

IMPORTANT DATES THIS TERM



ALL SAINTS
(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)

(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.

SOLEMNITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE

(23rd November)



ADVENT
(Begins 1st 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

(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
(25 December)



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



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AT ST. JOSEPH'S AUTUMN TERM 2025



The new Religious Education Directory

Dear Parents/Carers,

We're excited to share that as of now, our school will begin teaching the new **Religious Education Directory**, known as the **RED**. This marks an important and exciting new chapter in how we teach Religious Education. The RED has its own specially designed model curriculum, made up of six branches. Each half-term, we will explore one of these branches in class. Each one focuses on a core theme, helping children to grow in their understanding of key aspects of the Catholic faith — including Revelation, Scripture, life in Christ, and life in the Church. What makes this new approach so special is that it not only helps pupils learn about their faith in a deeper, more meaningful way, but also invites them to reflect on what it means for their own lives. It helps them to see, judge, and act with greater understanding and compassion. We're really looking forward to bringing this new vision for Religious Education into our classrooms.

To help keep you informed and involved, we'll be sending out a newsletter each term with updates on what your child is learning. Thank you, as always, for your continued support. We're excited to begin this journey together!

Autumn first half term:

Branch 1 - Creation and Covenant

In this branch, pupils will learn about God as the Creator who calls people into a special relationship with Him. They will explore the Christian belief that everything in the world comes from God. This includes learning about the Creation stories in the book of Genesis, as well as looking at scientific explanations of how the world began. Children will also learn about how God calls people and forms a covenant—a special promise—with them. They will explore this idea through the stories of Abraham and Moses, and other key moments in the Old Testament.



Autumn second half term:

Branch 2 – Prophecy and Promise

In this branch, pupils will learn about the Christian belief that God showed His love for the world by sending His Son, Jesus. Children will explore the story of Jesus' birth, following the Gospel of St Luke. They will learn how Mary said "Yes" to God, the role of angels as messengers, and how these signs point to Jesus being both human and divine. The focus is on knowing the Nativity story and understanding it as the beginning of God's promise of love and salvation. While children are still young to fully understand the deeper meaning, they will begin to see how Jesus' birth is central to the Christian faith. This learning supports the wider celebration of Christmas, including Advent traditions, Nativity plays, and carols, helping children connect the story of Jesus' birth with what they see and do at home and in school during the festive season.

