



# Her Majesty The Queen

It was with such profound sadness that we learned yesterday of the Queen's death. Today, to mark this occasion to reflect and pray for the royal family, we held an assembly first thing this morning in both schools. We came together to remind ourselves about the importance of the Queen for our country and to tell children we now have a new Head of State, King Charles III.

The children were amazing in both schools. Whilst watching a film and listening respectfully about the Queen, the children demonstrated very mature behaviours, attitudes and respect. The whole school shared a prayer for the royal family and the new King, observed a one minutes silence then reverently and silently returned back to their classes to begin their lessons.

We were all very proud of the children and how they coped with this sombre occasion and have encouraged them to watch the address by the new King later today. Thank you to all the children and staff for ensuring this historic occasion was observed in such an incredible way.

Despite this untimely and sad news, I would like to offer you all a very warm welcome back after the summer break. I hope you were able to have a good rest and relaxation period with your family and friends and your batteries are now re-charged for this new academic year.

We especially welcome all our new families and the new starters in Nursery and Reception as well as the Year 3s who have started so well in 'big' school at the juniors. I have been so proud and impressed by all the children this week. They look fabulous in their new uniforms and shiny, clean shoes, they have settled back into the school routines really well and, as mentioned above, have demonstrated excellent behaviours and attitudes.

A warm welcome back to all our staff. During the summer Mrs Lancashire got married and is now Mrs Robb and Mr Furlong got engaged, so congratulations to them both. Many staff came in during the summer holidays to plan and prepare their classrooms for the children, which is hugely appreciated. When the children arrived on Monday the classrooms were ready and waiting for the children!

The staff participated in 2 days of training before the children came back. We looked at improving the curriculum, leadership, monitoring and safeguarding. As we have emphasised previously, the safety and welfare of all the children is our number 1 priority and is of paramount importance.

Finally, a reminder that we know that parents/carers are the most influential people in their children's lives and on their learning. This year we are going to engage with all our parents/carers far more in order to improve how we communicate what we are doing in both schools as well as working in partnership with you. We will be doing this in order for your children to thrive and achieve more as well as making The Federation of St Mary's Catholic Schools the best place for your children to learn. Have a great weekend. God Bless.



# RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

## AUTUMN TERM 2022

### COME AND SEE AT HOME

Dear Parent(s)/Carer(s),

This term we will be studying the three themes of Domestic Church (Family), Baptism and Confirmation (Belonging) and Advent and Christmas (Loving). Each class will approach the themes through different topics. The children will also spend a week studying another faith.

#### DOMESTIC CHURCH - FAMILY

*(WB 5<sup>th</sup> September – WB 26<sup>th</sup> September)*

Early Years	MYSELF - God knows and loves each one
Year 1	FAMILIES - God's love and care for every family
Year 2	BEGINNINGS - God is present in every beginning
Year 3	HOMES - God's vision for every family

#### SUGGESTIONS FOR HOME ACTIVITIES

Make a collage using family photographs of all the significant family members—grandparents, parents, children, aunts, uncles etc. who show God's love.

Write underneath it

#### BAPTISM AND CONFIRMATION - BELONGING

*(WB 3<sup>rd</sup> October – WB 31<sup>st</sup> October)*

Early Years	WELCOME - Baptism: a welcome to God's family
Year 1	BELONGING - Baptism: an invitation to belong to God's family
Year 2	SIGNS AND SYMBOLS - Signs and symbols in Baptism
Year 3	PROMISES - Promises made at Baptism

#### SUGGESTIONS FOR HOME ACTIVITIES

Talk to someone who has been to a Baptism and/or Confirmation about their memories of this celebration.

#### MULTI FAITH WEEK *(WB 7<sup>th</sup> November)*

Pupils will study various aspects of either Islam, Sikhism or Hinduism for one week. Ask them what they have

#### ADVENT/CHRISTMAS - LOVING

*(WB 14<sup>th</sup> November – WB 5<sup>th</sup> December)*

Early Years	BIRTHDAY - Looking forward to Jesus' birthday
Year 1	WAITING - Advent: a time to look forward to Christmas
Year 2	PREPARATIONS - Advent: preparing to celebrate Christmas
Year 3	VISITORS - waiting for the coming of Jesus

#### SUGGESTIONS FOR HOME ACTIVITIES

Discuss with the children how your family welcomes visitors to your home.

Find out about some Christian symbols for Advent e.g. Advent wreath, calendar, Jesse tree.

The first session of the With You Always programme will begin on Tuesday 27th September at 3.45 in St Mary and St John's church.

If anyone did not attend the initial meeting in school but would like their child to begin their sacramental journey, please go to church on this day and Mrs Bryant will enrol you.



Y3 and Y4 will be celebrating Mass in the school hall on Thursday 15th May.

Mass will be at 9.30 and families are invited to attend.

### Meet the Teacher

There is an opportunity for all families to meet their child's class teacher this week:

Tuesday 13th September—Infants

Wednesday 14th September—Juniors

Classroom doors will be open until 4.00pm



ST MARY'S PTFA

# WELCOME BBQ

Friday 16th September 2022  
5.30pm for 6pm bbq  
Junior School Field

Enjoy food & drink from the PTFA or bring a picnic.

## Sharing the Gospel

### Navigating decisions

In this week's gospel, Luke 14:25-33, we hear that while travelling with a large crowd, Jesus tells them that following him involves difficult choices. He speaks of conflict, renouncing family ties and economic security, and of 'carrying the cross'. He gives two brief illustrations (parables) that caution against making a hasty decision.

It's easy to allow our faith to be an added extra to our busy lives. This week's readings challenge us to explore whether we are willing to accept the consequences of following Jesus, even to the cross. By what standards do we live? What truly influences us? And is God's way evident in our whole life?



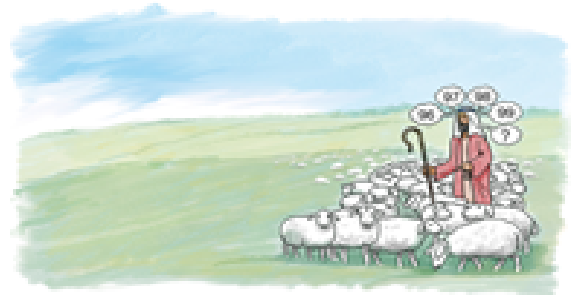
### Prayer

We thank you, God, for those who have guided us in our decision making.

We thank you that in prayer we can share our decisions with you.

In Jesus' name,

**Amen**



## BRITISH VALUES

This week's British Value we have been looking at is:

### Mutual Respect & Tolerance

Every single person in our world is different. We can learn about and celebrate our differences, which can help us to respect and value one another.

The story it links to in the news is:

*Strictly Come Dancing* star, Rose Ayling-Ellis, has teamed up with Barbie to unveil their first doll with behind-the-ear hearing aids. The *EastEnders* actress, who won the dance competition in 2021, features Mattel's (the toy company) 'Rose, Barbie and Friends' campaign. She is photographed alongside a cast of diverse models reflecting the new line of dolls, which includes the first Ken doll with vitiligo, a Barbie doll with a prosthetic limb and another with a wheelchair.



### Sunday Mass Times

9.30 - St Mary's and St John's

10.30 - St Patrick's (including children's liturgy)

4.30 - St Mary's and St John's

Could we please ask all parents to be respectful of our lovely residents and be cautious of how and where you are parking at drop off and pick up.

# **IMPORTANT DATES THIS TERM**

## **WITH YOU ALWAYS**

(27th September)

Pupils who are starting their sacramental program are to go to church on Tuesday 27th September straight from school.

## **ALL SAINTS**

(1 November)

We celebrate the lives of special and ordinary people who have responded to God's invitation to love.

## **THE COMMEMORATION OF ALL THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED (ALL SOULS)**

(2 November)

Today and throughout the rest of November we pray for those who have died. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them.

May they rest in peace. Amen.

## **OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, UNIVERSAL KING**

(20 November)

## **ADVENT**

(Begins 27 November)

Advent means 'coming'. We think of the coming of Jesus when he was born but we also think of his promise that he would come again at the end of time. It is a time of waiting and preparing. It is only in the last week of Advent that we focus upon the events to be celebrated at Christmas.

## **THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY**

(8 December)

This feast marks the first stage of the existence of Mary, the mother of Jesus.

She was 'full of grace' from the very beginning and co-operated with God throughout her life.

## **CHRISTMAS DAY, THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD**