





Jyoti Sahi | *Dalit Madonna* | © Methodist Modern Art Collection

**“In his name, the nations
will put their hope”**

Matthew 12.21

To everyone in our church school family,

We have made it to the end of our first, long term this academic year—congratulations!

As the days darken and the news cycle spins out seemingly endless stories of hardship and suffering, we should take pride in the challenges we have overcome over the past few months. Those of us who have the privilege of working alongside you are in constant awe of your commitment to ensuring every member of your school community can flourish. We see the constant hard work that goes into making this possible—the lives transformed through your actions and words—and we want to express our heartfelt gratitude to all of you.

As we look towards one of the most holy moments in the Christian calendar, we encourage you to reflect on the message at the heart of this moment: Christians come together to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, God incarnate. This is a God who is with us—will always be with us—because he chose to live as we live.

In these challenging times, it can help to remember that God is a God who also knows what it is to be lonely and frightened and vulnerable; to feel that there is no other way forward but to keep putting one foot in front of the other until the journey is done. However, we must also remember that God is, as we strive to be, full of joy and love and hope. This is a God who celebrates with his friends, who shows compassion to the most vulnerable, who challenges injustice and empowers all around him to know that they can be agents of positive change in the world.

It is in this message, this hope that God is God with us (*Emmanuel* in Hebrew), that we can take comfort in dark and difficult times. In the words of St Julian of Norwich, it is for this reason that we can know that “All shall be well and all shall be well, and all manner of things shall be well”.

We wish you every blessing this Christmas time and hope that you all have the opportunity to rest and recuperate with those you love.

The Diocesan Education Team

Diocesan Vision for Education

**Church Schools serving their communities through excellence,
exploration and encouragement within the love of God.**

The Diocese of Lincoln is called to faithful worship, confident discipleship and joyful service and our Church Schools bear witness to our belief that every child is made in the image of God and loved by Him. They were founded for the good of their local communities so that children can be educated through the values and stories of Christianity.

**‘Educating for ‘life in
all its fullness’
John 10:10**