

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

RE 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.

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

Amen

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.

In this issue of the newsletter you will find what your child is 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.

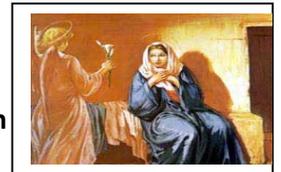
Dates from the Church's calendar:

1 st	November	All Saints'	6 th December	St. Nicholas
2 nd	November	All Souls	7 th December	St. Ambrose
11 th	November	St. Martin	8 th December	Second Sunday of Advent
21 st	November	Presentation of Mary	9 th December	Immaculate Conception
22 nd	November	St. Cecilia	13 th December	St. Lucy
23 rd	November	St. Clement	14 th December	St. John of the Cross
24 th	November	Christ the King	15 th December	Third Sunday of Advent
30 th	November	St. Andrew	22 nd December	Fourth Sunday of Advent
1 st	December	First Sunday of Advent	24 th December	Christmas Eve
3 rd	December	St. Francis Xavier	25 th December	Christmas Day

Class 1 - 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 Class 1 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.

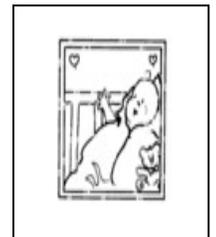


As Christmas approaches, they will learn that God's greatest gift to us was to send his only son Jesus and learn how to respond to that gift.

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.



Class 2 - Mary, the 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

Class 3 - Mysteries

"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.

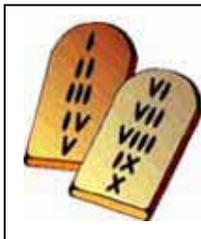
At home

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

Class 4 - The Commandments

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



At home:

- You could help your children by:
- talking to them about how we try to live by the Ten Commandments.

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.

Class 5 - 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.