

# St. Anthony's Religious Education Newsletter

Autumn



2023

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome back to the new school year, autumn term 2023.

We hope you had a relaxing summer and are ready for the new school year ahead.

We hope you enjoy our Religious Education Newsletter.

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# Prayer Life



## Bishop Paul Returns to St. Anthony's

**We are delighted to tell you that Bishop Paul McAleenan is returning to St. Anthony's School on 20th September to celebrate Mass and to bless our school chapel. Bishop Paul was our school chaplain from 2001 to 2015 and he is very much a part of St. Anthony's school family. It is hugely fitting as we head towards the school's 50th anniversary that Bishop Paul will be leading us in our first School Mass of the academic year.**

**We are currently finalising details for this event.**

**The dates and times of the following masses and liturgies need to be confirmed but these are our plans for the autumn term.**

**September 20th**

Mass celebrated by Bishop Paul to mark the blessing and official opening of the School Chapel.



Details to follow

**September / October**

**Year 6 Padua / Lisbon  
Masses for their  
Leadership Retreats**



At Holy Rood Church

**October**

**Mass for Years 1 and 2**



In the School Hall

**November**

**Mass for Years 3 and 4  
In the School Hall**



Families Welcome

**November**

**Mass for St. Anthony's  
Mini Vinnies Group  
Holy Rood Church**



Families Welcome

**December**

**Mass for Year 5  
Holy Rood Church**



Families Welcome

# Feast Days

September	October	November	December
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• St Gregory (3rd)</li> <li>• St Teresa of Calcutta (5th)</li> <li>• Nativity of the Virgin Mary (8th)</li> <li>• Holy Name of Mary (12th)</li> <li>• St John Chrysostom (13th)</li> <li>• Exaltation of the Cross (14th)</li> <li>• Our Lady of Sorrows (15th)</li> <li>• Korean Martyrs (20th)</li> <li>• St Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist (21st)</li> <li>• Our Lady of Walsingham (24th)</li> <li>• St Vincent de Paul (27th)</li> <li>• St Jerome (30th)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• St Thérèse of Lisieux (1st)</li> <li>• Guardian Angels (2nd)</li> <li>• St Francis of Assisi (4th)</li> <li>• Our Lady of the Rosary (7th)</li> <li>• St John Henry Newman (9th)</li> <li>• St John XXIII (11th)</li> <li>• St Edward the Confessor (13th)</li> <li>• St Theresa of Avila (15th)</li> <li>• St Luke, Evangelist (18th)</li> <li>• St John Paul II (22nd)</li> <li>• Sts Simon and Jude (28th)</li> <li>• Blessed Martyrs of Douai College (29th)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All Saints (1st)</li> <li>• All Souls (2nd)</li> <li>• St Martin de Pores (3rd)</li> <li>• St Charles Borromeo (4th)</li> <li>• Lateran Basilica (9th)</li> <li>• St Martin of Tours (11th)</li> <li>• St Frances Xavier Cabrini (13th)</li> <li>• St Albert the Great (15th)</li> <li>• St Margaret of Scotland (16th)</li> <li>• Presentation of Mary (21st)</li> <li>• St Cecilia (22nd)</li> <li>• St. Andrew (30th)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• St Francis Xavier (3rd)</li> <li>• St Nicholas (6th)</li> <li>• St Ambrose (7th)</li> <li>• Immaculate Conception (8th)</li> <li>• Our Lady of Guadalupe (12th)</li> <li>• St Lucy (13th)</li> <li>• St John of the Cross (14th)</li> <li>• Christmas day (25th)</li> <li>• St Stephen (26th)</li> <li>• St John the Apostle (27th)</li> <li>• Holy Innocents (28th)</li> </ul>
<b>Liturgical Colour</b>	<b>Liturgical Colour</b>	<b>Liturgical Colour</b>	<b>Liturgical Colour</b>
Green for Ordinary Time	Green for Ordinary Time White for Our Lady of the Rosary	Green for Ordinary Time Purple for All Souls and Season of Advent	Purple for Advent

## Chaplaincy Teams

In September we will be recruiting new members for the St. Anthony's Chaplaincy Team. Our chaplaincy team aims to play a leading role in the Catholic Life of our school by supporting community projects, leading assemblies, Acts of Worship in classes and our weekly prayer groups in the Chapel. We will let you know who has been selected for this important position in the next few weeks.

### Daily Act of Worship

A reminder that daily Acts of Worship take place each day either in classes or within a larger group. For example, Key Stage, House, or Year groups.

To start the year, we thought it would be appropriate to remind you all about the four parts of our Acts of Worship as were mentioned in the summer's newsletter.

#### We GATHER

The children gather together ready for prayer. They may gather listening to or singing a piece of music.

They might place a meaningful item onto the focal point of the Act of Worship like a prayer table.

They may sit quietly focusing on their breathing, being still and / or thinking about how their day is going.

#### We Listen

We listen to a piece of scripture from the Bible. This can either be a reading that relates to something that is happening at school or one that links to the liturgical year.

#### We Respond

Our response can be in silence or in words.

We think about what the scripture reading is saying to us. We might tell others what we think or feel. We might think about the words of scripture and reflect on how it relates to us.

#### Our Mission

A mission is a task that we carry out in response to what we have heard and reflected on in our Act of Worship.

The task might be an action like doing a kind act, saying the right thing or thinking well of others.

Our mission is always carried out by using Jesus as the example.

# Prayers at St. Anthony's

*Pope Francis says: Prayer opens the door to the Holy Spirit*

*As well as daily Act of Collective Worship, classes pause at three specific times in the day for prayer.*

*The children pray at the beginning of the day after Registration, at lunchtime and at the end of the day.*

*These important times of our day are a way of pausing and reflecting on God's work in our lives in peace and stillness.*

*At the beginning and end of the day, the children will have the chance to say together, traditional prayers or prayers that they have written themselves.*

*However at lunchtime, our prayers will relate to a specific intention. Just before noon, a bell is rung to signal the end*

## Monthly Prayer Intentions for the Autumn Term

September:	Pope Francis has asked for prayers for the Care of Creation and for people who are lost and lonely.
October:	One of two months in our year with prayers dedicated to Our Lady.
November:	In the month of All Souls and Remembrance Sunday, we pray for those who have died.
December:	In this season of Advent, December is one of two months in our year when we focus on reconciliation as we offer prayers that help us to think about our friendships and how we relate to each other.



# Religious Education Curriculum for the Autumn Term

The first table below outlines the topics the children will be covering throughout the autumn term.

Each topic in the first table runs for 4 weeks.

The second table below is the outline plan for our study into Judaism which will take place for one week in November.

Domestic Church Family: Monday 4th September to Friday 29th September

Baptism/ Confirmation: Monday 2nd October to Friday 3rd November

Judaism, as part of our study into another faith tradition: Monday 6th November to Friday 10th November

Advent / Christmas: Monday 13th November to Friday 15th December.

Please note that our Early Years RE Curriculum will be changing. This year we shall be implementing the new RE Curriculum Directory . We will be giving you further details of this in the next few weeks.

THEMES & TOPICS	EARLY YEARS 1 & 2	YEAR 1 & FS 1	YEAR 2 & FS 2	YEAR 3	YEAR 4	YEAR 5	YEAR 6
Domestic church family	<b>Myself</b> God knows and loves each one	<b>Families</b> God's love and care for every family	<b>Beginnings</b> God at every beginning	<b>Homes</b> God's dream for every family	<b>People</b> The family of God in Scripture	<b>Ourselves</b> Created in the image & likeness of God	<b>Loving</b> God who never stops loving
Baptism/ confirmation belonging	<b>Welcome</b> Baptism; a welcome to God's family	<b>Belonging</b> Baptism an invitation to belong to God's family	<b>Signs &amp; symbols</b> Signs & symbols in Baptism	<b>Promises</b> Promises made at Baptism	<b>Called</b> Confirmation: a call to witness	<b>Life choices</b> Marriage commitment and service	<b>Vocation &amp; commitment</b> The vocation of priesthood and religious life
Advent/ Christmas loving	<b>Birthday</b> Looking forward to Jesus' birthday	<b>Waiting</b> Advent a time to look forward to Christmas	<b>Preparations</b> Advent; preparing to celebrate Christmas	<b>Visitors</b> Advent: waiting for the coming of Jesus	<b>Gift</b> God's gift of love & friendship in Jesus	<b>Hope</b> Advent; waiting in joyful hope for Jesus; the promised one	<b>Expectations</b> Jesus born to show God to the world

AGE GROUP	THEME	TOPIC	LOOK	LEARNING OUTCOMES DISCOVER	RESPECT
Early years N/R	Special days/ ritual objects	Hanukkah (Chanukah) The feast of lights	There are special days	Hanukkah. The story of the oil lamp in the Temple	God cares for his people
Year 1 FS 1	Stories	Abraham and Moses	We all have stories	Abraham and Moses, leaders of the Jewish people	How God led the Jewish people
Year 2 FS 2	Prayer/home	Shabbat	Families gather	Shabbat	Shabbat the day for God, the day of rest
Year 3	Places for worship	The synagogue	There are special places	The synagogue	The importance of the synagogue
Year 4	Holy Books	The Torah	Books are important	The Torah	The importance of the Torah
Year 5	Beliefs and festivals	Pesach	There are times for remembering	Pesach	God cares for his people
Year 6	Belonging and values	Yom Kippur	Making a new start	Yom Kippur	The value of atonement

# Catholic Life



Education Sunday  
10th September

*We celebrate Education Sunday at  
St. Anthony's School*

*We hope our  
Religious Education  
Newsletter will inform  
you about the Catholic  
Life of our school.*

*Education Sunday is a  
chance for us to  
celebrate the life of  
our school which will be  
50 years old next June.*



Dear Lord,

Thank you for the gift of Catholic schools.

Thank you for all those who have given their talents to educating our young people. Through the challenges they encounter each day, lead them to an ever deeper appreciation of the sacred duty to which you have called them.

Thank you for all those who contribute to the efficient running of our schools: support staff, kitchen staff, maintenance staff, governors and chaplains. We thank them for their hard work and dedication.

Thank you for all those who lead our Catholic schools. May they be people of integrity so that they can be witnesses as well as teachers. We pray that the schools they lead will become places where our young people can experience your love in their lives.

Thank you for our pupils. May your love strengthen and nurture them through the influence and example of those who care for them. We pray that through their time at school they will flourish and grow to discover who you have called them to be.

We make this prayer through your Son, Jesus Christ, our teacher and our Lord,  
Amen.

# Mini Vinnies



Our Mini Vinnies are back this year! Early in September, we will be meeting members of the Holy Rood Parish SVP group to discuss parish and community projects we can get involved in.

In their first year, the Mini Vinnies got involved in the following projects:

Designing Christmas cards for those living in shelters or care homes.

Attending Mass and lunch with the parish Ascent Group at Holy Rood Church where the children spoke about school life and sang the Mini Vinnie song.

Attended a talk given by local parishioner, Brian O' Riordan about the history of Holy Rood Church.

Took a lead role in the school's Crowning of Mary by leading the procession in front of the whole school and visitors.

Designed a display for Holy Rood Church to highlight the work of the local foodbank and St. Anthony's links to it.

In September we shall be inviting more children to consider becoming a Mini Vinnie as we look to take on at least one major project each term to help those within their school and parish community.

We hope that I will lead many of our children to play some kind of life-long role as a Vincentian.



# Rooted In Love

Rooted in Love is the result of a collaboration between Westminster Diocese and Caritas to help support the delivery of Catholic Social Teaching at St. Anthony's.

We started this initiative in the last summer term when we invited the children to carry out work on human dignity.

We shall be devoting all our display boards in the School Hall to each topic so when you visit the school please ensure that you have a look at the important work the children are doing.

Please see details below of the two topics we shall be covering this autumn.

## Care of Creation

*In his Encyclical, Laudato Si, Pope Francis says, 'Creation is a gift, it is a wonderful gift that God has given us, so that we care for it and we use it for the benefit of all. Living our vocation to be protectors of God's handiwork is essential to a life of virtue; it is not an optional or a secondary aspect of our Christian experience.'*

*This half term's work will look at how Christians have a duty to care for and protect God's world because Creation is His wonderful gift.*

## 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'. 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.*

*Next half term, our work will explore ways we can be a voice for those in need through practical tasks that we hope will make a real difference to people in our parish and community.*