St Winefride's Catholic Primary

Excellence Learn · Laugh Happiness · Respect Listen · Live Resilience · Compassion Love · FAITH

Religious Education
Autumn Second Half Term 2026

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

Dear Families,

The dark nights have certainly found their way back to us and we have now moved into 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, beginning on Sunday 29th November, 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 the children are 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:

1st	November	All Saints	6th	December	**Second Sunday of Advent**
2nd	November	All Souls	8th	December	**The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary**
3rd	November	St. Winefride			
21st	November	Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary	13th	December	**Third Sunday of Advent**
22nd	November	**Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe**	20th	December	**Fourth Sunday of Advent**
29th	November	**First Sunday of Advent**	25th	December	**The Nativity of the Lord**
30th	November	St. Andrew	26th	December	St. Stephen
			27th	December	**The Holy Family**

Reception – Prophecy and Promise

This half term, the children in our Reception class will be learning about Advent and Christmas. They will hear that Mary was visited by angel called Gabriel because she was chosen by God to give birth to His Son, Jesus. The children will also hear that Jesus was born in Bethlehem and that He was visited by shepherds. They will explore how Christians celebrate Advent as a time to prepare for Christmas and will find out about the Advent Wreath. The children will also hear that St. Francis was the first person to make a crib and they will reflect upon the importance of having a crib at Christmas.

<u>At home</u>

You could help your children by:

- reminding them that Christmas is about the gift of Jesus to us and not just about receiving presents.
- talk about your family and draw pictures of Jesus being part of your family.
- take them to see baby Jesus in the crib at church during the Christmas season.

Year 1 – Prophecy and Promise

The focus of this branch is for pupils to develop an early understanding of the Christian belief that God showed us the full depth of his love by sending Jesus his Son (CCC 65-66). In Jesus, the invisible God becomes visible, and His love is poured out as the child in the manger at Bethlehem. The children will journey through the life of Jesus following the Gospel of St Luke. The focus of learning is on the narrative sequence of the story, the importance of Mary's 'Yes' to God and the presence of angels who are God's messengers and protectors and point to the divine nature of Christ.

At home
You could help your children by:
• reinforcing why Mary is important for Christians.
• looking at a crib together – you could visit the one which is set up each year outside our parish church of St. Winefride's.

Year 2 – Prophecy and Promise

Learning about the infancy of Jesus in year two of the model curriculum builds upon prior knowledge. It allows teachers and pupils to make connections with the whole infancy narrative of St Luke and introduces John the Baptist. The children will hear that the Church teaches that the person that Isaiah spoke of was Jesus, long before He was born. They will also use religious words and phrases to recognise the meaning given to the Advent wreath.

At home, you could help your children by:
• discussing the roles of John the Baptist, Mary and Joseph in the narrative of Salvation History.
• reading the Christmas story and encouraging them to ask questions.

Year 3 – Prophecy and Promise

At times, it is necessary to step outside the liturgical year to give sufficient time to a theme or celebration. To study the Mass in some detail, the focus of this branch splits into two themes. One is understanding what happens at Mass, and the other focuses on the nativity according to St. Matthew, which introduces pupils to Joseph and St. Matthew's gospel.

At home
You could help your children by:

- Asking them to talk about when they have been to Mass and taking them to Mass in the parish on a Sunday.
- Talking about why Catholics go to Mass.
- Sharing the Nativity story together and discussing the role of Joseph.

Year 4 – Prophecy and Promise

In this branch, pupils will compare two accounts of the appearance of John the Baptist, noticing what is the same in St Mark and St Matthew's accounts. Alongside physical appearance, both gospel writers draw on the prophet Isaiah, suggesting that the one Isaiah speaks of is fulfilled in the person of John. For Christians, this is true as it is a sign that Jesus is the Messiah. In the gospel accounts, John prepares the way for Jesus' ministry, whereas, in Advent, the figure of John the Baptist asks Christians how they will prepare a way for Jesus in their own lives and at the end of all things. As with the prophet Isaiah, pupils should reflect on how John speaks to Christians today to prepare the way of the Lord.

At home:
You could help your children by:

- asking them to define the word 'prophet' and ask them to give an example of a prophet from the Bible.
- Sharing ideas around how Christians prepare for the coming of Jesus at Christmas.

Year 5 – Prophecy and Promise

The children will learn more about the Old Testament and that the people of God wanted a king. They will discover more about Samuel needing a successor for the unworthy King Saul and about David, coming from humble beginnings as a shepherd boy who was not chosen because of power but because of his character and faith.

The children will recognise that, for Christians, King David's ascension to the throne has parallels with Jesus' birth in the Gospels. They will make links with the language used to describe David and the language the gospel writers draw upon to show Jesus is the one spoken of in the Old Testament.

At home:
You could help your children by:
• talking to them about David and how he is portrayed in the Old Testament.
• having a conversation about the coming of Jesus, and why we celebrate this gift at Christmas.

Year 6 – Prophecy and Promise

The Vine and the Branches

The children will explore the stories of some of the prominent women in the Old Testament, understanding the context in which these stories take place, historically and culturally. The catechism states, 'Through the prophets, God forms his people in the hope of salvation, in the expectation of a new and everlasting covenant, intended for all to be written on their hearts…Above all, the poor and humble of the Lord will bear this hope' (CCC 64).

The women listed feature at different points in the formation of Israel and subvert the expectations of their time. For Christians, a parallel exists between these women and Mary, who will change the course of history by her 'Yes' to God.

At home:

You could help your children by:

- asking them to tell you about the Biblical women they are exploring: Sarah, Miriam, Deborah, Hannah, Esther and Mary.
- include an intention for people fighting injustice in your prayers with the children.
- invite the children to share their learning about the importance of Mary, the Mother of God, in their spiritual life with reference to Mary's *Magnificat*.

Mrs. Bannister

Religious Education Subject Leader