# RE NEWSLETTER

ST MARY'S AUTUMN SECOND HALF-TERM 2024

## DATES:

5th November – Y4 Class Mass

11th November – Remembrance Day

12th November – Y3 Class Mass

19th November – Y3 class Mass

1st December – Season of Advent Begins

3rd and 4th December – Fr John Blessing of the Cribs

4th December – Nursery Christmas show

11th and 12th December – Infant Nativity

## AUTUMN SECOND HALF-TERM

Autumn 2 has come and with it an exciting time of preparation for the celebration of the birth of our Lord.

November is the month of the Holy Souls, and during this month the children will be given the opportunity to pray and remember those who have died both within their family and all over the world. The Pope has also asked that the month of November will be for anyone who has lost a child. We pray that all parents who mourn the loss of a son or daughter and may they receive peace from the Holy Spirit.

During the month of December we pray for the Jubilee Year, may it strengthen our faith, helping us recognise the Risen Christ in our daily lives and that it may transform us into pilgrims of Christian hope.

Please find below information about what your children will be learning in their RE lessons this term and how you can support them at home to further grow in our Catholic faith. The children have also been exploring Catholic Social Teaching within their RE lessons.

## GOD'S FAMILY

Heavenly Father,

Thank you for welcoming us into Your family. We are grateful for Your love and guidance. Help us grow in faith and love.

Amen

## NURSERY AND RECEPTION

**"So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love."** *1 Corinthians 13:13*

This half term, the children in Nursery and Reception will be learning about God's Family. The children will learn that God made all the people in the world with never-ending love for us and that we are all part of His family. Like most people, we enjoy celebrating together and the children will look forward to celebrating Jesus' special birthday – Christmas.

**At home you could help your children by:**

-helping them understand that everything God does is out of love for us,

-talking about the real meaning of Christmas and how it helps us become closer as a family.

## MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

Dear God,

Thank you for Mary, who was Jesus' mother. She was kind and loving. Help us be kind and loving too, just like she was.

Amen.

## MYSTERIES

Dear God,

We know You are like a special team with three parts - the Father, the Son (Jesus), and the Holy Spirit. They work together to love us and help us. Thank You for being the Trinity and being with us always.

Amen

## MARY OUR MOTHER

Dear God,

As we wait for Jesus in this special Advent time, we remember Mary and her love. Thank You for Mary's kindness and love, which show us how to prepare our hearts for Jesus' coming.

Amen.

## YEAR 1

**"Let us run to Mary, and, as her little children, cast ourselves into her arms with a perfect confidence.**
*Saint Francis de Sales*

This topic is designed to develop the children's knowledge and understanding of Mary and her role in God's sending of his Son, Jesus. It introduces the children to the stories of the Nativity of Jesus in Luke's Gospel which are told from Mary's point of view. The topic also gives opportunities for the children to learn about the liturgical seasons of Advent and Christmas and their respective rituals, signs and symbols.

**At home you could help your children by:**

-Praying the Hail Mary,

-Preparing for Christmas by using Advent as a period of spiritual preparation, remembering the real meaning of Christmas and using advent calendars.

## YEAR 2

**"God moves in a mysterious way, His wonders to perform. He plants his footsteps in the sea, and rides upon the storm."**

*Unknown*

This topic is designed to develop the children's knowledge and understanding of the term 'mystery' and of the Christian understanding of God as 'Trinity'. The topic goes on to outline the story of Jesus' birth and the role played by the Father and the Holy Spirit through the characters of Mary and Joseph.

**At home you could help your children by:**

-looking at what the Church teaches about the Trinity,

-helping the children to understand how important the Holy Family are.

## YEAR 3

**"If you ever feel distressed during your day — call upon our Lady — just say this simple prayer: 'Mary, Mother of Jesus, please be a mother to me now.' I must admit — this prayer has never failed me."**

*--Blessed Mother Teresa*

This topic is designed to help the children reflect on the role of Mary and to understand what an immensely important role she had in bringing up Jesus. The children will develop their understanding of Advent as a time of preparation for the birth of Jesus and are encouraged to reflect on the true meaning of Christmas.

**At home you could help your children by:**

-saying the Hail Mary

-teaching the children about Mary's role and how we can be more like her.

## TRUST IN GOD

Dear God,

We're learning to trust You more each day. We know that You love us and care for us always. Help us to have faith and trust in You, knowing that You have a plan for us, even when things are tough.

Amen.

## GOD'S COVENANTS

Dear God,

Sometimes, we face choices between right and wrong. We want to make good decisions, but it's not always easy. Please help us to have wisdom and strength to choose what's right.

Guide us on the path of kindness and honesty, and show us the way to make the world a better place.

Amen

## JUSTICE

Heavenly Father,

We pray for justice in the world. We see that not everyone is treated fairly, and it's not right. Help us understand the importance of

## YEAR 4

**"Every difficulty you face, in every waiting place, you're being given the chance to trust in the things unseen and to be abundantly blessed."**

*Unknown*

In this topic, the children will learn Jesus' teaching on the importance of trusting in him. They will explore the importance of trusting in God, as well as the difficulties it brings, through the stories of Zechariah, Mary and Joseph. They will be able to reflect on the true meaning of Christmas.

**At home you can help your children by:**

-talking about the importance of trusting in God and how it can be difficult, but to try and remember that God does everything because He loves us.

-helping them understand how we can prepare for Advent using the trust that we have in God.

## YEAR 5

**"Those that set God always before them and walk before him with all their hearts, shall find him as good as his word and better; he will both keep covenant with them and show mercy to them."**

*Unknown*

In this topic the children will be introduced to the Ten Commandments. They will learn that God gave the Ten Commandments to Moses as a gift to help us to live as God wants. In the latter part of the topic the children will learn how God sent Jesus, His only Son, to help us live the Commandments.

**At home you could help your children by:**

**-** Discussing the choices between right and wrong and the relevance of the Commandments today to help them make the right choice.

- Thinking about the reasons why Jesus was born and how he can help us today.

## YEAR 6

**"There is no peace without justice, and no justice without forgiveness."**

*St John Paul II*

In this topic the children will learn what justice is and know that they are called to work for justice in the world. They will explore the concept through work on the prophet Elijah and John the Baptist as well as more modern-day Christians like Oscar Romero. In the latter part of the topic the children will explore the meaning of Advent and the customs associated with Advent and Christmas.

justice and give us the courage to stand up for what's fair and just.

Guide us to make choices that promote fairness and equality, and may we work towards a world where justice prevails for all.

Amen.

**At home you could help your children by:**

- Researching people who strive for justice such as Martin Luther King and Oscar Romero

-Thinking about refugees, racism and poverty. Research Christian Aid, Tearfund and Missio. Pray for them.