

**‘LOVE ONE ANOTHER
AS I HAVE LOVED YOU’**

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CURRICULUM

Autumn Term 2023



St Mary's Catholic Primary School

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to the new academic year. Below you will find information about what your children will be learning in their Religious Education this half term.

Reception – God's World

“Creation is the first and universal revelation of God's love”

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This half term, the children in Reception will be learning about God's world. Throughout this topic, the children will begin to appreciate the beauty of the world and know that God made it.



They will learn that God loves and cares for each one of us and reflect on this. They will hear about and respond to the things God created for us.

They will know that God has asked us to care for the world and think of ways in which we can help to do it.

At home

You could help your children by:

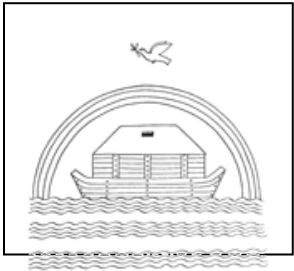
- looking at pictures of animals and plants and talking about how special creation is

- encourage them to notice different parts of God's wonderful creation and think of ways to care for the world.

Year 1 – God's Great Plan

“As the first action of Father, Son and Holy Spirit, creation is the first step towards the covenant relationship God seeks with every human being”

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The children will learn about the beauty of God's world and explore and respond to the wonders of creation e.g. the seasons. They will also hear about the story of Creation from Genesis and talk about its meaning.

They will be reflecting on the knowledge that God made us because he loves us and develop their understanding that we show God we love him by looking after the world and each other. They will learn that we can spoil God's creation and that we have a responsibility to look after it, as well as hearing an appropriate part of the story of Noah and the Flood and its message of salvation and hope.

At home

You could help your children by:

- talking about how we can look after the world, e.g. recycling, not dropping litter, conserving energy and how we can care for plants and animals

- look at the trees during the autumn season and talk about the different colours. You could collect leaves to make a collage or painting.

Year 2 – The Chosen People

“In order to gather together scattered humanity God calls Abram ... and makes him Abraham, that is, ‘the father of a multitude of nations.’ ... God formed Israel as his people by freeing them from slavery in Egypt ... he gave them his law so that they would recognise him and serve him as the one living and true God, the provident Father and just judge, and so that they would look for the promised Saviour.”



Catechism of the Catholic Church

The children will learn that we are chosen by God and learn that God chose certain people to lead and guide his people. They will learn that God called Abraham and that God chose Moses to be a great leader. They will also learn about how Samuel responded to God’s call and find out about the story of Daniel in the lions’ den.

They will have an opportunity to reflect on Abraham’s trust in God and learn that we should always trust God.

They will learn that God chooses unexpected people and will be given the opportunity to reflect on their own response to God’s call.

Year 3 – The Christian Family



“The Church is the family of God, the people that God gathers in the whole

world.”

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The children will develop their understanding that the Church is the family of God and know that we join this family when we receive the Sacrament of Baptism. They will learn what happens at Baptism and learn about the signs used and why they are used. They will learn about the promises made by parents and godparents at Baptism and develop their understanding of the Sacrament of Baptism.

The children will have a chance to:

- reflect on what it means to be part of a family
- reflect on what it means to be part of the Christian family

At home

You could help your children by:

Year 4 – The Bible

“The Scriptures are the living Word of God, written under the guidance of the Holy Spirit received and faithfully handed on within the living Tradition and teaching of the Church.”

Religious Education Curriculum Directory



The children will learn that the Bible is a story of God’s love and concern for us. They will learn that the Bible is a living book through which God speaks to us and tells us about himself. They will learn that the Bible is one story told through many different books and they will learn about Moses, David and Jonah as well as learning how to find a Bible reference.

The children will have the chance to:

- explore how the Bible helps us to pray and experience how God speaks to us in the Bible
- participate in a liturgy and experience a guided meditation on a text from the Bible

At home

You could help your children by:

- reading some of the stories the children have covered in class
 - go online to <http://tere.org/interactive/key-stage-2-interactive/> and complete the interactive activities.
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Year 5 – Gifts from God

“Each human person is unique and made in God’s image and likeness”

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The children will learn the story of Creation and the Fall in the Book of Genesis. They will learn that we are all created in the image and likeness of God and know that God calls us to care for others and all creation with love and respect. They will learn that there are times when we fail to be good stewards of creation. They will also learn that there are people who show great respect for creation and for the weakest members of society.

The children will have the chance to:

- appreciate how we can show respect for ourselves, for others and for God.
- reflect on times we have failed to show respect and reflect on the gifts and talents God has given each of us.
- reflect on the use and misuse we can make of these gifts.

At home

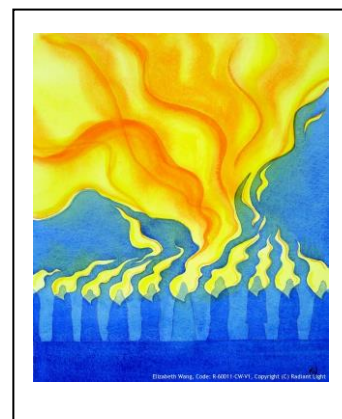
You could help your children by:

- talking to the children about how they could care for creation and the environment
- visit <http://tere.org/interactive/key-stage-2-interactive/> and complete activities.

Year 6—Called to Serve

“The gifts of the Holy Spirit enable us to share the mission of the Church.”

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The children will learn about Jesus’ teaching and example of service of others. They will develop their ability to recognise that God has given us all gifts and talents to use in the service of him and his people. They will learn about the gifts of the Holy Spirit and

understand that we receive these gifts in a special way through the Sacrament of Confirmation. The children will have an opportunity to reflect on a life of service through the role of the priest, religious and married life.

At Home

You could help your children by:

- visiting <http://tere.org/interactive/key-stage-2-interactive/>
 - discuss the importance of the gifts of the Holy Spirit
 - discuss the many ways in which we can be called to serve God and our neighbour
 - chat about their gifts and talents, both obvious ones and hidden ones
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RE Newsletter Autumn 2



As we walk with Jesus, we love, live and learn

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.

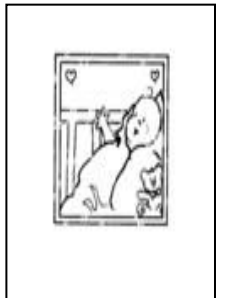
In this issue of the newsletter you will find what your child is learning about in each year group. We hope you find this newsletter of interest and as always, please keep us in your prayers as we continue to support your children in their religious education.

Reception – God's Family



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

Religious Education Curriculum Directory



This half term, the children in Reception 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, 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
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Year 2 – Mysteries

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

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:

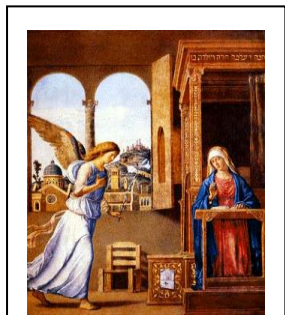
- reminding them, as they make the sign of the cross, that God is Father, Son and Holy Spirit
- reading the Christmas story and encourage them to ask questions

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.



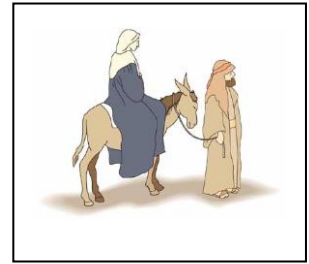
They will learn that Advent is a time to prepare for the coming of Jesus at Christmas and begin to understand that Christmas is a celebration of the birth of Jesus, the Son of God. They will also learn about the stories of the shepherds and the wise men’s visit to see the baby Jesus.

At home

You could help your children by:

- saying the ‘Hail Mary’ everyday
 - talking with them about the importance of Mary in Jesus’ life
 - going online to <http://tere.org/interactive/key-stage-2-interactive/> and complete the interactive activities.
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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.

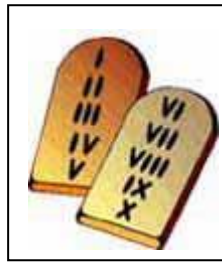
The children will have a chance to deepen their awareness of God's love for us and know that he asks us to trust in him. They will reflect on the times it is difficult to trust and on the importance of keeping promises. They will make their own Advent promises. The children will reflect on how Mary and 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
 - go online to <http://tere.org/interactive/key-stage-2-interactive/> and complete the interactive activities.
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Year 5 – The Commandments



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 by:

- talking to them about how we try to live by the Ten Commandments. Visit: <http://tere.org/interactive/key-stage-2-interactive/>
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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.