

St. Anthony's Religious Education Newsletter

Autumn Updated

2023



Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to our updated autumn edition of the RE Newsletter.

In this newsletter you will find information about what we did in the first half of the autumn term and what we are looking forward to in the second half.

We hope you enjoy our Religious Education Newsletter updated version.

Prayer Life

Feast Days

Notable Days

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in the second half of the
autumn term

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Our Campaign for Christmas
by the Mini Vinnies

Rooted in Love:

Care of Creation

Preferential Option

for the Poor



Prayer Life



Our newly located chapel is blessed

On September 20th, Bishop Paul returned to St. Anthony's to celebrate Mass and bless our newly located chapel. It was a very special occasion which was attended by our Year 5 and 6 children, representatives from our other year groups as well as members of staff and governors both past and present. We were also delighted to welcome both past and current parents. Anton Cataldo, was also there to see Bishop Paul bless his specially designed crucifix which now hangs behind the altar. This was Fr. Tim's first mass with St. Anthony's. We consider ourselves very fortunate to be able to work with Fr. Tim and of course Fr. Alex who we continue to remember in our prayers.

Please find below details of masses and liturgies for the half term ahead.

Wednesday 15th November

**Middy Mass for our
Years 5 and 6 Mini Vinnies**



At Holy Rood Church

Families Welcome

Friday 17th November

Year 3 and 4 Mass



In the School Hall

Families Welcome

Wednesday 29th November

Year 5 Mass



At Holy Rood Church

Families Welcome



Blessing of the Early Years' Cribs

Friday 1st December 1.30pm

Friday 8th December

**School Choir will sing carols
and do readings for Advent
for the senior citizens of the
parish**



A Holy Rood Church

Families Welcome

**Advent Reconciliation
Services**



In the School Hall

Date to be Confirmed

Outdoor Carols

**To be sung by the
children**



**Date and time will be
confirmed**

Feast Days

September

- St Gregory (3rd)
- St Teresa of Calcutta (5th)
- Nativity of the Virgin Mary (8th)
- Holy Name of Mary (12th)
- St John Chrysostom (13th)
- Exaltation of the Cross (14th)
- Our Lady of Sorrows (15th)
- Korean Martyrs (20th)
- St Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist (21st)
- Our Lady of Walsingham (24th)
- St Vincent de Paul (27th)
- St Jerome (30th)

Liturgical Colour

Green for Ordinary Time

October

- St Thérèse of Lisieux (1st)
- Guardian Angels (2nd)
- St Francis of Assisi (4th)
- Our Lady of the Rosary (7th)
- St John Henry Newman (9th)
- St John XXIII (11th)
- St Edward the Confessor (13th)
- St Theresa of Avila (15th)
- St Luke, Evangelist (18th)
- St John Paul II (22nd)
- Ss Simon and Jude (28th)
- Blessed Martyrs of Douai College (29th)

Liturgical Colour

Green for Ordinary Time

White for Our Lady of the Rosary

November

- All Saints (1st)
- All Souls (2nd)
- St Martin de Pores (3rd)
- St Charles Borromeo (4th)
- Lateran Basilica (9th)
- St Martin of Tours (11th)
- St Frances Xavier Cabrini (13th)
- St Albert the Great (15th)
- St Margaret of Scotland (16th)
- Presentation of Mary (21st)
- St Cecilia (22nd)
- St. Andrew (30th)

Liturgical Colour

Green for Ordinary Time

Purple for All Souls and Season of Advent

December

- St Francis Xavier (3rd)
- St Nicholas (6th)
- St Ambrose (7th)
- Immaculate Conception (8th)
- Our Lady of Guadalupe (12th)
- St Lucy (13th)
- St John of the Cross (14th)
- Christmas day (25th)
- St Stephen (26th)
- St John the Apostle (27th)
- Holy Innocents (28th)

Liturgical Colour

Purple for Advent

Chaplaincy Teams

In September we recruited the first group for our Chaplaincy Team. Two members each from our Key Stage 2 classes are represented and play a key role in the Prayer life of St. Anthony's. In the first half of the autumn term, they played a role in our school masses- first on September 20th with Bishop Paul and second, on October 20th in our Mass for Years 1 and 2. They are currently leading Collective Worship once a week in different classes around the school.

Our Chaplaincy Team meets once a week to discuss different projects.

New members of the Chaplaincy Team will be recruited in the spring term as is hoped our current members will inspire others to play a role.

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 of lessons and a moment for the whole school to pray for the intention of that month.

Monthly Prayer Intentions for the Autumn Term

November: In the month of All Souls and Remembrance Sunday, we pray for those who have died and for those in areas at war around the world.

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.



The Chaplaincy Team made a Chapel Suggestion Box which sits on the small table in the Chapel. Two recent suggestions were for an Advent calendar to be made with prayers and good deeds for each day up to the Christmas break.

The other suggestion was for there to be a learning corner in the Chapel with new books about the saints and holy people from the Bible.

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 is currently taking place this week beginning November 6th.

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 has changed. We are in the process of implementing the new RE Curriculum Directory .

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

AGE GROUP	THEME	TOPIC	LEARNING OUTCOMES		
			LOOK	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



Year 6 Retreats

October 2023

Our Year 6 Classes visited Holy Rood Church on two Wednesdays in October

The purpose of our retreats was to prepare the children for leadership as oldest members of the school.

We looked at leadership through the themes of:

Community and Participation,
Human Dignity,
Solidarity and Peace,
Prayer and Sanctuary

The Gospels are central to our idea of Leadership.

Jesus says: "If anyone wants to be first, he must make himself last of all and servant of all".



Pope Francis says: "Service is the only way to good leadership. Service means closeness to others, humility and sacrifice".

Our retreat day included a tour of the church, work in the Parish Centre, Midday Mass and some time of prayer and reflection when we considered the importance of sanctuary in our lives.

Mini Vinnies



Our RE Club meets every Thursday at 12.30. The RE Club is made up of our Mini Vinnies and the Chaplaincy Team. There are over 50 members of our RE Club!

On September 29th, our Mini Vinnies led Teaching Assistant Day. They presented our TAs with handmade flowers, cards as well as biscuits and cakes to say thank you for all their hard work and dedication to St. Anthony's.

Our Mini Vinnie choir will be preparing for Carols and Readings at Holy Rood Church with our parish's senior citizens. The children carry out some readings and sing carols before having lunch with some of the parishioners.

We had an alternative to Halloween when we celebrated ways we can be lights for others. We created posters around lighthouse templates and wrote prayers for our families, friends and for those in need of our support around the world.

Our Mini Vinnies continue to appeal for any Lego you may no longer need to help benefit the children at school. Thanks you if you have been able to make a donation.

Mini Vinnies



Our Christmas Campaign

Dear Families,

This year, our Mini Vinnie group has teamed up with South West Herts Partnership, Family Support Service to support children and families who might be having difficulties with the rising cost of living.

We have been discussing in our weekly meetings that Christmas can be a very difficult time for many people especially those who might need the support of the South West Herts Partnership.

For this reason, our Mini Vinnie group, wants to do something to help.

We are asking our families for a donation to help those in need this Christmas.

We have separated donations into different categories and allocated a category to different parts of the school.

Please could we ask that all items are new.

If you would like to be involved, could children from the following Key Stages or Year Groups please bring the following:

EYFS	Clothes- For example, hats, gloves, socks, jumpers...
KEY STAGE 1	Toiletries- For example, soaps, shower gels, bath products...
YEAR 3	Sweets or chocolate- For example, Roses, Celebrations, Haribos...
YEAR 4	Stationery- For example, Notebooks, pens, pencils, pencil cases...
YEAR 5	Toys and Games- For example, board games, cards, soft toys...
YEAR 6	Christmas decorations- For example, Christmas candles, baubles, crib scenes...

Guidance from South West Herts Partnership is as follows:

All gifts are new and unopened.

All gifts remain unwrapped so that they can be wrapped by the SWHP team.

All gifts are donated by the 6th December 2023 at the latest.

If you would like to get involved, please send your gift in with your child to give to your child's teacher. A member of the Mini Vinnie team will go to each class every day to collect any donations.

We hope we can make a difference and thank you.

The children and staff of the Mini Vinnies.

Rooted In Love

Our Rooted in Love work continued in the first half of the autumn term with Care of Creation. In the second half, we are studying the Preferential Option for the Poor. Please see below comments from the children about what they have been studying.

Care of Creation

What the children said...

Year 6 thought about Care of Creation through the study of community, dignity and stewardship. For example, Henry talked about respecting dignity as understanding a person's "back story". We can only recognise the dignity in others by understanding their story. A steward is a person who looks after people at big events like a football match. A steward shows people the right way to go and looks after them. Everyone is part of a community, no matter how big or small that community is. The whole world is a community and as stewards, we are invited to set the right example. We can do this in many simple ways: throwing our litter in the bin; planting seeds as Year 5 did last summer for the wild gardens; switching lights off when they are not needed; understanding how and where our clothes are made.

The children in Year 5 made posters based on the encyclical Laudato Si in which Pope Francis talks about people "rising above" themselves and making a new start. The children understood this to mean that it is never too late to make a positive difference in the world especially when it comes to caring for the Earth.

In Year 1 Filip said, "We should stop polluting and take care of the world. We should do this so plants can give oxygen that is why God wants us to take care of His lovely creation".

In Year 2, Annah said, "You need to take care of the plants and animals. Everyone needs to take care of the world. We can care for the world by not putting plastic in the sea".

In Year 3 Hayden said, "Creation is the world we share and is a place to worship God. It is a place here we should do no harm and there is peace all around".

In Year 4 Samanyu said, "When we are trying to care for creation we should protect it as God made it and because we live in God's Creation, we must protect it as it is our responsibility".

In Reception Nel said, "From Creation, we learnt how God made the world. We learned it took him 7 days. He created the animals, trees and also plants. Pope Francis asked us to look after the world. We can water the plants and turn off the taps".

Chaplaincy Team

Our Chaplaincy Team meets every Monday in the Chapel.

The children do a range of tasks from leading assemblies and collective worships around the school to ensuring the chapel is tidy and reflects the colours of the liturgical year.

They also help to set up the Hall for masses and liturgies.

The aim of the Chaplaincy Team is to inspire others to take a lead in the Catholic life of St. Anthony's.

Here is what children in the Chaplaincy Team say about their roles:

"It feels like a big honour to be in the Chaplaincy Team. It feels like I'm in a family".

"I'm very happy to be a role model for others and to spread God's Word."

"I like helping in the mass and helping others to be a witness to the Gospel".

"It feels like I am close to God and that He is close to me".

"I want to inspire others by leading Class Worships around the school".

"I am really joyful to be in the Chaplaincy Team because I can help others to Grow and Learn with Jesus".

"In the Chaplaincy Team I feel like I am inspired to follow in Jesus' footsteps".

"I think whenever I am with the other team members, I feel calm and I really like helping with Masses or class worships".

"I get to go to other classes and it feels like I can spread joy to others".

"It feels really good to be in the CT. It reminds me of our Mission Statement. It helps us to gain more knowledge and do good".

"I appreciate being in the Chaplaincy Team because I have lots of things to do and it helps me to teach others".

"It helps me to leave any other thoughts except giving thoughts to God".