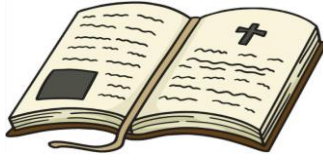




# Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School

## Religious Education Newsletter

### Autumn Term 2026 – Autumn 1



#### CURRICULUM:

### Our RE topic for Autumn 1 is: Branch One – Creation and Covenant



**EYFS:** In EYFS pupils learn they are made and loved by God and enter God's family through baptism. They listen to the first Creation story in Genesis and consider how to care for the world.

**Year 1:** Pupils learn about the Christian belief that all that exists comes from God, the Creator, who Christians call Father, and that this belief is found in Scripture and the prayers of the Catholic Church. The Church teaches that with this belief comes with responsibilities to take care of the world God has gifted to humanity. One of the ways the Church expresses this responsibility is through the Catholic Social Teaching (CST) principles of stewardship, human dignity, and solidarity, which Pope Francis expresses in his encyclical 'Laudato Si' (2015).

**Year 2:** Pupils learn about the story of Noah, focusing on God's promise, or covenant, with Noah and with all creatures, a promise symbolised by the rainbow. Pupils should know that the story of Noah is not a historical account and like other stories at the beginning of the book of Genesis, it speaks to humanity's relationship with God and the hope that flows from God. They will learn that through the Sacrament of each person is 'reborn' into a new life in the Christian family and dressed in a white garment to show that they are putting on a new life of grace and the ways in which the baptismal liturgy is rich in the symbols of the Christian faith.

**Year 3:** Pupils explore the first account of Creation in Genesis as a powerful poetic narrative that reveals Christian beliefs about God as Creator. They reflect on the idea that God brings order and goodness out of nothing through his Word and Spirit introducing them to the Christian understanding of the Trinity. Pupils learn that all of Creation is a gift from God, declared 'good' and blessed, including humanity, made in the image and likeness of God ('imago Dei'). This belief invites reflection on human dignity, equality, and the importance of rest and gratitude. Pope Francis reaffirms these themes in *Laudato Si'*, where he teaches that Creation is not only a gift but also a responsibility. He calls all people to repair broken relationships with God, with others and with the earth, and to live with ecological virtue. Through scripture, psalms and Church teaching, pupils will deepen their understanding of God's goodness and the call to care for the world and each other.

**Year 4:** Pupils learn that Abraham is a central figure in Judaism, Christianity, and Islam, recognised as a model of faith in one God. They will explore how to interpret biblical texts using hermeneutics, considering the historical context ('world behind the text'), the narrative features ('world within the text'), and how the text speaks to people today ('world in front of the text'). Pupils will learn that Abraham responded to God's call through a series of covenants, which Christians believe are ultimately fulfilled in Jesus, while also recognising how these covenants are understood differently in Jewish and Muslim traditions. They will also encounter the story of Joseph to understand why the Israelites were in Egypt before studying Moses. They will learn that Joseph, though betrayed by his brothers, rose to power in Egypt and forgave his family, offering a message of reconciliation that Christians see as prefiguring elements of the gospel.

**Year 5:** Pupils learn about Moses, focusing on two key events: his encounter with God at the burning bush and the giving of the Ten Commandments. They will explore how God reveals his name and presence to Moses, reflecting on the significance of this theophany and how it differs from mythological portrayals of gods. Pupils will consider the Ten Commandments not as restrictions but as a gift to a newly freed people—offering dignity, rest, and the foundation of a just society. They will also explore how Jesus summarised the commandments into love of God, others, and self. Pupils will learn how virtues help people live out this love. They will study the theological virtues of faith, hope, and love, which flow from God's grace, and the cardinal virtues of prudence, justice, fortitude, and temperance, which support human flourishing. These virtues, rooted in Christian tradition but shared across cultures, show how people can live well, build strong relationships, and seek true happiness of the soul.



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**Year 6:** Pupils explore the second Creation account in Genesis and the Prologue of St John's Gospel, learning how both reveal truths about human nature and God's generosity. They study the Genesis account as an aetiological text that explains human experience, focusing on themes of free will, companionship, responsibility and original sin, and reflecting on humanity's relationship with God and one another. Pupils then encounter the Prologue of John, recognising Jesus as the beginning of a new Creation through whom God restores what was lost. They also consider how these themes are reflected in Church teaching, including the Nicene Creed and Pope Francis' Laudato Si', which affirms that faith and science together deepen understanding of Creation.

### PRAYER AND LITURGY (parents/carers welcome)



- Year 6 mass – Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> September, 9:15am, Sacred Heart Church
- Year 5 mass – Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> September, 9:15am, Sacred Heart Church
- Year 4 mass – Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> September, 9:15am, Sacred Heart Church
- **SCHOOL MASS – Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> October, 11:00am, Harvest focus, Sacred Heart Church, all children and parents/carers welcome**
- Year 3 mass – Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> October, 9:15am, Sacred Heart Church
- Year 2 Liturgy – Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> October, 11:00am, Top Hall
- Year 1 Liturgy – Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> October, 11:00am, Top Hall
- Stay and Pray Rosary sessions – Friday 2<sup>nd</sup>, Friday 9<sup>th</sup>, Friday 16<sup>th</sup>, Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October, 8:25-8:45am, SMMA hall, all children, parents and parishioners welcome

### CATHOLIC LIFE AND MISSION

This half term, the children have set their Catholic Social Teaching focuses for the year. They will complete one per term.

EYFS and Year 1: Care for Creation

Year 2: Option for the Poor

Year 3: Community and Participation

Year 4: Solidarity and Peace

Year 5: Dignity

Year 6: Dignity of Workers

**This half term, all children will be studying Care for Creation linked to their RE Curriculum unit, 'Creation and Covenant'.**