



# St Cross Catholic Primary School

## RE Newsletter no 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.

Practice for Nativity plays and Carol Services will begin to take place throughout the school/classes and pupils will likely be learning Advent and Christmas songs.

Our Chaplaincy Team will be leading assemblies on the Travelling Nativity and on reflections in Advent. During Advent, families at home will have the opportunity to share in prayer the tradition of the Pousada, honouring the birth of Jesus.

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:

|                           |                                 |                           |                           |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| 11 <sup>th</sup> November | St Martin of Tours              | 3 <sup>rd</sup> December  | St Francis Xavier         |
| 12 <sup>th</sup> November | St Josaphat                     | 6 <sup>th</sup> December  | St Nicholas               |
| 21 <sup>st</sup> November | Presentation of the Virgin Mary | 7 <sup>th</sup> December  | St Ambrose                |
| 22 <sup>nd</sup> November | St Cecilia, Patron of Musicians | 8 <sup>th</sup> December  | Second Sunday of Advent   |
| 24 <sup>th</sup> November | Christ the King                 | 9 <sup>th</sup> December  | The Immaculate Conception |
| 30 <sup>th</sup> November | St Andrew, Apostle              | 15 <sup>th</sup> December | Third Sunday of Advent    |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> December  | First Sunday of Advent          | 22 <sup>nd</sup> December | Fourth Sunday of Advent   |

The cycle of prayer during Advent and Christmas: *Openness to the Word of God; Migrants and Refugees; Expectant Mothers.*

### *Catholic Social Teaching*

All classes will be focusing on Preferential Option for the Poor.

### *Religious Education Curriculum*

The new Religious Education Curriculum has been published. This is for implementation in September 2025. We are having a phased introduction to the new curriculum, starting with Reception Class, Year 1 and Year 2. This explains why the information about what Reception and Key Stage 1 are learning this term has a different format to the other classes, focusing on Ways of Knowing.

### *Branch 2: Prophecy and promise*

In this branch, pupils will explore the Christian understanding of the teaching of the prophets as they point to the fulfilment of God's promise in a messiah, Jesus Christ. They will explore the expectant waiting for the

Messiah through the Advent season and how this speaks to Christians today as they wait for Christ. Pupils will encounter the story of the nativity of Jesus and the mystery of the incarnation.

## *Reception - Prophecy and Promise*

### **What will the children see and hear to help them understand?**

The children will have the opportunity to hear and see the Nativity story and the events leading up to Jesus' birth through listening to Scripture and other representations of the story. They may begin to use parts of the story in their play.

### **How will the children discover more?**

The children will be encouraged to share their thoughts and feelings about the stories through whole class and group discussions, play opportunities and through being given the opportunity to ask questions. They may consider how it would have felt to be part of the story and how it is different from a special person being born today.

### **What can the children do now?**

The children will begin to show how what they have learnt has influenced them and the way they act. They may begin to consider ways that they can show they are preparing for Jesus.

#### **At home:**

You can share the Travelling Nativity with your child

- 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 - Prophecy and promise*

| HEAR                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | BELIEVE                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | CELEBRATE                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | LIVE                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
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| By the end of this unit of study, pupils will have studied the following key texts: • The Annunciation (Lk 1: 26-38, focusing on 1:26-32, 38) • The Visitation (Lk 1:39- 45) • The Birth of Jesus (Lk 2:4- 8) • The Visit of the Shepherds (Lk 2:8-20) | By the end of this unit of study, pupils will know that the Church teaches: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Because God loves us, he gave us his only Son, Jesus.</li><li>• God called Mary to be the mother of his Son, Jesus.</li><li>• Mary said 'Yes' to God's call.</li><li>• Angels bring God's message and are a sign that Jesus is the Son of God.</li><li>• The stories about Jesus are in a special book called the Bible</li></ul> | By the end of this unit of study, pupils will know: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• We ask Mary to pray with us and for us and to comfort us in times of need, especially using the prayer Hail Mary. By the end of this unit of study pupils will:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Hear and begin to join in with the words of the Hail Mary.</li><li>• Hear or sing the first phrase of the Gloria, recognising it as the angels' song of praise to God.</li></ul></li></ul> | By the end of this unit of study, pupils will know that the Church teaches: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• How Catholics around the world show honour to Mary, including diverse representations in art, sculpture, and music.</li><li>• How Christians in their local community celebrate the birth of Jesus.</li></ul> |

#### **At home:**

You could help your children by:

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

## Year 2 - Prophecy and Promise

| HEAR                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | BELIEVE                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | CELEBRATE                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | LIVE                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
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| <p>Pupils will have encountered the following key texts</p> <p>By the end of this unit of study, pupils will have encountered the following key texts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Annunciation of John the Baptist (Lk 1:5-20)</li> <li>• The Annunciation of Jesus (Lk 1:26-38)</li> <li>• The Visitation (Lk 1:39-50, 53)</li> <li>• The birth of John the Baptist (Lk 1:57-58)</li> <li>• Zechariah's voice is restored (The circumcision of John the Baptist) (Lk 1:59-66, 67,76)</li> <li>• The Birth of Jesus (Lk 2:1-8) Including, for the season of Advent:</li> <li>• Is 7:14, 9:1-2, 5-7 (Extracts from the book of Immanuel)</li> </ul> | <p>Pupils will know that the Church teaches</p> <p>By the end of this unit of study, pupils will know that the Church teaches:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• That prophets and prophetesses communicate God's message inspired by the Holy Spirit. John the Baptist is born to be a prophet.</li> <li>• Christians believe that the person Isaiah spoke of was Jesus. In Isaiah's words, Christians recognise Jesus as a light in the darkness and Immanuel, 'God-with-us'.</li> <li>• Advent is the season when Christians prepare for the coming of Jesus Christ at Christmas.</li> <li>• That Mary is the mother of God and our mother who is trusted with all our prayers.</li> </ul> | <p>Pupils will know</p> <p>By the end of this unit of study, pupils will know:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some words of Mary's prayer, the Magnificat (Lk 1:46-50, 53) in which she gives thanks to God and prays for his just world to come.</li> <li>• Advent is a time Christian preparation for Jesus' coming.</li> <li>• That the Advent wreath is a symbol of the coming of the light.</li> <li>• How the Christmas story is celebrated in song: carol services</li> </ul> | <p>pupils will know</p> <p>By the end of this unit of study, pupils will know:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• About some daily/weekly commitments that enable Christians to live in a way that prepares them for Jesus' coming.</li> <li>• Advent preparations in different cultures.</li> <li>• The meaning and interpretations of the candles/wreath in different cultural contexts.</li> <li>• How Catholic Social Teaching (CST) can help to guide Christians to 'share the light' with others</li> </ul> |

### At home

You could help your children by:

Reading the Christmas story and encourage them to ask questions

Share an Advent Wreath prayer/ reflection time.

## 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."***

*Religious Education Curriculum Directory*

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.



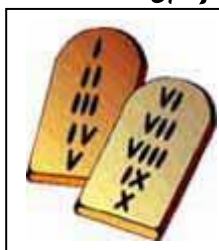
The children will have a chance to deepen their awareness of God's love for us and know that he asks us to trust in him. They will reflect on the times it is difficult to trust and on the importance of keeping promises. They will make their own Advent promises. The children will reflect on how Mary and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

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

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## *Year 6 - Justice*

***“Love of neighbour ... involves working for a just society, both locally and internationally”***

*Religious Education Curriculum Directory*

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](http://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.