

# St George's Catholic Primary School



## RE Newsletter 2

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. 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 our Celebration of the Word we focussed on the Catholic Social Teaching principle of Preferential Option for the Poor and the children have completed some fantastic work on this area- they really do have a great understanding of how we are called to support our brothers and sisters in the world. We also revisited the charism of the school: what it means to be a pupil at St. George's. We were reminded of the virtues and values of St. George and how we live these out in all we do and say. It is through the lives of the Saints and their intercession that we become closer to living out our school motto to follow Jesus in everything we do.

It has been lovely to see the response to our first 'Digital Apostles' mission, inspired by the life of Blessed Carlo Acutis. You can find these blog posts on DB Primary. It was lovely to hear how the life of Blessed Carlo Acutis has touched the life of one of our pupils in Year 4, who told me that when he now goes to church and spends time in front of the Blessed Sacrament, he realises '*I too can become a Saint just like Blessed Carlo*'. This was inspired by Blessed Carlo's words that, '*When we stand in front of the sun, we get a suntan, but when we stand before the Eucharist, we become Saints.*' We look forward to sharing the next mission with the children soon.

During the month of November, we particularly remember the Holy Souls. If you have lost a loved one, you are invited to send a photo with the name of your dearly departed along with their relationship to your child. The photos will be put in a book and placed in our Oratory. Children will be able to use this book during times of prayer. If you do not wish to send a photo, please email or write their name of your loved one on a piece of paper. Please send these F.A.O. Mrs McGivern.

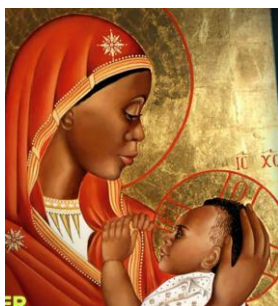
In this issue of the newsletter, you will find what your child is learning about in each year group. We hope you find this newsletter of interest and as always, please keep us in your prayers as we continue to support your children in their religious education.

As always, we ask you to keep us in your prayers and we welcome any ideas of ways in which we can further promote the Religious Education, Catholic Mission and Prayer and Liturgy of our School.

St George, *Pray for us*  
St Francis of Assisi, *Pray for us*  
St Thérèse of Lisieux, *Pray for us*  
St. Josephine Bakhita, *Pray for us*  
St Oscar Romero, *Pray for us*  
*All holy men and women, pray for us.*

*Eternal rest grant  
unto them O Lord,  
and let perpetual  
light shine upon  
them. May they  
rest in peace.*  
**Amen**

Below you will find information about what your child will be learning in their Religious Education this half term.



## **Nursery & Reception – Prophecy and Promise**

This half term, the children in the Nursery and the Reception classes will be learning how God chose Mary to have a very special baby, called Jesus (the Annunciation), the birth of Jesus and how the shepherds came to visit Mary, Joseph and baby Jesus. They will also learn about the Liturgical season of Advent. The children in Reception will also learn how various cultures celebrate Jesus' birthday in different ways.

### **Year 1 – Prophecy and Promise**

Recognise that, for Christians, the Christmas story reveals God's love by sending Jesus his Son. Pupils will be reminded that the Bible as a special book and encounter the stories and accounts of how people came to know God and the Good News of Jesus in the gospels. Pupils will sequence the accounts from the Annunciation through to the visit of the shepherds. They will hear the story of the Annunciation- how God called Mary and she said 'Yes' to his call and why this makes Mary important for Christians. They will match the first words of the Hail Mary with the words of the Angel Gabriel. The pupils will recognise that angels bring God's message and are a sign that Jesus is the Son of God.

### **Year 2 – Prophecy and Promise**

Pupils will revisit the Annunciation and the birth of Jesus from the Gospel of Luke and will learn about the Annunciation and the birth of John the Baptist. They will learn that a prophet or prophetess communicates God's message, inspired by the Holy Spirit, and that Isaiah and John the Baptist are prophets. Pupils will recognise that the Church teaches that Mary is the mother of God who prays for them and with them. They will also describe some of the ways in which Christians prepare for Jesus' coming at Christmas during the season of Advent, for example, correctly using religious words and phrases to recognise the meaning given to the Advent wreath and how these might help Christians prepare for Christmas.

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.”***

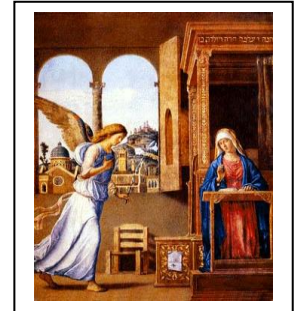
*Religious Education Curriculum Directory*

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:

- Praying the Hail Mary and thinking about the meaning of the words.
- talking with them about the importance of Mary in Jesus’ life.



## 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. They will make their own Advent promises. The children will reflect on how Mary and Joseph placed all their trust in God and will lead a special Advent Liturgy.

### At home:

You could help your children by:

- making an Advent calendar with them.



## Year 5 – The Commandments/God’s Covenants

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 can help your child by:

- Researching the lives of Saints who answered God's call to love others. The children will be learning about Blessed Carlo Acutis- they may wish to take this time to research their House Saint in greater detail.
- Discussing the ways in which the life of Jesus inspires people today.

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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. They will also research charities that support those who are persecuted (Aid to the Church in Need) and those who help to support those with learning disabilities (L'Arche).

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:

- visiting [www.cafod.org.uk](http://www.cafod.org.uk) <https://acnuk.org/> <https://caritaswestminster.org.uk/st-josephs/> to research the work that they do to help those in our local and global community.
- include an intention for people fighting injustice in your prayers with the children.