

R.E. NEWSLETTER FOR PARENTS

God Matters

During November your child(ren) will be studying Prayers Saints and Feasts in Religious Education:

RECEPTION



During this unit your child will be exploring family relationships and how we show love to one another by the way we act. They will also hear how Jesus was part of a family and how Mary cared for him. They will make links with how Jesus cared for people and God cares for us and others and the signs of his love. They will also consider how we pray to Mary. They will also be introduced to the concept of Disciples and how they became his friends.

Help at Home

- **Talk about your family and how you show each other how you care for one another. Talk about Jesus' family and how they would have shown love to one another- what is the same. Model the Hail Mary for your child and look at pictures of Mary.**



Year 1

This unit is designed to develop children's understanding of prayer. It will introduce them to different kinds of prayer including the psalms. They will be learning the names of items found in church such as altar, Holy Water, lectern, crucifix and tabernacle. The children will also be introduced to the roles of people who help in the church.

Help at Home

- **If possible, visit St Francis Church, or a similar church, to find and look at items in the church such as the altar, Holy Water and tabernacle.**
- **Sensitively say a prayer for those close to them who may have died or link it with those who have died because of war etc and Remembrance Day.**

Year 3

In this unit the children will explore the themes of peace and forgiveness expressed by Jesus and in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. The children will develop their knowledge of the Sacrament of Reconciliation as well as an understanding of what Jesus taught about forgiveness in the story of Zacchaeus. Year 3 will also focus on St Francis of Assisi and his use of prayer, looking at how he was a Saint.

Help at Home

Discuss some of the following 'Big questions' with your child. What happens in the Sacrament of Reconciliation? Why is prayer important during this Sacrament? Why is St Francis a good example to us of how we should live our lives?



Year 2

This unit is designed to develop the children's understanding of prayer. It will introduce the children to the idea of a liturgical year. The children will also develop an understanding of why the church has saints and begin to appreciate that saints provide an example of faith. We will explore how prayer and the saints help us to get to know God better.

Help at Home

- **Read a story about one of the saints. Ask the question, how did this saint follow Jesus? How can we follow Jesus today?**



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Year 4

During this unit, children will learn about the prayer life of Jesus as he grew up in the Jewish faith. They will look at some Old Testament prayers that would have been important to Jesus, reflect on the importance that Jesus attached to prayer, and consider how Jesus taught his followers to pray. Further to this, pupils will research the history of the Rosary and consider the importance of prayers to Mary within the life of the church.

Help at Home

- Look into examples of prayer Jesus gave us (Mark 1:35, Luke 5:16, Luke 11:1-13, John 17:11, John 17:20-21, Luke 10:21, Mark 14:22, Matthew 26:39, Luke 22:44, Matthew 27:46)
- Research different ways Saints followed Jesus' teachings.

Year 6

In this unit Year 6 will explore the Church's belief in Mary and the feasts celebrated in her honour. They will look at the lives of the saints and the practice of praying for the dead. The concept of heaven and hell will be discussed and children will share their ideas and beliefs related to this.

Help at Home

Discuss some of the following 'Big Questions':

- How do Christians know that death is not an end but a beginning?
- What is a patron Saint? Why do we have patron Saints?
- Why are churches often named after Saints? If you could name a church what would you call it and why?
- What is the difference between a hero and a saint?

Year 5



In this unit the children will focus on the idea of undertaking a pilgrimage, why people go on pilgrimages and the places where pilgrimages occur. They will examine the healing miracles carried out by Jesus and share their thoughts and opinions on these. This will be linked to the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick and the children will consider why someone might want this Sacrament. Saints Teresa and Zeno will be studied to consider their impact on people's lives today.

Help at Home

- Research places of pilgrimage e.g. Lourdes or Knock.
- Read and discuss Jesus' miracles of healing i.e. ten lepers, paralysed man, discuss how the healing would have changed them in terms of having a faith
- Find out about the life of either Saint Teresa or Saint Zeno.

Feast Days

- All Saints Day 1st November
- All Souls Day 2nd November

DETAILS ABOUT SPECIAL EVENTS AND SCHOOL CELEBRATIONS WILL BE ISSUED IN THE WEEKLY NEWSLETTER.