



Excellence



Happiness

Respect



Resilience

Compassion



F
A
I
T
H

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



Dear Parents and Carers,

The dark nights have certainly found their way back to us and we have now moved into the month of November - a time to remember those who have gone before us into the loving embrace of God.

We also find ourselves moving towards the season of Advent, beginning on Sunday 1st December, 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 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	6 th	December	St Nicholas
2 nd	November	All Souls	7 th	December	St Ambrose
3 rd	November	St Winefride	8 th	December	Second Sunday of Advent
10 th	November	Remembrance Sunday.	9 th	December	Immaculate Conception
17 th	November	World Day of the Poor	13 th	December	St Lucy
21 st	November	Presentation of Mary	14 th	December	St John of the Cross
22 nd	November	St Cecilia	15 th	December	Third Sunday of Advent
24 th	November	Christ the King	22 nd	December	Fourth Sunday of Advent
30 th	November	St Andrew	25 th	December	The Nativity of the Lord
1 st	December	First Sunday of Advent			

Reception - God's Family

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.

The Vine and The Branches

Year 1 - Prophecy and Promise

The focus of this branch is for pupils to develop an early understanding of the Christian belief that God showed us the full depth of his love by sending Jesus his Son (CCC 65-66). In Jesus, the invisible God becomes visible, and His love is poured out as the child in the manger at Bethlehem. The children will journey through the life of Jesus following the Gospel of St Luke. The focus of learning is on the narrative sequence of the story, the importance of Mary's 'Yes' to God and the presence of angels who are God's messengers and protectors and point to the divine nature of Christ.



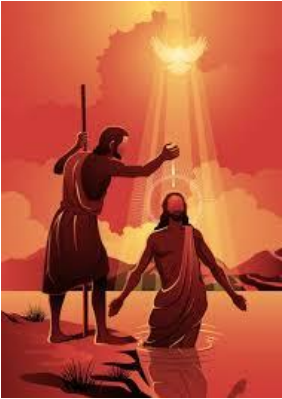
At home

You could help your children by:

- reinforcing why Mary is important for Christians.
- looking at a crib together - you could visit the one which is set up each year outside our parish church of St. Winefride's.

Year 2 - Prophecy and Promise

Learning about the infancy of Jesus in year two of the model curriculum builds upon prior knowledge. It allows teachers and pupils to make connections with the whole infancy narrative of St Luke and introduces John the Baptist.



The Vine and The Branches

At home, you could help your children by:

- discussing the roles of John the Baptist, Mary and Joseph in the narrative of Salvation History.
- reading the Christmas story and encouraging them to ask questions.

Year 3 - Prophecy and Promise

At times, it is necessary to step outside the liturgical year to give sufficient time to a theme or celebration. To study the Mass in some detail, the focus of this branch splits into two themes. One is understanding what happens at Mass, and the other focuses on the nativity according to St. Matthew, which introduces pupils to Joseph and St. Matthew's gospel.

The Vine and The Branches



At home

You could help your children by:

- Asking them to talk about when they have been to Mass and taking them to Mass in the parish on a Sunday.
- Talking about why Catholics go to Mass.
- Sharing the Nativity story together and discussing the role of Joseph.



Year 4 - Prophecy and Promise

The Vine and The Branches

In this branch, pupils will compare two accounts of the appearance of John the Baptist, noticing what is the same in St Mark and St Matthew's accounts. Alongside physical appearance, both gospel writers draw on the prophet Isaiah, suggesting that the one Isaiah speaks of is fulfilled in the person of John. For Christians, this is true as it is a sign that Jesus is the Messiah. In the gospel accounts, John

prepares the way for Jesus' ministry, whereas, in Advent, the figure of John the Baptist asks Christians how they will prepare a way for Jesus in their own lives and at the end of all things. As with the prophet Isaiah, pupils should reflect on how John speaks to Christians today to prepare the way of the Lord.

At home:

You could help your children by:

- asking them to define the word 'prophet' and ask them to give an example of a prophet from the Bible.
- Sharing ideas around how Christians prepare for the coming of Jesus at Christmas.

Year 5 - God's Covenants

The Way,
The Truth and
The Life

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.
- having a conversation about the coming of Jesus as the Nativity, and why we celebrate this gift at Christmas.

Year 6 - Justice

The Way,
The Truth and
The Life

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.

CAFOD
Just one world

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.
- invite the children to share their learning about Oscar Romero with you at home.