

IMPORTANT DATES THIS TERM



ALL SAINTS

(1 November)

We celebrate the lives of special and ordinary people who have responded to God's invitation to love.

THE COMMEMORATION OF ALL THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED (ALL SOULS)

(2 November)

Today and throughout the rest of November we pray for those who have died. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.

OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE

(23 November)

The Feast of Christ the King, celebrates Jesus' authority and reign over all creation, emphasising that his Kingdom is one of love, justice and redemption.

ADVENT

(Begins 30 November)

Advent means 'coming'. We think of the coming of Jesus when he was born but we also think of his promise that he would come again at the end of time. It is a time of waiting and preparing. It is only in the last week of Advent that we focus upon the events to be celebrated at Christmas.

THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

(8 December)

This feast marks the first stage of the existence of Mary, the mother of Jesus. She was 'full of grace' from the very beginning and co-operated with God throughout her life.

CHRISTMAS DAY, THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

(25 December)

On this day we begin our celebration of the birth of Christ.

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY, AND JOSEPH

(28 December)



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

ADVENT TERM 2025-2026

'TO KNOW YOU MORE CLEARLY'

Dear Parent(s)/Carer(s),

This year, St Joseph's will be continuing to move towards the implementation of the new RED (Religious Education Directory), 'To know You more clearly'. This marks a new and exciting chapter in how we teach Religious Education. The RED has its own specially designed model curriculum, made up of six branches. Each half term, we will explore one of these branches as a whole school. Each one focuses on a core theme, helping the children to grow in their understanding of key aspects of the Catholic faith including Revelation, Scripture, life in Christ and life in the Church. The new programme of study is centred around deepening pupils' spiritual growth by nurturing a rich understanding of Christian beliefs and values. There are opportunities to explore faith with curiosity, reflection and personal engagement. The immersive lessons create an environment where children are encouraged to encounter faith in a meaningful way, helping children foster a lasting relationship with God. We're really looking forward to bringing this new vision for Religious Education into our classrooms. To help keep you informed and involve, we will be sending out a newsletter each term with updates on about what your child is learning.

Thank you as always for your continued support. We are excited to begin this journey together!

Branch One: Creation and Covenant

'The heavens are telling the glory of God' (Ps 19:1).

In this branch, pupils will encounter the God who creates and calls a people. They will explore revelation of the Christian belief that all that is comes from God, the Creation accounts in Genesis, and scientific explanations of the process of Creation. They will explore the call of God and his covenantal relationship with his people first through Abraham and Moses, then through the narrative of the Old Testament.

At home you could...

Take a walk together as a family and **talk about** the world that God has created and how we can try to make it a better place.

Encourage your child to spend time in **quiet reflection**, either through prayer, meditation.

Talk about ways we can try to make our world a better place—looking after the environment and what is in it by making sure your litter goes in the bin.

School Mission Week

Pupils will learn about the Gospel Values and the Catholic Virtues. Children will have a focus on the school Mission statement, and what it means to live your life in Christ.

Catholic Social Teaching

Pupils will have the opportunity to explore the core principles of Catholic Social Teaching—including human dignity, the Common good, subsidiarity and stewardship. Children will learn how we put this into practise.

Other Faiths Weeks –Islam and Hinduism

Pupils will have the opportunity to learn about the faiths of Islam and Hinduism. Each year group will have a key focus including looking at prayers, culture, worship, places of worship and special days.

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.

At home you could...

Discuss with the children how your family welcomes visitors to your home.

Find out about some Christian symbols for Advent e.g. Advent wreath, calendar, Jesse tree, Christmas tree.

Explore the nativity story together and share some quiet time and prayers.

Use the CAFOD or Missio websites to get a religious Advent calendar.