St Clare's Catholic Primary School

*Following in the footsteps of Jesus*

# RE Newsletter – Autumn 2

Dear Parents and Carers,

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.

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

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 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.

**Dates from the Church's calendar:**

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| 1st | November | All Saints' | 30th | Nov | St Andrew, Apostle |
| 2nd | November | All Souls | 3rd | Dec | First Sunday of Advent |
| 3rd | November | St. Winefride | 6th | Dec | St. Nicholas |
| 11th | November | St. Martin of Tours | 8th | Dec | Immaculate Conception of Mary |
| 21st | November | Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary | 10th | Dec | Second Sunday of Advent |
| | | | 17th | Dec | Third Sunday of Advent |
| 22nd | November | St Cecilia | 24th | Dec | Christmas Eve |
| 26th | November | Christ the King | 25th | Dec | Nativity of the Lord Jesus |

**Dates from the School's calendar:**

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| 4th November at 9:30am | Mass in Church (All Saint's) | All Welcome |
| 11th November at 10:45am | Remembrance Service in school | All Welcome |
| 2nd December at 9:30am | Mass in Church (Advent) | All Welcome |
| 1st to 18th December | | |
| Daily burst of Liturgy for the Season of Advent with One Life Music | | |
| 1st to 18th December | Travelling Nativity | |

At St. Clare's, all year groups follow the new Religious Education Directory (RED) and the content 'To Know You More Clearly'. This term, our children are learning about:

# Branch 2 - Prophecy and Promise

**'In many and various ways, God spoke to our ancestors by the prophets' (Heb 1:1)**

In this branch, the children 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. The children will encounter the story of the nativity of Jesus and the mystery of the incarnation.



## EYFS

This half term, our children will be learning about Advent and Christmas through the stories of the Annunciation and the Nativity. They will hear how the Angel Gabriel told Mary that she would have a special baby called Jesus (Luke 1:26-31, 38), and how Jesus was born in Bethlehem and laid in a manger (Luke 2:4-7). They will also learn how the shepherds followed the angels' message and came to visit baby Jesus (Luke 2:8-20).




Through stories, role play, singing and creative activities, children will learn that God sent Jesus because He loves us. They will explore Advent as a special time of waiting and preparation for Christmas and learn about traditions such as the Advent wreath, the Christmas crib, and Nativity celebrations. Children will also learn that people around the world celebrate Jesus' birthday in different ways.

As part of our Catholic Social Teaching learning, we will think about how we can show love to God and others through kindness, helping, and caring for those around us.

**Home Activity:**

Read a children's version of the Nativity Story together (Luke 2:4-20) or look at a Christmas crib. See if your child can name the characters, retell parts of the story, or sequence the events in order.

You could also make a simple paper Advent wreath or Nativity picture and talk about:

- Who was chosen to be Jesus' mother? (Mary)
- Where was Jesus born? (Bethlehem)
- Who came to visit Jesus? (The shepherds)

As a family, choose one small act of kindness each day during Advent to help others and prepare your hearts for Christmas.

## Year 1

In this branch, children will learn that Christians believe God showed how much He loves us by sending His Son, Jesus, into the world. Through the story of Jesus' birth, children will begin to understand that Jesus is God's special gift to us.



The children will follow the Nativity story from St Luke's Gospel, learning about the important events leading up to Jesus' birth. They will explore Mary's special role in God's plan and how she said "Yes" to becoming the mother of Jesus. They will also learn about angels as God's messengers and protectors.

As part of the wider Christmas season, children will experience traditions such as Advent, Nativity plays, Christmas carols and the Christmas crib. In their RE lessons, however, the focus will be on understanding the story of Jesus' birth and why it is so important to Christians.

Children will also begin to learn about Mary's importance in the Catholic faith. They will discover that Catholics see Mary as being especially close to Jesus and that prayers such as the Hail Mary help people grow closer to Him.

**Home Activity:**

Create a Nativity picture or scene together and see if your child can retell the story of Jesus' birth. Encourage them to name the important people they have learned about, including Mary, the angels and the shepherds, and explain why Christmas is special for Christians.

## Year 2

This half term, Year 2 will deepen their understanding of the events surrounding Jesus' birth through stories from St Luke's Gospel. They will learn about Mary saying "Yes" to God's plan, Zechariah and Elizabeth, and John the Baptist, who would later help prepare people for Jesus. Children will also discover how the Holy Spirit was present throughout these events and helped people recognise God's work in their lives.



The children will explore how the shepherds were among the first people to welcome Jesus and why Christians see Jesus as a gift for all people. They will learn about the importance of prayer, listening to God, and showing trust, kindness and joy in their daily lives.

As part of their Advent learning, children will learn about the Advent wreath and explore how Christians prepare for Christmas around the world, including the Mexican tradition of Las Posadas.

**Home Activity:**

As a family, create a simple Advent kindness calendar. Each day, choose one small act of kindness, such as helping at home, saying a prayer for someone, writing a kind note, or checking in on a neighbour. Talk together about how these actions help bring joy and hope to others as we prepare for Christmas.

## Year 3

This half term, Year 3 will learn about the story of Jesus' birth from St Matthew's Gospel, focusing on the role of Joseph, the message of the angel, and the visit of the Wise Men. Children will explore why Christians believe Jesus is the special King promised by God and how the events of his birth show God's plan being fulfilled.



The children will also begin learning about the Mass, focusing on how Catholics gather together to pray, listen to God's Word in Scripture, and respond through worship. They will learn about the different parts of the Mass, particularly the Liturgy of the Word, and understand how Christians try to live out the Gospel message in their daily lives.

**Home Activity:**

Read the story of the Wise Men visiting Jesus (Matthew 2:1–12) together or look at a picture from a children's Bible. Talk about the gifts the Wise Men brought and why they were special. Then invite your child to think of a "gift" they could give to others this week, such as helping at home, showing kindness to a friend, or saying a prayer for someone in need. Encourage them to share how they showed this gift at the end of the week.

# Year 4

This half term, Year 4 will learn about Elijah and John the Baptist, two important people who helped others follow God. Children will explore how Elijah showed trust in God and cared for those in need, and how John the Baptist prepared people for the coming of Jesus.



The children will learn that Christians believe John the Baptist helped people get ready to welcome Jesus and encouraged them to make good choices. They will also learn about the feast of Christ the King, exploring what kind of king Jesus is and how his leadership is based on love, service, peace and hope rather than power.

Throughout this branch, children will reflect on how they can prepare the way for Jesus in their own lives through kindness, prayer and helping others.

**Home Activity:**

Read a children's Bible story about John the Baptist or Elijah together. As a family, discuss ways you can "prepare the way" for others by showing kindness. Challenge each family member to complete one act of kindness during the week, such as helping at home, encouraging a friend, or supporting someone in need, and share your experiences together.

# Year 5

This half term, Year 5 will learn about King David, a shepherd boy chosen by God to become king of Israel. Children will explore how David used his gifts to serve and care for others, and how he trusted God, even when facing challenges such as Goliath. They will discover why David is an important figure in the Bible and how Christians believe that Jesus, born in Bethlehem and descended from David's family, is the promised King.



The children will also learn about Advent, a season of waiting and preparation for Christmas. They will explore some of the special prayers and symbols used by the Church during Advent, including the message of hope found in the hymn O Come, O Come Emmanuel. As part of their learning, children will also be introduced to the Rosary and Mary's special role in the Catholic faith.

**Home Activity:**

Listen to or read the words of O Come, O Come Emmanuel together and discuss the message of hope it shares. As a family, think about ways you can prepare for Christmas by showing kindness, helping others, or spending a few moments in prayer each day. Alternatively, read the story of David and Goliath together and talk about times when trust, courage and faith can help us overcome challenges.

## Year 6

This half term, Year 6 will learn about several important women from the Bible, including Miriam, Ruth, Esther, Sarah and Hannah. Children will explore how these women showed courage, faith, hope and trust in God, often making a difference at important moments in the history of God's people.



The children will also learn about Mary, the mother of Jesus, and how her "Yes" to God helped bring God's plan into the world (Luke 1:26-38). They will compare the angel's message to Mary with the angel's message to Joseph (Matthew 1:18-25) and learn why Mary is such an important figure for Christians. Throughout the branch, children will reflect on how ordinary people can make an extraordinary difference through faith, courage and service to others.

**Home Activity:**

Choose one of the women studied in class and read her story together:

- Miriam – Exodus 2:1-10
- Ruth – Ruth 1:16-17
- Esther – Esther 4:14-16
- Sarah – Genesis 21:1-7
- Hannah – 1 Samuel 1:24-28
- Mary – Luke 1:26-38

Talk about the qualities she showed, such as bravery, kindness, loyalty or trust in God. As a family, create a "Faith and Courage" poster with pictures or words representing these qualities and discuss how you could show one of them at home, school or in your local community.