



RE NEWSLETTER

ST MARY'S AUTUMN FIRST TERM 2023

Dear Heavenly Father,

As we embark on this new school year,

We come before You with hearts full of hope and cheer.

Bless our teachers, friends, and all who guide our way,

Grant us wisdom, strength, and joy, day by day.

Help us learn with open minds and caring hearts,

As we grow and discover in each class and every part.

May Your love and grace be our constant guide,

In this new school year, with You by our side.

Amen.

AUTUMN FIRST HALF-TERM

Dear Parents,

We are currently revising our school mission statement so please look out for presentations coming up, inspired by Catherine McAuley and the origins of our school.

It's the autumn term and time for some exciting adventures in our faith journey. Just like the leaves change colours and fall from the trees, this season can teach us beautiful lessons about change and growing in our faith.

Please find below information about what your child will be learning and how you can help support their learning at home. The children will be studying their topics in a range of creative ways and will be involved in writing their own class masses and collective worship.

The Faith Friends will be leading the Rosary again throughout October, the Month dedicated to the Rosary so please look out for dates to join us.

GOD'S WORLD

Dear God,

Thank You for our world so grand, With oceans, forests, and endless land. The birds that sing, the stars at night, Your creation fills us with pure delight.

With grateful hearts, we pray to You, For the world, so lovely and true.

Amen

NURSERY AND RECEPTION

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

Religious Education Curriculum Directory

This half term, the children in the Nursery and the Reception classes 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 go out to look at God's world and talk about what he has made for us.

They will learn that God has asked us to care for the world and think of ways in which we can help to do it. The children will talk about how they could look after each other.

At home you could help your children by:

- encouraging them to notice different parts of God's creation and think of ways to care for it
- look at pictures of plants or animals and talk about how special creation is.

GOD'S GREAT PLAN

Dear God,
Thank You for all You've made,
The mountains, rivers, and the shade.
The animals, big and small,
We cherish Your creation, one and all.
Help us love and care each day,
For Your world in every way.
With thankful hearts, we pray today,
Amen.

THE CHOSEN PEOPLE

Dear God,

Thank You for choosing me to be part of Your plan. I feel special and grateful. With Your love, I'll do my best.

Amen.

YEAR 1

"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

In Year1 will be learning about the Creation.

God created our wonderful world and then people to look after it. We should all take responsibility for looking after God's world and keeping it amazing! God's world is in our hands.

The children will hear the story of Noah's Ark.

They will retell this special story in our own Noah's Ark book and act out the story using props.

Using paper plates and sugar paper, they will design their own ark.

At home you could help your children by:

- talking about how we can look after the world,
- looking at nature during the different seasons – how does our world change?

YEAR 2

"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 that God chooses certain people to lead and guide his people. God called Abraham and Moses to be great leaders, following on in their example, the children will think about what gifts that God had given them and how they could use them.

Having the opportunity to reflect on Abraham's trust in God will help the children learn that we should always trust God.

At home you could help your children by:

- looking at people God has chosen and why
- helping the children understand how to use their gifts.

THE CHRISTIAN FAMILY

Dear God,

Thank You for making us part of Your family. We're grateful and want to learn from You. Please guide us and keep us close.

Amen.

THE BIBLE

Dear God,

We're thankful for the Bible. Please help us understand it and live by its teachings. May the stories and lessons within its pages inspire us to live in accordance with Your will and to spread Your love to others.

Amen.

YEAR 3

"The Church is the family of God, the people that God gathers in the whole world."

Religious Education Curriculum Directory

The children will be developing their understanding that the Church is the family of God and that we join this family when we receive the Sacrament of Baptism. They will be learning about what happens at Baptism and the signs that are used. They will be learning about the promises that are made by parents and Godparents at Baptism. This links into them learning about what it means to be a part of a family and especially what it means to be part of a Christian family.

At home you could help your children by:

- sharing your experiences about their Baptism. Look at any gifts or photographs that they received on their special day. Light their baptismal candle on the day of their Baptism and say a prayer together.
- discuss what it means to be part of God's family

YEAR 4

"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 be learning that the Bible is a story of God's love and concern for us. The Bible is a living book through which God speaks to us and tells us about himself. They will be learning that the Bible is one story told through many different books. Moses, David and Jonah are just a few of the important people they will be looking at as well as learning how to find a Bible reference. Being able to explore the Bible helps us to pray and experience how God speaks to us.

Children will participate in a liturgy and experience a guided meditation on a text from the Bible.

At home you can help your children by:

- talking about the readings at Church,
- helping them understand their meanings.

GIFTS FROM GOD

Dear God,

Thank You for all the special gifts You've given us. Help us use them to make the world a better place.

Amen

THE KINGDOM OF GOD

Dear God,

We come together to talk about Your kingdom today. We know it's a special place filled with love and kindness. Help us understand how to be a part of Your kingdom and spread love to others. Guide us in everything we do.

Amen.

YEAR 5

"Each human person is unique and made in God's image and likeness"

Religious Education Curriculum Directory

Children will be focusing on creation and learn about the gifts they have received from God to help others. They will reflect on how they can be both physically and spiritually healthy too before beginning to spread these gifts.

They have been learning 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. There are times when we fail to be good stewards of creation and it is important to learn from this.

At home you could help your children by:

- talking to them about how they could be good stewards for creation
- think about how they can show love and respect to others.

YEAR 6

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

Catechism of the Catholic Church

Year 6 will be learning about The Kingdom of God. They will look at his earthly Kingdom and what it is like; who it is for; what we have to do to enter it; and then what we do once we are in it.

They will read lots of parables and bible stories that teach us about his Kingdom. In one parable, They learn that it is like a mustard seed: it started small but grew to be the biggest tree of them all, spreading its branches far and wide, encouraging his people to settle in its safety. They will create some beautiful poems to describe the Kingdom for our class displays.

At home you could help your children by:

- reflecting on our invitation to the Kingdom of God
- being aware that we have to do good to enter the Kingdom
- deepening their awareness of how we use the talents God has given to us
- being aware that through the Sacrament of Reconciliation we can make a fresh start to follow Jesus.