



Dear Parents,

*Be the light to those around you !*

We begin this term full of the joy of the Christmas season which ends for us at the celebration of the Baptism of Jesus on 12th January. On the 2nd February we celebrate the feast of the Presentation of the Lord (Candlemas) when Jesus is recognised as 'the light of the world'. We must also remember that each one of us is called to be a 'light', an inspiration to those around us.

Mrs Mitchener

This month we will be studying the themes of Local Church and Community.

## LOCAL CHURCH - COMMUNITY

(8<sup>th</sup> Jan-1<sup>st</sup> Feb)

Early Years	CELEBRATING - People celebrate in Church
Year 1	SPECIAL PEOPLE - People in the parish family
Year 2	BOOKS - The books used in Church
Year 3	JOURNEYS - Christian family's journey with Christ
Year 4	COMMUNITY - Life in the local Christian community and ministries in the parish
Year 5	MISSION - Continuing Jesus' mission in diocese (ecumenism)
Year 6	SOURCES - The Bible, the special book for the Church

## SUGGESTIONS FOR HOME ACTIVITIES

Explore the Diocesan website, looking at the number of churches, and finding out about our bishop.  
Read Bible stories together or encourage older children to read a child's Bible.



## Chaplaincy Team

### Gospel Scrolls

Pope Francis reminds us that in the scripture we have "a treasure" and that there is "nothing more precious that we can give to others" than sharing the word with those around us.

As we are in the "Year of the Word", we are challenged to focus on the word of God in the Bible; to celebrate, live and share that word.

To help us do this the Chaplaincy group will chose appropriate scripture passages and prepare scrolls printed with a Bible verse from St Matthew's Gospel. They will hand them out twice a month on Friday afternoons. You are invited to take a scroll, keep it with you during the week, reflect on it, take it to heart and share it with your child/children.

*The best incentive for sharing the Gospel comes from contemplating it with love, lingering over its pages and reading it with a heart.....*

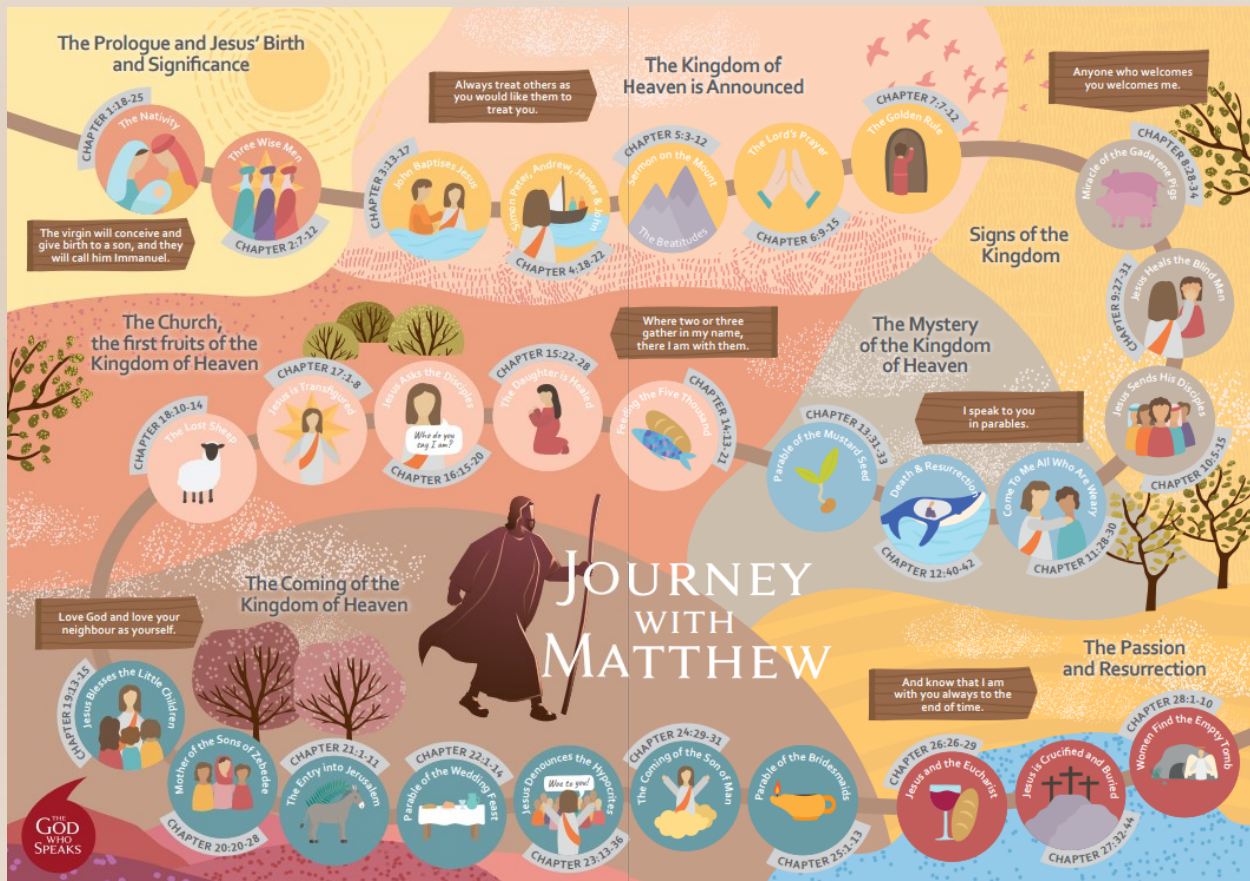
(Evangelii Gaudium 264)



# Journey With Matthew

***Scripture is at the centre of everything the Church does. The word of God shapes our prayer and worship. The Bible shows us how to understand the world, how we are called to live and relate to each other.***

During the year, we will be celebrating, living and sharing God's word with an exciting new Scripture initiative. Each week, every class in St Chad's will read one chapter of St Matthew's Gospel and discuss, at an age appropriate level, what the scripture means to them. The central focus of St Matthew's Gospel is on making Jesus' words and actions stand out clearly and on bringing the Gospel of the Kingdom to all people.



## Special Times This Month

## January

## 6th The Epiphany of the Lord

## 12th The Baptism of the Lord

## 28th St Thomas Aquinas - Feast Day

### 31st St John Bosco - Feast Day

## February

## 2nd The Presentation of the Lord

## OFFICIAL PRAYER FOR THE YEAR

