

# RE NEWSLETTER FOR PARENTS

## God Matters

This term your child(ren) will be studying Advent in Religious Education:

### St Mary's Class

The children will be introduced to the idea of special days and seasons in the churches' year i.e. Sunday and the season of Advent. They will look at why Sunday is a special day and the four special Sunday's during Advent. They will develop an understanding that Advent is a time of preparation and when we prepare for the birth of Jesus. They will look at how they can prepare in terms of prayer and actions. They will also focus on making the sign of the cross.

#### Help at home

Make a family advent wreath and follow the weeks through saying a prayer at the start of each new week. Discuss the use of the colour purple as a sign in the church of getting ready and make links with the colour vestments the priest wears. Practise making the sign of the cross.



### St Joseph's Class

Children will continue to develop further the meaning and significance of Advent. They will focus on looking at the preparation for the Birth of Jesus through the eyes of Mary and Joseph. They will explore the qualities they showed when asked to answer Gods call to be parents to his son. They will focus specifically upon the 3rd Sunday of Advent known as 'rejoice Sunday'

#### Help at home

Have an advent wreath and focus upon the symbols of the wreath i.e. the shape of a circle signifying Gods love has no beginning and no end, the purple candles linked with the colour used in Advent and the vestments and specifically focus on the pink candle on the 3rd week. Discuss how Mary and Joseph felt at being told they were going to be parents- link it to how you felt when you were told



### St Peter's Class

This unit introduces the children to the Old Testament and prophets and the role they played in delivering a message from God. It also looks at the role angel's play. It explores the meaning of Emmanuel. It introduces them to John the Baptist and his father Zachariah. It also develops the idea of a parish as a community and the role the school plays in the parish.

#### Help at home

Show them a Bible and the two different sections in the Bible - the Old and the New and discuss what they think the difference is. Read a couple of well known stories from the Old Testament. Discuss things that happen in the parish during Advent i.e. any charity events and how school and parish come together, i.e. choirs, fetes, First Holy Communion.



### St Patrick's Class

Children will develop an understanding of Mary's response to the call to be Jesus' mother through the Scripture of the Annunciation. Children will make links to our calling to follow Christ through our actions, They will study the parable of the goats and the sheep and make links to their own life. They may also look at a Jesse Tree which shows the ancestry of Jesus.

#### Help at home

Research a Jesse Tree and some of the characters named on it, Discuss the way they act and is it in a Christian/catholic way.



### St Teresa's Class

This unit is designed to deepen the children's understanding of what God promised when he promised to send his son, They will explore the fact that Jesus was born into the house of David and his ancestors. They will look at the different titles given to Jesus including the Messiah and make links with how we celebrate and prepare for Advent

#### Help at home

Explore your own family tree and try plotting out so that they can understand a Jesse Tree. Research who Jesse was, Look at the symbols on a Jesse Tree



### St David's Class

This unit brings together all that the children have learnt and focused on over the previous years. It provides for a deeper opportunity to explore the response demanded of Christ's followers and his teachings through the parables specifically the parable of the Bridesmaids and the waiting servant. It also explores Advent as preparing for the second coming of Christ

#### Help at home

Revisit the advent wreath and its meaning as well as the meaning of Advent and how as a people we celebrate and prepare during this season.

Discuss why Jesus told parables and the impact they have on us. Ask which parables your child likes and why and



### Events and School Celebrations

**Weekly Mass:** All classes attend Mass in the convent chapel (please check church newsletter for timings)

**Advent retreat:** Friday 1st December 1:30

**Carol Concert:** 13th December 6:00pm St Dominic's Dursley

**Christmas Eve Mass:** Sunday 24th December St Dominic's, Dursley