



Dear Parent / Carer,
here is an electronic version of our Prayer Bag
for the third week of Advent

Celebrating Advent

Please take some time over the next few days
to come together, as a family, in prayer.

The **third** Sunday of Advent is celebrated on **12th December.**



A Message from Bishop David



People were excited by what John the Baptist was saying and doing. They were expecting a Saviour, the Messiah. They thought this great person would deliver them from the oppression they felt in their lives, especially living under Roman rule.

Maybe we become excited about people in our world today, footballers, singers, fashion gurus. But when you have lived as long as I have, you become disillusioned by them all! They never seem to deliver the promises they make!

John the Baptist looked for a different kind of change, one that is not focused on what others do, but on what we must do ourselves. I cannot change others, but I can change myself. We often think, what's the point? My little effort is not going to change the world! John the Baptist focuses our thinking in a different way. He invites us to make an effort to change our lives, so that we will be ready to meet with Jesus, the One who will baptise us with the Holy Spirit and fire. Now when this happens in our lives, there really is a difference! And so we pray that we too, might be open to the fire of the Spirit within our minds and hearts, changing us so that we will become saints.

✠ David

Rt Revd Dr David J Oakley
Bishop of Northampton



Find a comfortable place to sit,
light a candle
and begin with the Sign of the Cross



In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

Advent



Week 3

Rejoicing!

The third Sunday in Advent is called **Gaudate Sunday**



Gaudete is a word from an old language called Latin.
It means **Rejoice!**

We are rejoicing.....

because we are getting closer to Christmas!

We are **rejoicing** because we are nearly ready to celebrate the birth of Jesus, in the stable in Bethlehem, over 2000 years ago.

We are **rejoicing** because we are nearly ready to receive Jesus into our hearts and lives this Christmas.

We light the **pink** candle
on the Advent Wreath
to remind us to rejoice!



We rejoice Lord, for you are always near
even when we might think you are far away.

Rejoice in the Lord always!
The Lord is very near!

We rejoice Lord, for you always listen to our prayer
even when we don't want to pray.

Rejoice in the Lord always!
The Lord is very near!

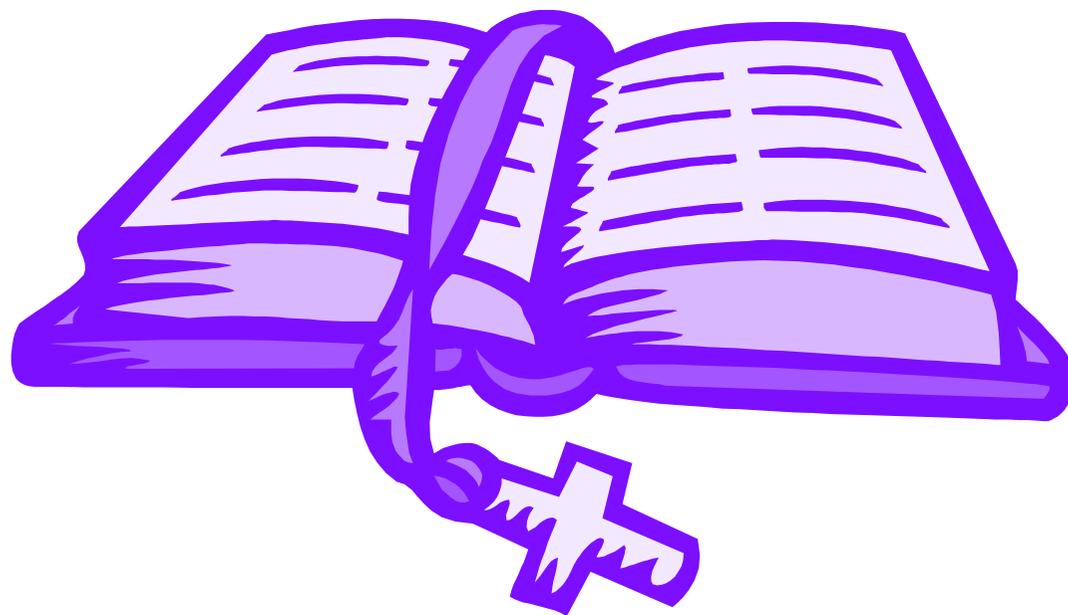
We rejoice Lord, for you are always ready
to show us your love
even when we have, at times, turned away from you.

Rejoice in the Lord always!
The Lord is very near!

Yes Lord, we rejoice, for you were born into our world
and for this we thank you.
All the earth rejoices at your coming.

Rejoice in the Lord always!
The Lord is very near!

A Reading from St Paul's Letter to the Philippians





'The Lord is very near'

**I want you to be happy, always happy in the Lord;
I repeat, what I want is your happiness.
Let your tolerance be evident to everyone:
the Lord is very near.
There is no need to worry;
but if there is anything you need, pray for it,
asking God for it with prayer and thanksgiving,
and that peace of God, which is so much greater
than we can understand, will guard your hearts
and your thoughts, in Christ Jesus.**



The word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

We pray:

That we will rejoice at the coming of Jesus this Christmas
Lord, we rejoice in you

That we will be grateful for all that you have given us
Lord, we rejoice in you

That we will be generous and share what we have
with others
Lord, we rejoice in you



We pray:

That we will rejoice with our visitors this Christmas
Lord, we rejoice in you

That when we visit others we will bring them your joy
Lord, we rejoice in you

That those who cannot be with their family
and friends this Christmas will find their joy in you
Lord, we rejoice in you



**Our Father,
who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
Amen.**



How can I rejoice today?

**We end our prayer time together
by making the Sign of the Cross**

**In the name of the Father
and of the Son
and of the Holy Spirit
Amen**

