



## Sacred Heart

### RE Newsletter

Autumn term (2) 2025

Dear Parents,

Term 2 begins in November, the month when we remember those who have died, and then progress on to Advent; this begins on the Sunday after the feast of Christ the King and lasts until the Christmas holidays.

During the month of November, pupils can pray for those who have died or for those who have lost a loved one, as well as those who have suffered due to war. Remembrance Sunday is the beginning of Interfaith Week.

As the term progresses, it will become the season of Advent which is a time of preparation for the coming of Jesus. The colour of the liturgical cloth will change from green to purple and displays and focal points will be changed around the school to reflect this time of expectation for the Lord.

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.

Families are also invited to share a prayer time together when the Travelling Nativity visits their home.

In addition to our lessons, the children will be focusing on *Preferential Option for the Poor*.

### Dates from the Church's Calendar

1 <sup>st</sup> November	All Saints'	6 <sup>th</sup> December	St. Nicholas
2 <sup>nd</sup> November	All Souls	8 <sup>th</sup> December	Immaculate Conception of Mary
23 <sup>rd</sup> November	Christ the King	7 <sup>th</sup> December	Second Sunday of Advent
30 <sup>th</sup> November	St. Andrew	14 <sup>th</sup> December	Third Sunday of Advent
30 <sup>th</sup> November	First Sunday of Advent	25 <sup>th</sup> December	Nativity of the Lord Jesus

### School Worship

September	Creation
October	Month of the Rosary
November	Remembrance/ Option for the Poor
December	Advent; Christmas

### School Spiritual Dates

Advent; Christmas

Reconciliations- Years 4,5 and 6.

Year 3 will be making their First Reconciliation

December 11<sup>th</sup> – Nativities

December 18<sup>th</sup> - Advent Service

All Year groups will be following the new Religious Education Directory, [To Know You More Clearly](#). This term's focus is:

## Branch Two: Prophecy and promise



'In many and various ways, God spoke to our ancestors by the prophets' (Heb 1:1). The prophets speak of God reaching to his people, calling them back into a relationship with him. 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

<b>HEAR</b>	<b>BELIEVE</b> pupils will know that the Church teaches	<b>CELEBRATE</b> pupils will know	<b>LIVE</b> pupils will know
<p>Mary was going to have a baby. His name will be Jesus (Lk 1:26-31, 38).</p> <p>Jesus was born in Bethlehem (Lk 2:4-7).</p> <p>Shepherds hurried to see Mary and Joseph and baby Jesus (Lk 2:8-20).</p> <p>The Annunciation (Lk 1:26-31, 38).</p> <p>The Nativity (Lk 2: 4-7).</p> <p>The Shepherds visit the manger (Lk 2:8-20).</p>	<p>Mary had a baby called Jesus. Mary was chosen by God to give birth to his Son.</p> <p>Jesus was born in a stable and laid in a manger.</p> <p>Shepherds were told by angels to visit him.</p>	<p>Advent wreath.</p> <p>The tradition of the crib.</p> <p>Nativity celebration.</p> <p>The tradition of the crib to tell the story of Jesus' birth.</p>	<p>Various cultures celebrate Jesus' birthday in different ways.</p> <p>CST By our work in Advent, we help others and ourselves and we show our love to God.</p> <p>CST All people work in some way. Everyone should be able to work safely so that it helps them because God loves them.</p>

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

<b>HEAR</b> Pupils will have encountered the following key texts	<b>BELIEVE</b> pupils will know that the Church teaches	<b>CELEBRATE</b> pupils will know	<b>LIVE</b> pupils will know
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Annunciation (Lk 1: 26-38, focusing on 1:26-32, 38)</li> <li>• The Visitation (Lk 1:39-45)</li> <li>• The Birth of Jesus (Lk 2:4-8)</li> <li>• The Visit of the Shepherds (Lk 2:8-20)</li> </ul>	<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>	<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.</li> <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>	<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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• reinforcing why Mary is important for Christians</li> <li>• discussing the importance of mothers</li> </ul>			

## Year 2 Prophecy and promise

<b>HEAR</b> Pupils will have encountered the following key texts	<b>BELIEVE</b> pupils will know that the Church teaches	<b>CELEBRATE</b> pupils will know	<b>LIVE</b> pupils will know
The Annunciation of John the Baptist (Lk 1:5-20) The Annunciation of Jesus (Lk 1:26-38) The Visitation (Lk 1:39-50, 53) The birth of John the Baptist (Lk 1:57-58) Zechariah’s voice is restored (The circumcision of John the Baptist) (Lk 1:59-66, 67,76) The Birth of Jesus (Lk 2:1-8)	That prophets and prophetesses communicate God’s message inspired by the Holy Spirit. John the Baptist is born to be a prophet. 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’. Advent is the season when Christians prepare for the coming of Jesus Christ at	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. Advent is a time Christian preparation for Jesus’ coming. That the Advent wreath is a symbol of the coming of the light. How the Christmas story is celebrated in song: carol services.	About some daily/weekly commitments that enable Christians to live in a way that prepares them for Jesus’ coming. Advent preparations in different cultures. The meaning and interpretation of the candles/wreath in different cultural contexts. How Catholic Social Teaching (CST) can help to guide Christians to ‘share the light’ with others.

	<p>Christmas.</p> <p>That Mary is the mother of God and our mother who is trusted with all our prayers.</p>		
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## Year 3 Prophecy and promise

<b>HEAR</b> Pupils will have encountered the following key texts	<b>BELIEVE</b> pupils will know that the Church teaches	<b>CELEBRATE</b> pupils will know	<b>LIVE</b> pupils will know
<p>Why Christians go to Mass on Sunday.</p> <p>How Catholics celebrate Mass.</p>	<p>Sunday is the day of the Resurrection of Jesus. Therefore, Christians gather on Sunday.</p> <p>Catholics gather to celebrate Mass where they listen to the words of holy scripture (the Liturgy of the Word) and meet Jesus in Holy Communion (the Liturgy of the Eucharist).</p> <p>The Liturgy of the Word includes readings from the Old Testament and the New Testament.</p> <p>That Jesus birth was foretold by the prophets.</p> <p>That Joseph listened to the angel and opened his heart to the Holy Spirit.</p>	<p>How Catholics use some signs, actions, prayers, and symbols to celebrate Mass, e.g., the sign of the cross, bells, the Kyrie Eleison prayer, etc.</p> <p>Hear some of the responses Catholics say at Mass, focusing on the Liturgy of the Word.</p> <p>How Advent hymns celebrate Jesus as the coming Messiah (e.g., O Little town of Bethlehem; Long ago prophets knew; O come, divine Messiah; O come, O come Emmanuel).</p>	<p>Some ways that Christians prepare for the coming of Christ during Advent.</p> <p>Representations in art around the world, connecting to the prophecies of Christ's coming.</p>

## Year 4 Prophecy and promise

<b>HEAR</b> Pupils will have encountered the following key texts	<b>BELIEVE</b> pupils will know that the Church teaches	<b>CELEBRATE</b> pupils will know	<b>LIVE</b> pupils will know
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•The story of Abraham, focusing on the following key texts:</li> <li>•The call of Abram (Gen 12:1-5)</li> <li>•The Abrahamic covenant (Gen 15:1-6)</li> <li>•Abraham and Sarah (Gen 18:1-15)</li> <li>•Abraham and Isaac (Gen 22:1-18)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•God's covenant with Abraham is the foundation of the faith of the people of the Old and New Testaments: Judaism and Christianity</li> <li>•Faith is believing in God, trusting what God reveals, and following God's loving purpose to live a good life.</li> <li>•Through living out virtues of faith, hope, and love</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Age-appropriate extracts from prayers of faith in God from the Catholic tradition. (For example, Ps 40:1, the St Therese prayer, 'May today there be peace within', St John Henry Newman's 'Mission of my Life', Bl Charles de Foucauld's 'Prayer of Abandonment'.)</li> </ul>	<p>The virtues of faith, hope, and love.</p> <p>The life and work of a person who was an example of faith made active in love,</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•( The story of Joseph, focusing on the following key texts:153</li> <li>•Gen: 37:2-35, 41:1-42, 44:1-17, 33-34, 45:1-5, 16-20</li> </ul>	<p>(sometimes referred to as charity), Christians are drawn into a closer relationship with the Holy Trinity.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Abraham is a model of how to pray.</li> </ul>		
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## Year 5 Prophecy and promise

<b>HEAR</b> Pupils will have encountered the following key texts	<b>BELIEVE</b> pupils will know that the Church teaches	<b>CELEBRATE</b> pupils will know	<b>LIVE</b> pupils will know
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Scripture passages that speak of David’s life and importance:</li> <li>•1 Samuel 16:1-13: anointing of David (a great king)</li> <li>•1 Samuel 17:1-11, 32-54: David and Goliath</li> <li>•2 Samuel 5:1-5: David becomes king</li> <li>•2 Samuel 7: 8-15 God’s covenant with David</li> <li>•1 Kings 2:1-4, 10-12: David’s death</li> <li>•Psalm 21:1-7, Psalm 23</li> </ul> <p>Scripture passages that speak of Jesus’ as the fulfilment of the promise to David (e.g., Matt 1:1-17; Lk 1:32-33).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•There were great kings anointed and chosen in the Old Testament.</li> <li>•God chooses in unexpected ways and especially values those the world overlooks. David, the shepherd was called by God to become a servant king.</li> <li>•David became a great king and united his people who loved him (see Psalm 21:1-7).</li> <li>•For Christians, Jesus fulfils the promises made to David.</li> <li>•Psalms are part of the Church’s treasury of prayers. In praying psalms David is a model of prayer</li> </ul>	<p>Some words of Psalm 23 to speak or sing.</p> <p>The links between the O antiphons and the Evening Prayer of the Church (Vespers) for 17-23 December.</p> <p>The verses of the hymn ‘O Come, O Come Emmanuel’ as expressions of beliefs about who Jesus is.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•The joyful mysteries of the Rosary: the Annunciation, the Visitation, the Nativity of our Lord, the Presentation of the Child Jesus in the Temple, and the Finding of the Child Jesus in the Temple.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Psalms are an ancient way of prayer that are still prayed every day.</li> <li>•How the O Antiphons are expressed in art from around the world (e.g., illuminated manuscripts, sung versions of the O Antiphons).</li> <li>•How the O Antiphons are used by Christians to reflect on the significance of Jesus and his coming at Christmas (</li> </ul>

## Year 6 Prophecy and promise

<b>HEAR</b> Pupils will have encountered the following key texts	<b>BELIEVE</b> pupils will know that the Church teaches	<b>CELEBRATE</b> pupils will know	<b>LIVE</b> pupils will know
<p>Old Testament passages that show the importance of women in salvation history, e.g.:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Genesis 18:1-15; 21:1-7: Sarah</li> <li>•Exodus 1:8-22; 2:1-10: Miriam</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•The women of the Old Testament are true protagonists of salvation history (see Pope John Paul II’s address, General Audience, 27 March 1996).</li> <li>•Mary is the fulfilment of the Old Testament promises and became the ‘Mother of</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•The Magnificat is the song of the Mother of God and the song of the Church.</li> <li>•The Church prays the Magnificat each day at Vespers (evening prayer).</li> <li>•Some sung settings of the Magnificat.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Examples of women today who are responding to God’s call in their life. For example, the role of women’s religious orders in the Church today, with reference to at least one example of a Catholic women’s religious order</li> </ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Judges 4:4-11; 5:7-15: Deborah</li> <li>•1 Samuel 1:5, 9-11, 26-28: Hannah</li> <li>•Esther 2:4, 15-17; 3:1-6, 12-13; 4:1-4, 8a-17; 5:1-8; 7:1-6, 9-10; 8:3-12 (Purim): Esther</li> <li>•Lk 1: 26-56: Mary as the fulfilment of Old Testament promises</li>   <li>•The difference between the Lucan and Matthean infancy narratives, emphasising their respective intentions, narrative approach, and Luke's emphasis on the role of women in the story of salvation.</li> </ul>	<p>God' by her 'Yes' to God's plan.</p>		<p>(e.g., Sisters of Mercy, Ursulines, Sisters of Loreto, Daughters of St Paul, Little sisters of the Poor).</p>
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