Immaculate Conception of Mary

W/C 6TH DECEMBER

This week Upton Hall FCJ and Bellerive FCJ are celebrating their feastday. This week's prayers are about The feast of the Immaculate Conception of Mary which they have chosen for their feastday.
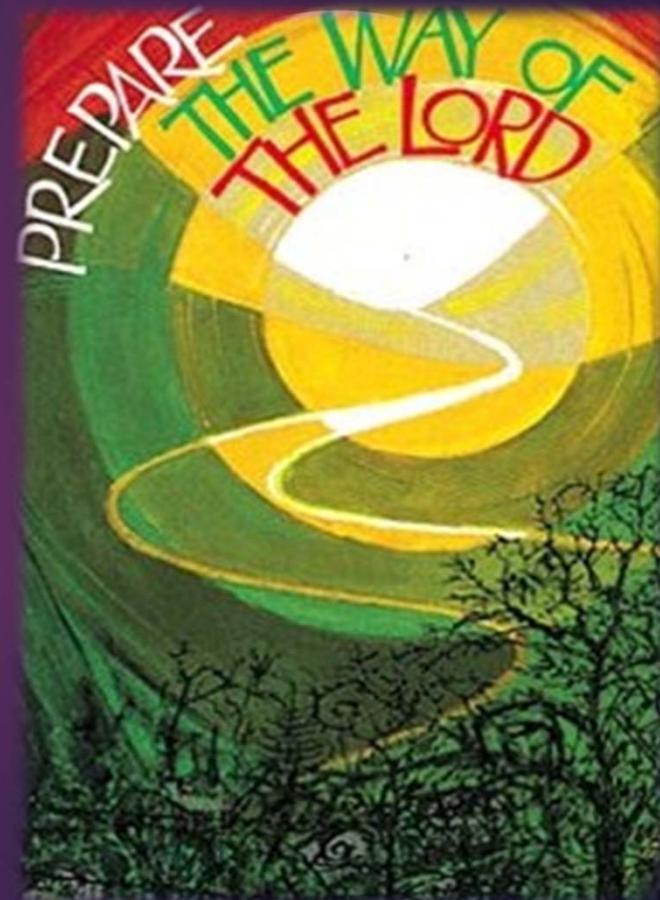
Sunday Gospel: Luke 3: 1-6

In the fifteenth year of Tiberius Caesar's reign, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judaea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of the territories of Ituraea and Trachonitis, Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, and while the high-priesthood was held by Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John the son of Zechariah, in the desert. He went through the whole Jordan area proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the sayings of Isaiah the prophet: A voice of one that cries in the desert: Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight! Let every valley be filled in, every mountain and hill be levelled, winding ways be straightened and rough roads made smooth, and all humanity will see the salvation of God.

Pause for thought: How are you preparing for Christmas?

Monday 6th December

Saint Nicholas of Myra, also known as Nicholas of Bari, was an early Christian bishop of Greek descent from the maritime city of Myra (Turkey) during the time of the Roman Empire.
Little is known with certainty, but his generosity became legendary. He was always thinking of others and giving all he had. In Belgium and the Netherlands, children receive sweets and presents on this day.

Dear God,
Help us be generous like St. Nicholas. Help us share what we have. Help us see that the true gifts of this season are love and generosity. May we always share what we have and give what we love. We ask this through you, who guided Saint Nicholas. Amen.

Donate a toy. Contribute to the school's toy collection for Ferries Families

Tuesday 7th December

Tomorrow is a special feast day of Mary, the Mother of Jesus.
It is the Feast of the Immaculate Conception which is the day when we celebrate that God chose Mary from the very first moment of her existence (her conception) to be the Mother of his Son, Jesus. God prepared Mary for the role he was calling her to.

This is has always been a very important feast day for the FCJ Sisters and so for FCJ Schools. It is also the School Feast Day for Upton Hall FCJ & Bellerive FCJ. They will celebrate on Friday.

Let us reflect on the example Mary gives to us:
- A woman of great **faith**; she trusted in God' promise to her
- A woman of **hope**
- A woman **open to the call of God** in her life; she said 'yes' to being the mother of God's Son, Jesus
- A woman of **service**; she visited her cousin Elizabeth when she learned that she too was expecting a baby

What else might you say about Mary?

Maria Immaculata
Stained glass window in
Upton Hall FCJ chapel

Tuesday 7ᵗʰ December

Let us pause for a moment and pray for all our intentions
And ask Mary to pray for us,
for our world, and for all FCJ Schools as we say...

Hail Mary, full of grace,
the Lord is with you.
Blessed are you among women,
and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus.
Holy Mary, Mother of God,
pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death.
Amen.

Our Lady of Advent

Make contact with one of your grandparents or other relative, just to let them know you are thinking of them.
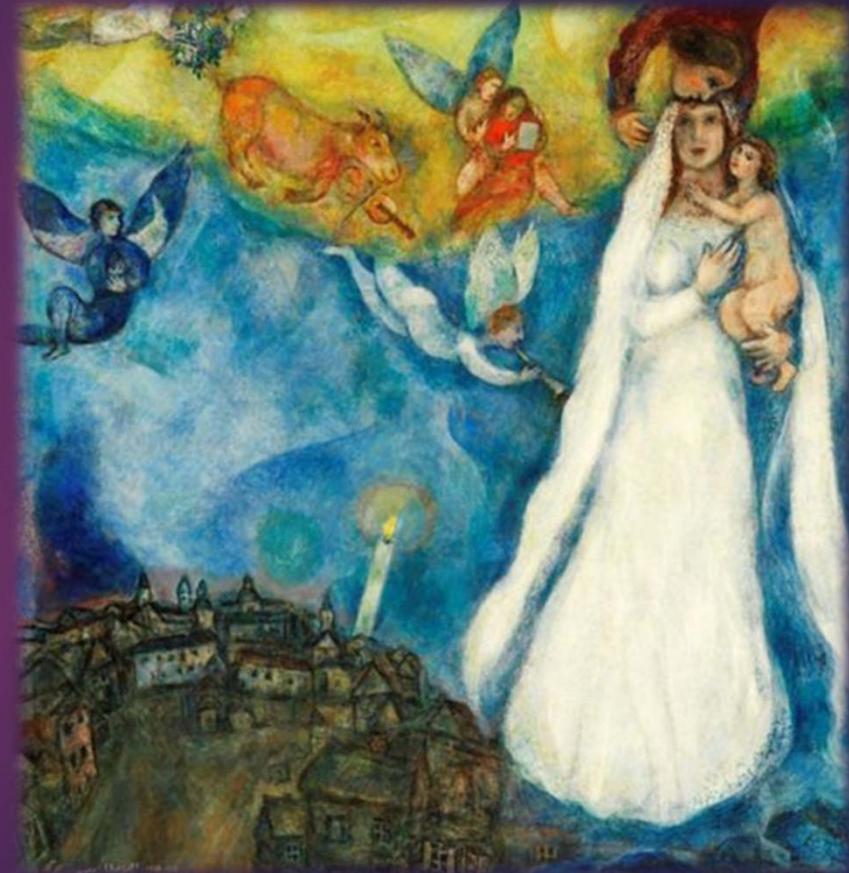
Wednesday 8th December

FCJ Magnificat, sung by Upton Hall Chamber Choir (2:15 mins)

Wednesday 8th December

Loving God,
On this feastday we give thanks for your mother,
Mary, who was born without sin. Her faith never
wavered even during times of doubt.
Thank you for giving us your mother as an example
of how we should live our faith. Help us model that
same strength to love with our entire heart, mind,
soul and body.
Amen.

Do something nice for your mother or carer.

Chagall: Madonna of the Village