



St. Joseph's RC Primary School

RE Newsletter

Autumn first half term 2020

**In our Catholic schools 'RE is regarded as the heart of the curriculum, enriching and informing all areas of learning with the light of the Gospel, teaching students to seek the truth which is of God, in the whole of creation, in themselves and in others. Religious Education Curriculum Directory**

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to the new academic year. I hope that you have all had the opportunity to read our interim Section 48 report from the diocese. We are extremely proud of all the children and the teachers who all contributed to the positive report we received; confirming we remain a good Catholic School. Our school is a warm and generous community that supports one another to be the best we can be and we teach children to use the gifts and talents afforded to them by Jesus Christ.

We recognise that as a community everyone's contribution; school, home and the wider community are important in nurturing and developing our children's positive contribution to society and the wider world. Through the teaching of RE we can ensure the children appreciate the world around them and all the people that live in that world. We are nurturing children who are questioning and value the human dignity of all people and who will grow to challenge injustice whenever they see it.

The main teaching resource that we use is the 'The Way, The Truth and the Light' syllabus based on the Religious Education Curriculum Directory for Catholic schools, developed by Birmingham diocese. The whole school will be learning through the theme of; **Belonging (God the Father)**.

## **Reception Class - God's World**

**"Creation is the first and universal revelation of God's love"**

This half term, the children in the Reception class 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 child/ren 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 – Moses Creation

**“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”**  
Religious Education Curriculum Directory



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 in 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.

### At home

You could help your child/ren 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- Elijah-Creation- sign and symbols- baptism

**“The Church is the family of God, the people that God gathers in the whole world.”**  
Religious Education Curriculum Directory

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 and symbols 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:

- understand the significance of being Baptised
- recognise that when they were Baptised they became part of a global family
- that being in God’s family we all have a responsibility to others.

### At home

You could help your child/ren by:

- sharing your experiences about their Baptism. Look at any gifts or photographs that they received on their special day
- discuss what it means to be part of God’s family within their family and the responsibility to other

## Year 3- Abraham - Homes and Families

In this topic we explore how God is present in every home. This is expressed in the love that binds the family together within the home through good times and bad times.

**Scripture: John 13: 34 ‘And now I give you a new commandment: love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. If you have love for one another, then everyone will know that you are my disciples.’**

Catechism of the Catholic Church 1657: The home is the first school of Christian life and 'a school for human enrichment.' Here one learns endurance and the joy of work, fraternal love, generous – even repeated – forgiveness and above all, divine worship in prayer and the offering of one's life'.

This is an outline of the teaching of the Church covered in Homes and Families

- The Christian home: an image of and a sharing in the love between Christ and the Church.
- Paul's letters to the early Christian communities teaching about God's vision for every family.
- The Christian duty of parents towards children and children towards parents.
- The example of the Holy Family.
- God is always with us.
- We are chosen by God to be a holy people and the implications for daily life.
- Jesus' new rule.

#### **At home**

You could help your child/ren by:

- talking about how we can help others by giving clothes to the charity shop or placing some food in the food bank collections at Church
- Pray together as a family before bed for people who are less fortunate and in need of support

### **Year 4 Solomon -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 favourite passages from the Bible
- explain there is an old and a new testament and how the Bible is arranged
- encourage your children to recognise that the Bible is a holy book

### **Year 5 Jonah- Stewardship of God's Creation**

God creates by wisdom and love:

**"In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth" (Gen 1:1).**

"We believe that God created the world according to His wisdom. It is not the product of any necessity whatever, nor of blind fate or chance. We believe that it proceeds from God's free will; He wanted to make His

creatures share in His being, wisdom and goodness: 'For you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created' (Rev 4:11) CCC 295.

The children will know that for a long-time people have asked questions about Creation. That there are theological and scientific truths. The children will know about the story of Creation in the Bible and be able to reflect on the importance of this story. The children will know about the story of the Fall and discuss how it helps us to understand suffering in the world.

The children will have the chance to:

- understand that God calls us to care for creation.
- be aware of our responsibilities.
  
- know about some of God's great helpers.
- Reflect on what we can learn from them.
  
- be aware of God's great gifts to us.
- reflect on the importance of our gifts.

### **At home**

You could help your child/ren by:

- discussing with your child/ren what they have learnt
- identifying people that have helped spread God's message in the past and those doing so now
- together as a family look at Laudato Si the Pope's second encyclical where he asks us all to take better care of the world
- how can we all respond better to the Pope's request and become more responsible citizens

## **Years 6- Samson Class-The Kingdom of God**

**"The Kingdom belongs to the poor and lowly, which means those who have accepted it with a humble heart"**

### **Religious Education Curriculum Directory**

The children will learn about the beginning of Jesus' public life and that he was tempted by the devil. They will know about the conditions for following Jesus and know that Jesus performs mighty works, wonders and signs.

They will learn that through his parables Jesus invites people into the Kingdom of God. They will develop an understanding that deeds, and not just words, are required by Jesus, through the example of the Parable of the two sons.

They will learn why Jesus chose to eat with sinners, learn that we must make use of our talents to gain the Kingdom and develop an understanding that God has boundless love and mercy.

The children will have the chance to:

- reflect on our invitation to the Kingdom of God
- be aware that we have to do good to enter the Kingdom
- deepen our awareness of how we use the talents God has given to us
- be aware that through the Sacrament of Reconciliation
- we can all make a fresh start and follow Jesus's teaching

## **At home**

You could help your child/ren by:

- discuss what parables are and the messages they contain and how they are just as important to our lives today
- that we are all invited to join God's Kingdom and we receive love and mercy from God, so we should endeavour to be loving and merciful to others
- that God will always forgive us when we ask but we need to make good and be prepared to forgive others.

### **Important Days**

2nd October Guardian Angels

2<sup>nd</sup> Oct CAFOD Fast Day

4<sup>th</sup> Oct St Francis

9<sup>th</sup> Oct St J H Newman

10<sup>th</sup> Oct St Paulinus

12<sup>th</sup> Oct St Wilfrid Diocesan Patron

13<sup>th</sup> Oct St Edward the Confessor

15<sup>th</sup> Oct St Teresa of Avila

17<sup>th</sup> Oct St Ignatius of Antioch

18<sup>th</sup> Oct St Luke, Evangelist

**Kind regards,**

**Mrs AM Price**

**Head of School**