



St. Mary's Catholic Primary School
Religious Education Newsletter
Autumn 1 2025



Love God, love others, love ourselves.

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are delighted to welcome you all back to school after the summer holidays. We hope you have had quality time at home with friends and family.

This half term our school is embracing the new Religious Education Directory (RED), beginning with **Branch One: Creation and Covenant**. This branch invites children to discover God's loving plan for the world, His relationship with humanity, and the ways we are called to respond in faith. Each year group is journeying through Scripture in age-appropriate ways, making links with the liturgical seasons of the Church year. Below is an overview of what the children are learning, alongside simple suggestions for prayer and reflection at home.

Wishing all of our families a blessed half term.

Mrs. Sharkey.

St. Therese of Lisieux Class

Our youngest children are discovering **the beauty of God's creation**. They are learning simple prayers of thanks and recognising that everything is a gift from God. This links beautifully with the season of **Harvest** and our daily prayers.

At home: Go on a nature walk with your child and encourage them to say "Thank you, God" for the things they see, like flowers, birds, and the sky. You might also bring an item of food to donate during Harvest Mass or collection.

St Francis of Assisi's Class

Year 1 are reflecting on **the story of Creation from Genesis** and learning how God made the world good. They are thinking about how we can care for what God has given us, which echoes Pope Francis' call in *Laudato Si'* to care for our common home.

At home: Encourage your child to care for creation by watering plants, recycling, or turning off lights to save energy. During **Creationtide** (September–October), say a family prayer of thanks for the Earth.

St. Anne's Class

The children in year 2 are exploring God's promises and the story of Noah's Ark. They are learning how God keeps His covenant with us and how we can be faithful in return. The rainbow reminds us of hope—a theme we will revisit during **Advent**.

At home: Read a children's Bible story together about Noah and talk about promises you can make as a family—such as being kind to one another. Create a rainbow picture to place in your prayer space as a sign of God's faithfulness.

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

Religious Education Curriculum Directory

St. Joseph's Class

Year 3 are beginning to study God's covenant with Abraham and Sarah, and how trust in God leads to blessings for generations. Their learning connects with **Advent**, when we hear readings about God's promises fulfilled in Jesus.

At home: Share family stories of trust and faith—for example, moments when you trusted God in difficult times. During Advent, light a candle together and pray for the gift of faith.

St. Thomas More's Class

Year 4 are learning about **Moses and the Ten Commandments** as a covenant of love. They are exploring how God gives us guidance for living well. This links with **Lent**, when we examine our choices and return to God with renewed hearts.

At home: Talk about the Ten Commandments with your child and choose one to focus on living out together as a family during the week. During Lent, discuss how following God's way helps us grow closer to Him.



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St Bernadette's Class

Year 5 are studying the **prophets**, especially how they reminded God's people of the covenant and called them back to faithfulness. Their voices prepare us for **Advent**, when we hear Isaiah's prophecies pointing to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

At home: Together, read a passage from Isaiah (e.g., Isaiah 9:6: "A child is born to us...") and discuss how Jesus fulfils this promise.

St. Maximillian Kolbe's Class

Year 6 are reflecting on the **New Covenant in Jesus Christ**, who fulfils all the promises of the Old Testament. They are exploring how this covenant calls us into deeper relationship with God through the Sacraments, especially the Eucharist. Their work connects to **Holy Week and Easter**, when we celebrate the New Covenant in Christ's death and resurrection.

At home: Attend Mass together and talk about how the Eucharist is a sign of God's covenant love. During Holy Week, pray the Stations of the Cross together and reflect on how Jesus shows His faithful love.

Our Faith In Action

September Harvest Festival

For the children of St. Mary's, Harvest is a special time to stop and reflect on the many gifts that God has given us. It reminds us to be thankful for the food we eat, the people who care for us, and the beauty of creation that provides for our needs. Harvest also gives us the chance to think about those who may not have as much as we do, and to share what we can with others. By donating to the local SVP food bank, we are putting our faith into action—showing kindness, generosity, and love to our neighbours in need, just as Jesus taught us. Our Harvest collection will start on Monday 22nd of September and will be celebrated on the 26th of September.



Rosary Month

October is known in the Catholic Church as the month of the Holy Rosary. During this time, we are encouraged to pray the Rosary more often, remembering the special role that Mary, our school saint, plays in bringing us closer to Jesus.

The Rosary helps us to reflect on important moments in Jesus' life, called the Mysteries, and to spend quiet time with God in prayer. For the children and staff at St. Mary's, October is a chance to grow in faith, to ask Mary to pray for us, and to learn the power of prayer in bringing peace, hope, and love to our families, schools, and the world.





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This half term's prayers...

EYFS: Our youngest children will be learning the Sign of The Cross, as well as their morning prayer.

Year 1 and year 2 will be practising The Lord's Prayer and The Hail Mary.

Year 3 and 4 will be learning the Act of Sorrow and Lord make me a messenger

Year 5 and 6 will be learning Come Holy Spirit and The Prayer of Saint Richard of Chichester.

Catholic News

In a moment that drew tens of thousands, the Vatican recently canonised London-born Carlo Acutis, declaring him a saint in the Roman Catholic Church and marking the first time a member of the millennial generation has been so honoured.

Presided over by Pope Leo XIV in St. Peter's Square, the ceremony saw Acutis formally inscribed among the Saints alongside Pier Giorgio Frassati. Roughly 80,000 people attended under clear skies as the new pontiff, in his first saint-making Mass, emphasised Acutis's role as a model for youth in the digital age.

The children of St. Mary's honoured St. Carlo during whole school Celebration of the Word and we reflected on ways in which we can use our own talents, like Carlo used his computer skills, to help others and make the world a better place.





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Catholic Social Teaching

At St. Mary's, we want to make sure that everything we do is guided by Jesus' Gospel values. To help us live out these values, we use the following Catholic Social Teaching Principles: **Dignity, Creation, Community and Participation, Solidarity and Peace, Option for the Poor, and The Dignity of Workers.**

Creation – In our first half term, we will think about how God made the world and how we can look after it. We'll learn about nature, recycling, and the little ways we can care for our planet every day.

Dignity – We will learn that everyone is made in God's image. That means every single person is special and should be treated with love, care, and respect.

Community and Participation – This theme reminds us that we are all part of a community. We all have something important to share, and by working together, listening, and joining in, we can make our school and homes happier places.

Solidarity and Peace – We will learn how to be good friends who stand by each other, especially when times are tough. We'll practise kindness, empathy, and finding peaceful ways to solve problems.

Option for the Poor – This theme helps us to remember people who may not have as much as we do. We will find ways to help and support them, learning that everyone deserves what they need to live with dignity. We link our fund raising back to this principle during Harvest and Lent.

The Dignity of Workers – we will think about the value of work. We will learn about different jobs in our community, say thank you to those who help us, and understand that everyone's work is important.

This Half Term's Focus is Creation



The Catholic Social Teaching principles underpin life at St. Mary's. They help us to make our school the best place it can be. This half term, we will hold the principle of **Creation** at the forefront of our minds as it links with our Religious Education topic of **Creation and Covenant**.

During Assemblies and in our classrooms, we will reflect on the beauty of God's world and ways in which we can look after it.

During this half term, and indeed throughout the school year, there will be plenty of opportunities to put this principle into action

- looking after the many plants around the school and playground
- planting trees and shrubs in our new planters in the Infant playground
- marvelling at tiny life in our Bug Hotel.
- litter picking in the playground.



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Dates for your diary

21st September

International Day of Peace

22nd – 26th September

Harvest Collection

26th September

Harvest Mass

3rd October

Harvest Family Fast Day

4th October

St. Francis of Assisi Feast Day
(Year 1 Class Saint)

10th October

Mental Health Day

15th October

St Teresa of Avila Feast Day
Whole School Mass

17th October

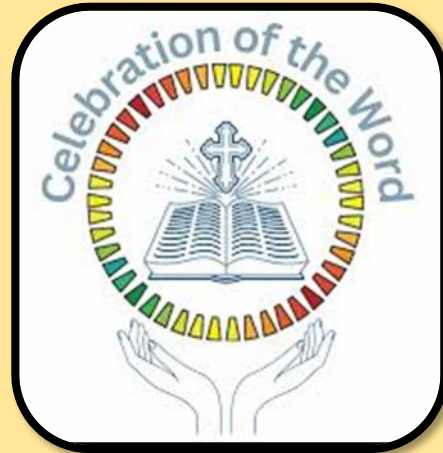
Year 1 Sharing Assembly

20th October

St Therese of Lisieux Feast Day
(Reception Class Saint)

24th October

Year 1 Sharing Assembly and
lunch



Over the last year, St. Mary's have successfully transitioned to the new **Prayer and Liturgy Directory: To Love You More Deeply**. We are now at a stage where the children will begin planning and leading their own collective worship, known as Celebration of the Word. Children across the school from year 1 to year 6 will work together to choose Scripture, hymns, prayers and rituals that we can all share together in classrooms and during assemblies. The sessions follow a pattern of Gather, Listen, Respond and Mission.

Children regularly Gather in class groups and as a whole school to Celebrate the Word. A celebration which focusses on God speaking to us through the scriptures and which creates space and form for our response.

Through scripture, we open ourselves to LISTEN and RESPOND to God. We can respond with prayers, hymns or other expressions such as artwork.

Then we consider our MISSION going forward, we reflect on what we can take from the scripture to help us make the world a better place.

Prayer Leaders will be chosen weekly to lead on these sessions and this leadership opportunity will support each child in their understanding of Catholic Mission.