

RE NEWSLETTER –Autumn 2 2025

RE CURRICULUM TOPIC THIS HALF TERM:



This half term, our topic in Religious Education is **Prophecy and Promise**. Pupils will learn about how God prepared His people for the coming of the Messiah through the messages of the prophets and the promises made in Scripture. They will explore how these prophecies were fulfilled in Jesus Christ and what this means for us as Christians today.

Through scripture, prayer and discussion, pupils will:

- Learn who the prophets were and how they helped people listen to God's voice.
- Explore key Old Testament prophecies that foretold the coming of Jesus, the promised Saviour.
- Reflect on how Jesus fulfilled God's promises through His life, death and resurrection.
- Understand that prophets were called to speak truth, show courage and encourage faithfulness to God.
- Consider how we, too, can be messengers of hope and live out God's promises in our own lives.
- Link their learning to Catholic Social Teaching, reflecting on how God's promises call us to act with hope, justice and compassion in the world.

By the end of the topic, pupils should have a deeper understanding of how God's promises are fulfilled in Jesus, and how faith in those promises can inspire us to live with trust, hope and love each day.

We encourage you to talk to your child about what they are learning—perhaps by reading a favourite Bible story about a prophet, discussing what it means to keep promises, or sharing how your family shows hope and faith in everyday life.

EYFS

In EYFS, children will share different versions of the Annunciation story to explore the idea that God chose Mary because of her Grace and goodness. They will understand that God invited her to be the mother of Jesus and she said 'Yes' to what God asked of her—so much so that she didn't worry – she knew He would look after her.

Children will think about their own special invitation from God – to know and love His son Jesus – beginning with hearing all about the story of His birth.

They will also consider the role of the shepherds in telling others about Jesus and explore the signs and symbols of advent.

Scripture to read at home:

- Luke 2:4–7
- Luke 2:8–20

YEAR ONE

In this unit, children will focus on the importance of Mary. They will build an understanding that, because she was so loving and good, God called Mary to be the mother of his Son, Jesus. God sent the Angel Gabriel to bring this message to Mary and that Mary said 'Yes' to God's call. We know this because the stories about Jesus are in a special book called the Bible.

Children will recognise that the Bible is a very great gift to us all from God and when we read it, we can hear the words of God speaking to us today. It was written by many different people but each of them was filled with God the Holy Spirit when they wrote their part so it is a very special treasure.

They will learn about how Mary is honoured around the world today and about how Christians celebrate Christmas.

Scripture to read at home:

- Luke 1:26–38
- Luke 2:1–20

YEAR TWO

In this unit, Year 2 will learn about that a prophet is someone who communicates God's message. They will recognise Isaiah and John the Baptists as prophets who foretold the birth of Jesus.

Children will read and retell the stories of the Annunciation of Jesus and the Annunciation of John the Baptist and consider the differing responses of Zechariahs and Mary.

They will develop their knowledge of the life and importance of Mary by exploring the Visitation story and recognise that Mary was blessed by God, she is the Mother of God and she prays for us and with us.

Finally, children will revisit the story of Jesus' birth and recognise that this was the fulfilment of the prophecy of Isaiah.

Scripture to read at home:

- Luke 1:26-38

YEAR THREE

In Year 3, children will have the opportunity to deepen their understanding of the objects found in a church and explore the reasons why Catholics go to mass. They will understand that Catholics only pray to God but that they use symbols and statues to remind them about other important people.

They will consider the structure of a mass and explore some of the key parts such as the liturgy of the word and the symbols and actions seen during mass.

As we prepare for Christmas, they will understand that Advent marks the start of the liturgical year as they explore the symbols and actions which help Catholics to live out this special season.

Scripture to read at home:

- Luke 1:26–38

YEAR FOUR, FIVE and SIX

The theme of our study is people transformed by faith. In this unit, children will learn about Old Testament figures.

This unit begins by looking at the prophet Elijah using stories from the book of Kings. Elijah is remembered and significant because he had a clear message; he believed that God was not simply a God of the past, but a God who was present with his people. Because God is with his people, God is concerned and involved in what we do and how we live both as a nation and an individual.

In addition, children will also learn about the teachings of John the Baptist and will consider the celebration of the feast day of Christ the King in showing us how Jesus came to be a new type of leader.

Scripture to read at home:

- 1 Kings 19:4-8; 9-15
- 1 Kings 17:7-14
- Mark 1:1-8
- Matthew 3:1-12
- Luke 3:1-14

IMPORTANT DATES THIS TERM

Sunday 2nd November – All Saints

Monday 3rd November - All Souls

Sunday 9th November - Remembrance Day

Sunday 16th November - World Day of the Poor

Friday 21st November - The Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Sunday 30th November -First Sunday of Advent and St Andrew

Wednesday 3rd December – Migrants' Day

Monday 8th December -The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Thursday 25th December- The Nativity of the Lord

Sunday 28th December -The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

School Dates

Monday 3rd November - Year 6 Class Saint celebration for feast of St Martin de Porres and own clothes day.

Friday 14th November – Year 4 going to Mass at English Martyrs.

Monday 1st November - Advent Liturgies.

Wednesday 3rd December – Year 5 to the Advent Carol Service at Westminster Cathedral.

Friday 5th December – Year 3 going to Mass

Thursday 11th December – Christmas Concerts

Reception : 10am

Year 1 and 2: 11am

Year 3 and 4: 2.15pm

Thursday 18th December: Christmas Concerts

Nursery: 11am

Year 5 and 6: 9.30am

VALUES OF THE MONTH

NOVEMBER



DECEMBER



OUR CLASS SAINTS

Reception – St George

Year 1 – St John Paul II

Year 2- St Teresa of Calcutta (Mother Teresa)

Year 3 – St Josephine Bakhita

Year 4 – St Oscar Romero

Year 5 – St Thérèse of Lisieux

Year 6 – St Martin de Porres

CARITAS IN ACTION

This year we will continue to use the “Rooted in Love” programme created by Caritas Westminster. This is a project to support schools with their journey in Catholic Social Teaching. The programme covers the following topics:

Half Term	CST Theme
Autumn A	Care of Creation
Autumn B	Preferential Option for the Poor
Spring A	Solidarity and Peace
Spring B	Community and Participation
Summer A	Dignity of Workers
Summer B	Human Dignity

Our next topic is “Preferential Option for the Poor”

The Church holds that we should all have a special focus on supporting, walking alongside, and sharing with people who are living in poverty. Pope Francis’s much quoted phrase about wanting ‘a poor church for the poor’ holds the Catholic social teaching principle of the preferential option for the poor at its heart. Although it includes the charitable support of the Church, both the institution and individual members, for those living in poverty locally and globally, it is also wider than this. The option for the poor includes talking with, and listening to, those who are living in poverty. It is not just thinking that we know what people want or need, but listening to people, sharing in their suffering, being the ‘voice for the voiceless’ when it is not being heard, whilst enabling the voice, the experience, the needs of people to be heard by others in our communities, society, and the world.

OPTION FOR THE POOR



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We're called to find Christ in the poor, to lend our voice, to be their friends, to listen

Pope Francis

LOVE IN ACTION

Blessed are you who are poor,
for yours is the kingdom of God.
Blessed are you who are hungry now,
for you will be filled.
Blessed are you who mourn now,
for you will laugh.

Luke 6:20-22

REFLECTION

When we think about our local community, who are the people living in poverty? In our global community, where are the people living in poverty? How do we treat them?

ACTION

How do we truly listen to people living in poverty? How do we learn from them? What can we do to support people living in poverty?

PRAYER

Heavenly Father

Help us to see with your eyes, to judge with the loving heart of your Son, Jesus Christ, and through your Spirit to put love into action.

Amen

We are called to find Christ in [people living in poverty], to lend our voice to their causes, but also to be their friends, to listen to them, to speak for them and to embrace the mysterious wisdom which God wishes to share with us through them.

Pope Francis, Joy of the Gospel, 198

PRAYER CYCLE

During Advent and Christmastide we are asked to pray for these intentions

Migrants and Refugees, Expectant Mothers.

NOVEMBER

During November, we especially remember those who have died so if your family would like someone special remembered and prayed for during this time, please encourage your child to write their name in our book of remembrance.

CREATIVE CHALLENGE

This term's creative challenge is to Make your own Advent Wreaths or Nativity scenes.



If you have any questions about this challenge, then please email sterry@clitherow.brent.sch.uk

THE CAFOD “LiveSimply” AWARD

This year, our school is working towards the **CAFOD LiveSimply Award**, a national award for Catholic schools that demonstrate they are living simply, sustainably and in solidarity with people in need.

The award is based around three themes:

- **Live Simply** – finding joy in simple living and avoiding waste.
- **Live Sustainably with Creation** – caring for our world through eco-friendly choices.
- **Live in Solidarity with the Poor** – taking action to support those most in need locally and globally.

What We Will Be Doing This Year

To achieve the award, we will take on a series of practical projects across the school community. These will include:

- **Environmental actions** such as recycling, reducing single-use plastics, saving energy, and planting to care for creation.
- **Charitable actions** such as fundraising for CAFOD and local charities, foodbank collections, and supporting parish outreach.
- **Living simply together** by encouraging children to make small lifestyle changes, share resources, and reflect on how faith calls us to care for others and our world.

Throughout the year, pupils will learn about Catholic Social Teaching and put their learning into action through class projects, whole-school events, and family challenges.

By the end of the year, we hope to achieve the **CAFOD LiveSimply Award** as a whole school community, showing that together we can live out our faith in meaningful and practical ways.



