



Dear Parents and Carers,

November 2023

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. **3rd November: Feast of St. Winefride Pray for us!** We also find ourselves moving towards the season of Advent when we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus, the Son of God, at Christmas.

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



In this issue of the newsletter you will find what the children are learning about in each year group. We hope you find this newsletter of interest and as always, please keep us in your prayers as we continue to support your children in their religious education.

Dates from the Church's calendar:

1 st November	All Saints	8 th December	Immaculate Conception
2 nd November	All Souls	10 th December	Second Sunday of Advent
11 th November	St. Martin of Tours	13 th December	St. Lucy
22 nd November	St. Cecilia	17 th December	Third Sunday of Advent
23 rd November	St. Clement	24 th December	Fourth Sunday of Advent
26 th November	Christ the King	25 th December	Christmas Day
30 th November	St. Andrew	26 th December	St. Stephen
3 rd December	First Sunday of Advent	27 th December	St. John, Apostle, Evangelist
6 th December	St. Nicholas	28 th December	The Holy Innocents
7 th December	St. Ambrose	31 st December	The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

Reception - God's Family

"Creation is the first and universal revelation of God's love ... Each human person is made in God's image ..."

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This half term, the children in the Reception class will be learning about God's Family. Throughout the topic, the children will be given opportunities to become aware that God made all the people in the world to be part of his family and that we are part of it too.

They will learn that God made us to know and love him, as well as to show our love for him by helping one another. They will find out that God has given us gifts so that we can show his love to others.

As Christmas approaches, they will learn that God's greatest gift to us was to send his only son Jesus and learn how to respond to that gift.



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.
- talk about your family and draw pictures of Jesus being part of your family.
- take them to see baby Jesus at church during the Christmas season.

Year 1 - Mary, Mother of God

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 response.



They will hear about Mary's visit to her cousin, Elizabeth and reflect on the good news. They will begin to reflect on how we can prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus and learn that Mary is our mother in heaven and that she is looking after us.

At home

You could help your children by:

- reinforcing why Mary is important for Christians.
- discussing the importance of mothers.

Year 2 - The Mystery of God

"God is one and God is Three, a Trinity of persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit"

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The children will learn about and reflect on mysteries. They will be encouraged to say and reflect on what they wonder about. The children will learn that there are three persons in one God and that we can experience God in three different ways as Father, Son and Holy Spirit.



They will learn about and reflect on God's choice of Mary and Joseph and know that Jesus is God's gift to the whole world.

At home

You could help your children by:

- reminding them, as they make the sign of the cross, that God is Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
- reading the Christmas story and encourage them to ask questions.
- asking them which person in the Nativity story they know something about and discussing this with them.

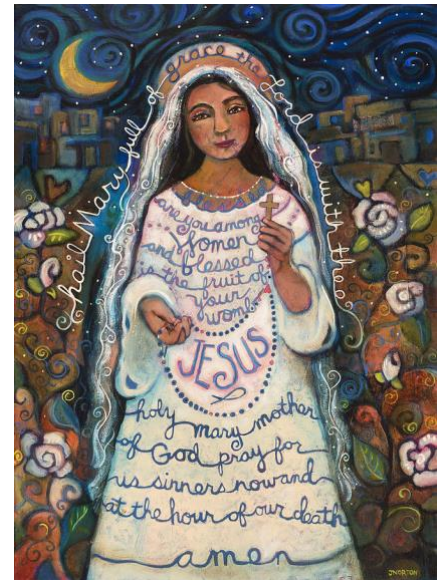
Year 3 - Mary our Mother

"Mary the Mother of Jesus and therefore the Mother of God is the first disciple...She is the Church's model of faith and charity and because of her singular response to God's Word is Mother of the Church."

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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.
- visiting church to see the nativity scene and talking about the people who visited Jesus when He was born.

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.
- Talking to them about their Advent promises and supporting them as they focus on these.

Year 5 - God's Covenants

The children will learn that God loves us and calls us into relationship with him.

They will learn that God gave Moses the Ten Commandments on Mount Sinai because he loves us.

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.
- Talking about how Christians celebrate Advent and Christmas and which signs and symbols are used in the Church and at home.

Year 6 - Justice

"Love of neighbour ... involves working for a just society, both locally and internationally"

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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.