



**ADVENT 2017**  
**WEEK THREE JOY**

Jesus is our light! Rejoice!  
What was John the Baptist's message:  
"He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,' as the prophet Isaiah said." (John 1:23).

This week, celebrate with joy that your hope in Christ is certain; prophecies about him are always fulfilled.



**ATTENDANCE**

House	8.12.2017	1.12.2017
Allen	90.5%	90.6%
Hinsley	89.0%	94.1%
Manning	86.7%	93.6%
Newman	90.8%	93.3%
Vaughan	86.3%	91.4%
Wiseman	92.2%	92.1%
<b>Whole School</b>	<b>89.4%</b>	<b>92.5%</b>



# THE GRIFFIN

## Cardinal Griffin Catholic College

*Ad majorem Dei gloriam*

Issue 127  
14th December 2017  
Christmas Term  
Week 7

### COLLEGE PRAYERS FOR THE WEEK

Morning Prayer	Evening Prayer	Weekly Prayer
<p>Lord, teach me to be generous: to serve you as you deserve; to give and not to count the cost; to fight and not to heed the wounds; to toil and not to seek to rest; to labour and to ask for any reward save that of knowing I do your will. Amen</p>	<p>May the Lord support us all the day long, till the shadows lengthen, and the evening comes, and the busy world is hushed, and the fever of life is over, and our work is done. Then, in his mercy, may he give us a safe lodging, a holy rest, and peace at last. Amen</p>	<p>Lord, You know our potential but what is your purpose for our lives? When we are unsure, help us to trust in your faithfulness, prepare us for your way, O Lord: Your kingdom come, Your will be done. We ask this prayer in the name of Jesus our Lord. Amen.</p>



### PUPIL SERVICES



#### Lost Property

Please can you check if your children are missing any of the following items:

Umbrella, Glasses, Jumper, Coat, Scarf, House Keys, Hat, Felt Tips, One Glove, French Dictionary, Dictionary, PE Kit.

Any lost property left over after Christmas will be put in the hall for two weeks and then disposed of or given to charity if not collected

### PERFORMING ARTS

Our Drama and Music scholars are working hard in their roles this year, not least in their support with the Christmas Cabaret last week. They took a key role in supporting younger students and helping to organise elements of the evening; they are taking their roles seriously and not only developing their own performance skills but helping other to do so too. Since the start of the scholarship programme a few years ago several students have benefited from a chance to make a real difference within a subject area that they are passionate about, and being a college ambassador has boosted their confidence dramatically.

As the Christmas holidays draw near lots of students will be taking lines home to learn for the college show, and the Griffin Dancers will be eagerly learning steps for upcoming dances. They aim to use in a plethora of competitions that Miss Blewitt has lined-up in January and beyond. Our dance provision here in college has continued to grow due to the enthusiasm of lots of young, talented dancers and of course the time and energy of Miss Blewitt. We will keep you updated on the dancers' progress!

### OUR PARISH CHURCHES

#### St Mary's & St Thomas More

Rev Fr Peter Weatherby  
<http://www.cannockcatholic.org>  
07766 335591

#### St Joseph's, Burntwood

Rev Fr Paul Haines  
<http://www.stjosburntwood.co.uk/>  
01543 686266

#### Our Lady of Lourdes

Rev Fr Jeremy Howard  
<http://www.ourladyhednesford.com>  
01543 422576

#### St Joseph & St Etheldreda, Rugeley

Rev Fr Peter Stonier  
<http://www.rugeleycatholicchurch.co.uk/>  
01889 802531

### CHURCH CALENDAR

<b>Sunday 17th December 2017</b>	<b>3rd Sunday of Advent</b>
<b>Monday 18th December 2017</b>	Weekday of Advent
<b>Tuesday 19th December 2017</b>	Weekday of Advent
<b>Wednesday 20th December 2017</b>	Weekday of Advent
<b>Thursday 21st December 2017</b>	St Peter Canisius, Priest, Doctor of the Church
<b>Friday 22nd December 2017</b>	Weekday of Advent
<b>Saturday 23rd December 2017</b>	St John of Kanty, Priest

### LAY CHAPLAIN'S MESSAGE

AmDg

John the Baptist makes one crystal-clear claim to fulfil Old Testament prophecy. He is "the voice" of Isaiah. Jesus, on the other hand is "The Word." (John 1:1). The voice brings awareness of the word, which people are then expected to respond to. There, in the desert outside of Jerusalem, John the Baptist was crying out, making "a way for the Lord." The people hearing this prophecy would have understood it as "making a road," meaning a path for the incoming King. John the Baptist is also reassuring others by denying that he, himself, is the Messiah. What he preaches is not a new religion, or even a new revelation. It is the fulfilment of what was already prophesied. This is not God changing His mind, this is God completing His plan.

## HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE



### College Closure Due to Winter Weather

For any Headteacher, the decision to close a school for extreme weather is probably the most challenging decision that he/she have to make. As a Head teacher for 19 years, six years in Lincolnshire and thirteen years in Staffordshire, I have had to make the decision on many occasion. I have established a check list of factors to consider.

1. Are the roads and pedestrian routes safe? The Highways Agency and the Met Office generally provide the most up to date information.
2. Can pupils get around the college site? Each school is different, I have been

fortunate that the two schools at which I have had to make the decision, were reasonably straight forward, they were single site and located close to the main road.

3. Is the heating working in the college and does it provide sufficient heat?

I have received a number of calls and emails from local Heads asking for advice. A number of Headteachers feel under significant pressure to close schools and my advice has always that the greatest noise does not always represent the majority. I reflect on an evening meeting at the college in April 2005 on the question of the dress code and over 300 pupils and parents attended the meeting. For 70 minutes the meeting was dominated by those who were very much opposed to the change in the dress code to the point when member of the audience called for a show of hands. The result was that 80% of those present were in favour of a change to the dress code, but they had sat quietly saying little. I am always wary of the vocal element, they are rarely the majority.

Interestingly, politicians both nationally and locally run a mile from the issue of closing schools due to the weather, they are not daft!! They know that Headteachers are going to be damned if they do and damned if they don't and, wisely they step aside and allow the Headteacher to make the decision.

I have found that there are broadly three schools of thought on this matter. Those who believe that schools should stay open whatever the weather. They tend to be the "old school" and they will reminisce that when they went to school, there was often snow two and three deep. They believed that the decision to close schools is for the benefit of teachers who want "another" day off (they probably believe that teachers have too long holidays anyway and that they only work from 0830 until school closes!!)

The second school is the polar opposite (no pun intended!) who believe that health and safety demands that the school close with even the lightest of dustings of snow. Heads who keep the school open are seen as reckless and uncaring.

The third school contains the majority of parents who accept that the decision taken by the Head teacher is not an easy decision and they accept the decision with minimal fuss. It is not possible to keep all schools of thought happy.

## COLLEGE CALENDAR

15th December 2017	Syntax Reports
15th December 2017	Term Ends ~ 13.05hrs
3rd January 2018	College Returns ~ Epihany Term Begins



## CONTACT DETAILS

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## The Attendance on Tuesday and Wednesday was as follows:

Year	Tuesday	Tuesday last week	Wednesday	Wednesday last week
Year 7	80.1	94.3	93.9	94.6
Year 8	73.8	88.5	92.8	89.5
Year 9	73.3	94.0	92.0	94.3
Year 10	69.7	86.6	92.9	88.8
Year 11	70.7	86.7	91.2	92.2
Total	73.6	80.1	92.3	91.9

It is interesting to note that the pupils who are potentially the most vulnerable ( the youngest ) have the highest attendance as they always do and those who are the least vulnerable, the older students have the poorest figure – I often wonder what this tells us!

Well done to the pupils who came to college on Tuesday. A number pointed out with some pride that we were the only secondary school open, I am not sure if this was the case or not, however each Head teacher has to make a decision based upon their own circumstances. We are on a main road and it is generally flat although Cardinal Way will always present a challenge.

The pupils, in the main, came appropriately dressed, although I was taken back by a couple of girls who walked past in crop tops and some pupils who only wore a T shirt beneath their coats!

## End of term and the beginning of the Epiphany Term

The Christmas term ends at 1305 on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December. The college will re-open on Wednesday 3rd January 2018 at 0830.

## CHRISTMAS LITURGIES

### Below are the times of the Christmas Liturgies

Our Lady of Lourdes, Catholic Church Hednesford	St. Joseph and St. Etheldreda Catholic Church Rugeley	St Joseph Catholic Church Burntwood	St Mary's ~ St Thomas More Catholic Church, Cannock
<b>Christingle Service</b> 18 December 19.00 ----- <b>Christmas Eve</b> Vigil Mass 17.00 (children's Activities) ----- <b>First Mass of Christmas</b> 22.00 Carols from 21.45 ----- <b>Christmas Day Mass</b> 10.00	<b>Fourth Sunday of Advent</b> Mass 11.00 Vigil Mass 19.00 Mass Midnight 23.30 ----- <b>Christmas Eve</b> Mass at Dawn 8.30 Morning Mass 11.00 ----- <b>Tuesday</b> The Feast of St Stephen Servers' Mass 12.00	<b>Christmas Eve</b> Children Activities 17:00 Candlelit Mass 23:00 ----- <b>Christmas Day</b> Morning Mass 10:00 	<b>Christmas Eve</b> Nativity Mass 16:00 Carols 18:00 Christmas Mass 18:30 ----- <b>Christmas Day</b> Morning Mass 10:00 

