to compose their own poem on the True Meaning of Christmas in 2020. This can be sent into the home learning email, for the attention of Miss Fisher - closing date 9th December. Prizes for 1st, 2nd and 3rd! Plus a chance to have your poem read aloud to the whole school by your chosen teacher.

**Young Carers:** We are delighted to announce that St Alban's have gained the Bronze Young Carers award. This is for our work to make sure students don't miss out on an education because they are young carers. The Young Carers in Schools programme helps primary and secondary schools improve outcomes for young carers and celebrates good practice through the Young Carers in Schools Award. More information is available on the Young Carers section of our website. Do see Mrs Black if you wish to know more about this service.

**Upcoming Dates:**

18<sup>th</sup> December – End of Term 1pm finish  
9<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Dinner; details to follow (Christmas Jumper/Non-uniform day)  
4<sup>th</sup> January – Inset day  
26<sup>th</sup> February – Individual & Class Photos



*Through God's love we learn together, grow together and achieve together.*

