

St Nicholas Catholic Primary School

'Love one another as I have loved you'



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Parents' Religious Education Newsletter 2

Dear Parents,

The dark nights have certainly found their way back to us and we return from half term to the month of November – a time to remember those who have gone before us into the loving embrace of God. We also journey towards the season of Advent when we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus, the Son of God, at Christmas.

In this issue of the newsletter, you will find what your child is learning about in each year group up to the end of this half term. We hope you find this newsletter informative and of interest.

The following table provides dates from the Catholic Church's calendar that mark or celebrate significant days or saints days during this half term.

*Eternal rest grant
unto them O Lord,
and let perpetual
light shine upon
them. May they rest
in peace. Amen*

3 rd November	All Souls	3 rd December	St Francis Xavier
9 th November	Remembrance Sunday	6 th December	St Nicholas
10 th November	St Leo the Great	7 th December	Second Sunday of Advent
11 th November	St Martin of Tours	8 th December	Immaculate Conception
17 th November	St Hilda of Whitby	13 th December	St Lucy
21 st November	The Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary	14 th December	Third Sunday of Advent
22 nd November	St Cecilia	21 st December	Fourth Sunday of Advent
23 rd November	Christ the King	24 th December	Christmas Eve
30 th November	First Sunday of Advent	25 th December	The Nativity of the Lord

The Church's cycle of prayer during Advent and Christmas has the following themes: *Openness to the Word of God; Migrants and Refugees; Expectant Mothers.*

In the Early Years and Key Stage 1, religious education (RE) this half term will be taught using the new Catholic RE programme called '*Lighting the Path*' published by Oxford University Press and approved by the Diocese of Leeds. All Key Stage Two classes will follow *Lighting the Path* from September 2026. *Lighting the Path* uses a spiral curriculum which means that each year group follows the same broad theme, but the content differs depending on the age of pupils.



'Your word is a lamp to my feet, a light on my path'

Psalm 119:105

Reception – Prophecy and Promise

This half term, the children in the Nursery and the Reception classes will be learning about the birth of Jesus and how Christians prepare for Jesus' birth during the season of Advent.

They will learn that God has an immeasurable love for everyone and so we all have a unique dignity that comes from God. God shows his love by sending the gift of Jesus to us. They will learn the story of Jesus' birth from the gospel of Luke: the greeting of the angel to Mary at the Annunciation and the visit of the shepherds to Jesus in Bethlehem.



At home

You could help your children by:

- reminding them that Christmas is about the gift of Jesus to us and not just about receiving presents.
- take them to see the baby Jesus at church during the Christmas season.

Year 1 – Prophecy and Promise

The children will learn that God sent the Angel Gabriel with a message to Mary and learn why this is important. They will learn that God asked Mary to be the mother of his son and will have an opportunity to reflect on her 'Yes' to God and on the presence of angels in the story.

They will begin to make links between key words and phrases in the bible stories and the 'Hail Mary' prayer. They will reflect on how art can express religious beliefs and how Christians prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus during Advent.

At home

You could help your children by:

- reinforcing why Mary is important for Christians
- discussing the importance of mothers
- if you send Christmas cards, opt to send some that depict the birth of Jesus in art and talk about what they show

Year 2 – Prophecy and Promise

Children in Year 2 will study the infancy narratives in the gospel of Luke, beginning with the announcement of the birth of John the Baptist, the Annunciation to Mary, Mary's visit to Elizabeth, the birth of Jesus and the visit of the shepherds. They will focus on the presence of the Holy Spirit in the stories and on the contrast between light and darkness using artwork as a stimulus.

At home

You could help your children by:

- reading the Christmas story and encourage them to ask questions

Key Stage Two

During this academic year (2025-26) children in Key Stage Two will continue their RE using *The Way, the Truth and the Life* programme which is published by the Teachers' Enterprise in Religious Education.



Year 3 – Mary our Mother

The children will learn that God called Mary to be the Mother of Jesus and learn how Mary responded to God's call. They will learn the 'Hail Mary' and begin to understand what the words mean.



They will learn that Advent is a time to prepare for the coming of Jesus at Christmas and begin to understand that Christmas is a celebration of the birth of Jesus, the Son of God. They will also learn about the stories of the shepherds and the wise men's visit to see the baby Jesus.

At home

You could help your children by:

- saying the 'Hail Mary' everyday
- talking with them about the importance of Mary in Jesus' life

Year 4 – Trust in God

The children will learn about Jesus' teaching and the importance of trusting in him. They will learn that it is not always easy to trust in God (e.g. Zechariah).

They will learn about the promise God made to Mary through the angel Gabriel and learn how Joseph put his trust in God when the angel appeared to him. They will become familiar with Mary's song of praise and trust in God (the Magnificat) and learn that God fulfilled his promise to Mary when Jesus, the Son of God, was born.



The children will have a chance to deepen their awareness of God's love for us and know that he asks us to trust in him. They will reflect on the times it is difficult to trust and on the importance of keeping promises. They will make their own Advent promises. The children will reflect on how Mary and Joseph placed all their trust in God and experience a celebration of the Nativity.

At home:

You could help your children by:

- making an Advent calendar with them

Year 5 – The Commandments/God's Covenants

The children will learn that God loves us and calls us into friendship with him. The children will understand that the Ten Commandments are a gift from God to help us.

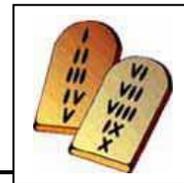
They will learn how Jesus summarised the Ten Commandments (Matthew 22: 36-40) and begin to understand how we can show our love for God by keeping his commandments with his help.

The children will also learn that God sent his Son Jesus into the world because he loves us, and that we celebrate this gift at Christmas.

At home:

You could help your children by:

- talking to them about how we try to live by the Ten Commandments.



Year 6 – Justice

The children will learn that God called the prophets from the Old Testament and learn about the different ways they responded. They will learn that the prophets spoke out against injustice and that some prophets were persecuted because they spoke out.

They will learn that Christians are called to work for justice and find out about individuals who have been persecuted for speaking out against injustice.

The children will learn that Advent is a time of waiting and hoping for the birth of the Messiah at Christmas and understand that the birth of Jesus fulfilled Old Testament prophecies.

At home:

You could help your children by:

- thinking about how your family could support the work of CAFOD
- visit www.cafod.org.uk to learn more about CAFOD and its work in the developing world
- include an intention for people fighting injustice in your prayers with the children.