**IMPORTANT DATES THIS TERM**

**All Saints**

(Wednesday 1st 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)**

(Thursday 2nd 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, King of the universe**

(26th November)

**ADVENT**

(Begins Sunday 3rd December)

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**

(Friday 8th 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**

(Monday 25th December)

On this day we begin our celebration of the birth of Christ.

**Statements to Live By**

Each week the children are introduced to a weekly Statement to Live By and a Trust Virtue. These are linked in themes and to the Catholic Social Teaching core values of:  The Dignity of the Human Person, The Common Good, Solidarity and Subsidiarity. Out of these flows the principles of the Preferential Option for the Poor, Participation, Economic Justice and Care for our Common Home, among others.

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| **Week** | **Statement** | **Trust Virtue** | **Catholic Social Teaching** |
| **4/9/23** | We are all special. | Confidence | Dignity and Social Justice |
| **11/9/23** | I can say one good thing about myself | Compassion and Justice | Solidarity and Subsidiarity |
| **18/9/23** | I try to be just and fair. | Justice | Peace and Justice |
| **25/9/23** | I can say how I feel. | Compassion | Preferential Option for the Poor |
| **2/10/23** | I know what to do if I see anyone being hurt | Compassion and Justice | Dignity and Peace |
| **9/10/23** | I understand that rights match responsibility. | Resilience | Solidarity and Subsidiarity |
| **16/10/23** | I try to stand up for myself and others without hurting others | Compassion | Dignity and Peace |
| **30/10/23** | I can tell you how I look after myself. | Compassion and Justice | Dignity, Preferential Option for the Poor |
| **6/11/23** | I think before I make choices that affect my health | Self- Belief | Dignity |
| **13/11/23** | I can work, play, rest and pray each day. | Confidence and Self-Belief | Preferential Option for the Poor |
| **20/11/23** | Simple things can make us happy. | Confidence and Resilience | Participation |
| **27/11/23** | I can show that I can think of others through my work and play | Resilience and Honesty | Participation, Pref Option for the Poor |
| **4/12/23** | I can be a peacemaker | Self-Belief and Responsibility | Peace |
| **11/12/23** | I can make the right choices | Confidence | The Common Good |
| **18/12/23** | I can pray for those in need | Self-Belief | Dignity |

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**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 Judaism. At St. Joseph’s we recognise that our children come from a diverse range of cultures and the children are also given opportunities to discuss their own religious beliefs.**

**Attached is a list of important dates in the liturgical calendar for this term along with details of the themes that the children will look at each week linking to our Trust Values and Catholic Social Teaching.**

**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

**“We show God’s love to one another.”**

Include those who have died.

**Domestic church – family**

**Early Years Myself -** God knows and loves each one

**Year 1/2 Beginnings -** God is present in every beginning

**Year 3/4 Homes -** God’s vision for every family

**Year 5/6 Ourselves -** Created in the image and likeness of God

**JUDAISM**

Pupils will study various aspects of Judaism for one week. Ask them what they have been learning about.

**Suggestions for home activities**

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

Create a card for Baptism/Confirmation

**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.

Use the CAFOD or Missio websites to get a religious Advent calendar.

Write a Prayer in the Journal for the Travelling Crib

**baptism and confirmation - Belonging**

**Early Years welcome -** Baptism: a welcome to God’s family

**Year 1/2 signs and symbols -** Signs and symbols in Baptism

**Year 3/4 promises -** Promises made at Baptism

**Year 5/6 LIFE CHOICES -** Marriage, commitment and service

**advent/Christmas - Loving**

**Early Years birthday -** Looking forward to Jesus’ birthday

**Year 1/2 preparations -** Advent: preparing to celebrate Christmas

**Year 3/4 visitors -** waiting for the coming of Jesus

**Year 5/6 hope -** Advent: waiting in the joyful hope for Jesus, the promised one

**Religious Education Newsletter**

**Autumn Term 2023**