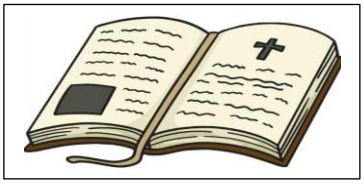
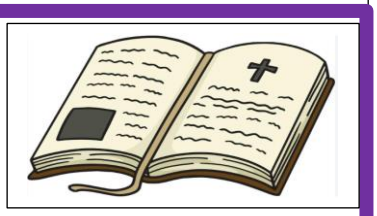
Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School
Religious Education Newsletter
Autumn Term 2026 – Autumn 2



CURRICULUM:
Our RE topic for Autumn 2 is:
Branch Two – Prophecy and Promise



EYFS: In EYFS, pupils learn that Mary was going to have a baby and that he is called Jesus. Reception study original scripture of The Annunciation, The Nativity and The Shepherds visit the Manger all from Luke's Gospel. As part of their ongoing 'Celebrations' work linked with the calendar year, they are also focusing on Diwali in November and Hannukah just before Christmas.

Year 1: 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. In the first branch pupils learn about God's revelation through the Creation and in this branch, they begin to encounter his revelation in Jesus. In this year group, pupils 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 (CCC 333).

Year 2: In this branch, pupils will build on their knowledge of the infancy of Jesus by exploring key events from St Luke's Gospel, including the Annunciation, the Visitation, the birth of John the Baptist and the Nativity. They will recognise how people respond to God's message and how the Holy Spirit is present in these events. Pupils will encounter important prayers from Luke's Gospel, such as the Magnificat and the Benedictus, and begin to understand how these express joy and praise for God's saving action. They will also learn about Advent as a season of preparation for the coming of Christ, exploring its symbols and discovering how Christians in different cultures prepare for Christmas, while reflecting on how the message of Jesus brings hope and joy to the world.

Year 3: In this branch, pupils will explore two key themes: the structure of the Mass and the Nativity in St Matthew's Gospel. They will focus on the Liturgy of the Word, learning how Catholics gather, listen to Scripture and respond in faith, linking this to Creation themes such as gift and rest. They will also study Matthew's account of the Nativity, recognising Jesus as the fulfilment of Jewish prophecy and the long-awaited Messiah. Pupils will reflect on the symbolic meaning of Bethlehem and its link to King David and the Eucharist. This branch helps deepen their understanding of the Mass and how Scripture is lived and celebrated in the Church, while respecting the diverse experiences pupils bring.

Year 4: In this branch, pupils learn about the prophet Elijah, his call for Israel to return to God, his miracles, and his encounter with God in the gentle breeze. They explore how Elijah's life points forward to John the Baptist, who prepares the way for Jesus in the Gospels. Pupils compare accounts of John the Baptist in St Mark and St Matthew, recognising him as the fulfilment of Isaiah's prophecy and a sign that Jesus is the Messiah. They also explore the significance of St Matthew's genealogy, linking Jesus to Abraham and the fulfilment of God's covenant. The branch concludes with a reflection on Christ the King, as pupils consider how Jesus rules not with worldly power, but through love, mercy, and the promise of eternal life.

Year 5: In this branch, pupils learn how Israel's first kings, Saul and David, were chosen, and how David—a humble shepherd from Bethlehem—was called to be a different kind of king. They explore how David's role as a caring, shepherd king points forward to Jesus, the Good Shepherd. Pupils make links between David's anointing and the language used in the Gospels to describe Jesus, especially in Luke and Isaiah. They reflect on Jesus' connection to David through Joseph and the promise of an eternal kingdom. They also explore the O Antiphons of Advent, focusing on titles like Key of David and Emmanuel, and reflect on how these express hope for Christ's coming. Pupils are introduced to the Rosary as a prayer of the Church, especially during October.

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Year 6: In this branch, pupils explore the stories of prominent women in the Old Testament, recognising the historical and cultural context of a patriarchal society. They learn how women such as Miriam, Esther, Sarah and Hannah subverted expectations of their time, showing courage, faith and hope. Pupils make links between these women and Mary, whose 'yes' to God radically changed history and whose prayer of the Magnificat proclaims a vision of justice and transformation. They reflect on the titles given to Mary, including Theotokos ('God bearer'), and consider the mystery of the Incarnation. Pupils compare the Annunciation to Mary in Luke's Gospel with Joseph's in Matthew, and deepen their understanding of Mary as Mother of God and mother of all Christians through baptism.

PRAYER AND LITURGY
(parents/carers welcome)

- All Saints' Mass – Tuesday 3rd November ,10:00am, Sacred Heart Church (Years 3-6)
- All Saints' Liturgy – Tuesday 3rd November, 11:30am, Top Hall (Y1 and 2)
- Year 6 mass – Wednesday 11th November, 9:15am, SMMA hall
- Year 6 Sacrament of Reconciliation – Wednesday 2nd December, 1:30pm, Sacred Heart Church
- Year 5 Sacrament of Reconciliation – Thursday 3rd December, 1:30pm, Sacred Heart Church
- Year 4 Sacrament of Reconciliation – Friday 4th December, 1:30pm, Sacred Heart Church
- Years 5 and 6 carol concert – Thursday 17th December, 10:30am, Sacred Heart Church

CATHOLIC LIFE AND MISSION

This half term, there are many fundraising opportunities going on around school.

- Remember that our Shoebox appeal ends on Friday 13th November.
- Reception and Nursery are donating to the 'Little Village Baby Bank' as part of their Catholic Social Teaching work on 'Option for the Poor'. If you would like to donate any items, the items they accept are listed on their website: https://littlevillagehq.org/donate-stuff-2023/
- Christmas Jumper Day on Thursday 3rd December will be fundraising for Cancer Research, a national charity nominated by the Chaplaincy Team for this academic year. Chaplaincy Team members will also be at the Christmas fair with buckets taking donations.

This half term, all children will be studying 'Option for the Poor' as part of their learning on Catholic Social Teaching.