

ST. OSWALD'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION - AUTUMN TERM 2016

COME AND SEE AT HOME

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 day studying Judaism.

DOMESTIC CHURCH - FAMILY

(Insert dates)

Early Years	MYSELF - God knows and loves each one
Year 1	FAMILIES - God's love and care for every family
Year 2	BEGINNINGS - God is present in every beginning
Year 3	HOMES - God's vision for every family
Year 4	PEOPLE - The family of God in Scripture
Year 5	OURSELVES - Created in the image and likeness of God
Year 6	LOVING - God who never stops loving

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.

JUDAISM (Thursday 17th November)

Pupils will study various aspects of Judaism for one day. We will also have a Jewish teacher in school, who will share different Jewish objects with the children. Ask them what they have been learning about.

BAPTISM AND CONFIRMATION - BELONGING

(Insert dates)

Early Years	WELCOME - Baptism: a welcome to God's family
Year 1	BELONGING - Baptism: an invitation to belong to God's family
Year 2	SIGNS AND SYMBOLS - Signs and symbols in Baptism
Year 3	PROMISES - Promises made at Baptism
Year 4	CALLED - Confirmation: a call to witness
Year 5	LIFE CHOICES - Marriage, commitment and service
Year 6	VOCATION AND COMMITMENT - The vocation of priesthood and religious life

SUGGESTIONS FOR HOME ACTIVITIES

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

ADVENT/CHRISTMAS - LOVING

(Insert dates)

Early Years	BIRTHDAY - Looking forward to Jesus' birthday
Year 1	WAITING - Advent: a time to look forward to Christmas
Year 2	PREPARATIONS - Advent: preparing to celebrate Christmas
Year 3	VISITORS - waiting for the coming of Jesus
Year 4	GIFT - God's gift of love and friendship in Jesus
Year 5	HOPE - Advent: waiting in the joyful hope for Jesus, the promised one

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.

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. Mass will be celebrated in Church with our parish community at 9.30am. All welcome.

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.**

OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE – 20th November

ADVENT – Begins 27th November

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 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 – 25th December

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

Year of Mercy at St. Oswald's

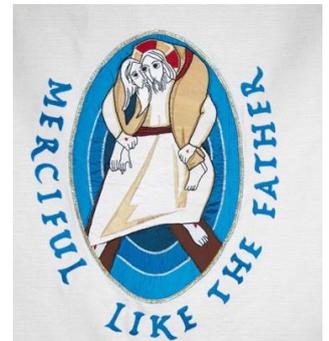
This year Pope Francis has asked us to think about the mercy of God, shown to us in the face of Jesus.

During the Year of Mercy, we are given the opportunity to reflect on how we might show the love of God in our world and help others to experience that love and mercy of God.

As you walk through the doors of our school, you will notice little feet around the doorways, on a journey.

Our children have been thinking of ways to remind themselves and others, how they can show God's love and mercy to other people in our homes, school, local community and the wider world.

Our Year 6 children will go to St. Oswald's church in Liverpool, to celebrate a special Mass with other schools in our Archdiocese, on Friday 14th October.



Mini Vinnies

Some of our Year 6 children this term will begin a group called, 'Mini Vinnies' based on the group of the SVP (St Vincent de Paul). The children will work with Mrs Orwin on organising different acts of kindness and mercy to others. Please keep an eye on the weekly newsletters to find out what the 'Mini Vinnies' are up to next!

Lampedusa Cross

Before the summer holidays, our parish had the Lampedusa Cross for a short visit. This cross was made from the wreckage of boat which carried refugees.

The children at St. Oswald's wrote messages to the refugees and these were passed on by Fr Dave.

Fr Dave, also in church at the weekend Masses, collected 50p pieces, to donate to the refugees.

We ask you to please keep these people in your prayers.

If you have any warm coats that could be donated or unwanted items in good condition, there is a container at St. Benedict's waiting to be filled to help those in need.

Can you help the food bank?

St. Oswald's 'Little Vinnies' (St Vincent De Paul) are aiming to raise some much needed goods for the food bank in our local areas.

We are asking that each child in the school brings in **one** item from the list below, on two Mondays (26th Sept & 3rd Oct).

All items will be gratefully received.
Thank you for your support!

Items needed:

- Sweets
- Jellies
- Rice pudding
- Sponge pudding
- Tinned spaghetti
- Toilet rolls
- Tooth paste
- Tooth brushes
- Shampoo
- Nappies (any size)

(Please ensure all items are in date)

Harvest Time:

Fruit and vegetables grown in our own school gardens will be harvested and donated to Warrington YMCA. Money raised from the fruit and vegetable sale will also be donated to those in need.



Prayer Bags in Ordinary Time

This year, we are introducing to each class, a prayer bag for ordinary time. The bag will go home with a child on a Tuesday or Friday, for a few days, giving them an opportunity to spend some prayerful, reflective time with their families (a mini collective worship).

We have done this for Lent and Advent for the last few years and the children have really enjoyed putting their prayers, pictures and photographs into their special class prayer book and reading stories and prayers provided in the bag.



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Operation Christmas

Please hold on to any shoe boxes that you may have. We will be looking to wrap them and fill them up with little gifts for children of all ages, (babies to teenagers) in our local areas, who may not be as fortunate as we are this Christmas.

Please see weekly newsletters for more information.

