



*'Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.'*

John 14:27

Dear Parents and Carers

My thoughts and prayers are with all our school community, as we move into and through this next lock-down. We are very aware of the hardships many of us will be facing this November and the coming months.

November is a particularly busy month in school, it begins with us remembering all the saints and souls gone before us, particularly as we approach the national festival of Remembrance, and it ends with the beginning of Advent and our preparations for the birth of our Lord. We will also be focusing on the Gospel value of Justice and sharing with the children the understanding of fairness and equality.

God bless

Mrs Mitchener

### 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.

## Faith Leaders



Due to year group 'Bubble' restrictions, it has been impossible to continue with our Chaplaincy Team in the same way as previous Years.

We have therefore chosen to adopt year group Faith Leaders at St Chads, with the intention of giving all children the opportunity to have more say about how we gather, listen and respond to the Word of God before going forth to walk in the footsteps of Christ. Our School Faith Leaders will become role models of faith in our school, sharing their love of prayer and worship with all members of our School community.

All children from years 1 to 6 were given the opportunity to explain what their faith meant to them and how they wanted to support the school in sharing and celebrating our faith. Many of the responses demonstrated a deep spirituality and faithfulness, that was very moving. After a very difficult decision-making process, two representatives from each class were chosen to be a part of our first Faith Leaders group. The children chosen to represent each year group were:

Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Elijah	Emmanuel	Joshua	Jermaine	Faith	Jashauna	Shavonne
Lashonda	Kimberly	Jessica	Daniel	Kwayne	Elsie	Annette
Mena	Kezia	Sofia	Alexandra	Nosa	Alva	Tyler
Mikaere	Jacob	Ruby	Mezuo	Nikky	Shadraque	Michelle D

A big well done to all these children, I am certain that you will be great.

# Remembrance



Last week we spent time in our classes learning about remembrance and making poppies in the memory of those affected by war. On Wednesday 11th November, St Brigid's Class led a special assembly, that reminded us of the importance of remembering those who have suffered or died as a consequence of conflict. We remembered those who gave their lives to ensure we can live in freedom and peace today. The whole school and their parents were able to gather together and participate by Zoom.

We learned about the origins of Remembrance Day, laying wreaths, the bugle playing the Last Post and about The Royal British Legion charity. We also reflected on the inspiration behind John McCrae's poem 'In Flanders Fields' and the significance of the remembrance poppy.

Year 4 led the laying of candles and wreaths in reflection:

a candle for remembrance - we remember

a candle for hope - hope for a better future for all

a candle for peace - we prayed for peace for our world

a candle to show we care in the Light of the Lord - we care for one another

a candle for those experiencing conflict now – we pray for it to end

The wreaths were laid in memory of all the British and Commonwealth nations that fought during WWI and WWII, including Australia, Canada, East Africa, India, New Zealand, South Africa, The Caribbean and West Africa.



## All Souls Feast Day

On 2nd November Reception learnt about All Souls Day. This is a Feast day in the Catholic Church. The children made candles to remember everyone who has died and gone to live with Jesus in Heaven. We prayed for them and their families.

May the souls of the faithful departed rest in peace. Amen

Miss Roberts



## Special Times This Month November

1st All Saints Solemnity

2nd All Souls

3rd St Martin de Porres Feast Day

21st Presentation Of Mary

22nd Christ The King solemnity

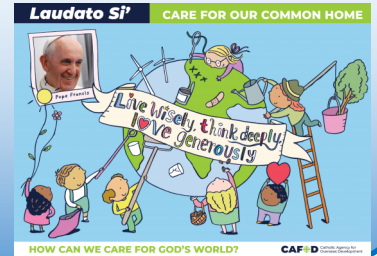
29th 1st Sunday of Advent

30th St Andrew's Feast day

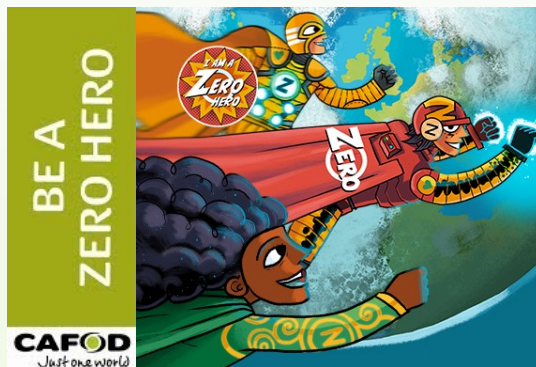


# RSE - Justice

This half term's Gospel Value focus is on Justice. We will be focusing on the area of Social Justice, teaching the children what it means and how they can support the view that everyone deserves equal economic, political and social rights and opportunities. We will be using CAFOD's Seven Catholic Social Teaching Principles, which are rooted in scripture and formed by the wisdom of Church leaders. They teach us that social justice is a moral compass, guiding us on how to live out our faith in the world. As a school, we will be focusing specifically on Common Good and Creation and the Environment. As part of our focus we will be holding a 'Zero Hero' day and fundraising for CAFOD Christmas Appeal.



## Zero Hero



In the first pages of the Bible, we read how God created the sun and the stars, the water and earth, and every creature. We believe Christ is the redeemer of all creation.

In 2015, Pope Francis brought together decades of Church teaching in the encyclical, *Laudato Si'*. In this deeply influential letter, Pope Francis invites everyone on the planet to consider how our actions are affecting the earth and the poorest people. Everything is interconnected, and all of creation praises God. It is our Christian vocation to care for creation.

During the week of 23rd -27th November we will be focusing on how we can respond to Pope Francis' letter. In class we will be using the CAFOD *Laudato Si'* resources and the Zero Hero resources to explain to the children the importance and significance of his words and how we can respond to the crisis and make a difference.

I will send out a separate letter, explaining how you can support this and information about our Zero Hero dressing up day.



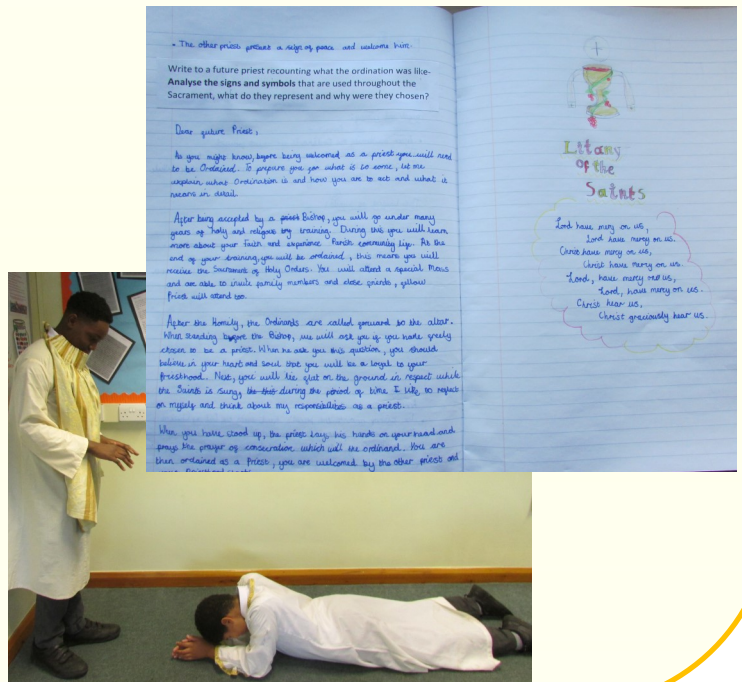
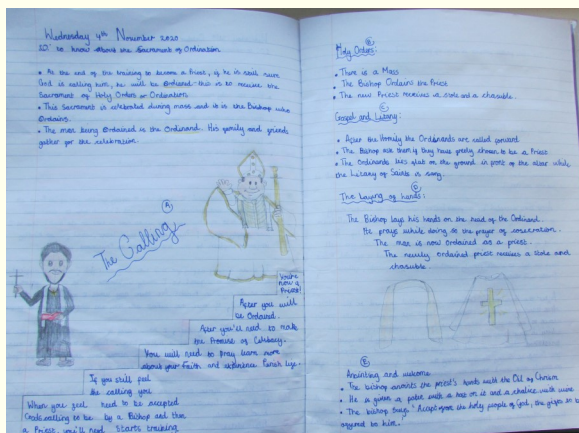
We are unable to hold our usual 'Advent Breakfast' this year, due to Covid. Instead we will be collecting for CAFOD, by selling stars for our St Chad's CAFOD Christmas Tree. The display tree will be in the school hall from the 1st of December and every time a child/family/staff member/governor purchases a star, a star with their name will be added to the tree. Each star will have a prayer for social justice on the reverse and as the star is added to the tree, the prayer will be said and added to our collective intentions during our school worship. Each star will be sold for a donation of £1.00. If every child bought a star, we could raise over £300 for CAFOD this Christmas. This would be a lovely Christmas gift, to people who are less fortunate than ourselves.





## 'Vocation & Commitment'

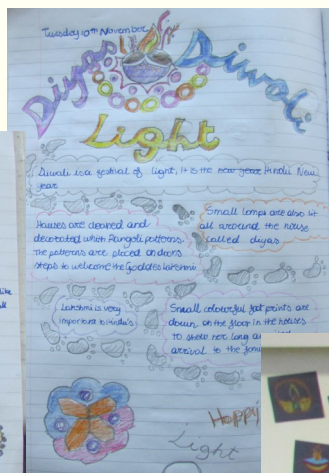
Year 6 have been studying about commitment, the vocation to the priesthood and religious life. They have completed some excellent work, demonstrating their understanding of this important sacrament. Please remember to pray for increased vocations to the priesthood and religious life.



# Diwali

Year 6 have been studying about Diwali, the Hindu festival of light, which will be celebrated by millions of people around the world, from the 14th November. It is one of the most popular festivals of Hinduism as, Diwali symbolizes the spiritual "victory of light over darkness, good over evil, and knowledge over ignorance".

Thank you to Mrs Poddar, for sharing her expertise of this celebration.



## Signs & Symbols

Year 2 have been learning about the special signs and symbols associated with baptism.



Adrian, in St John Paul class, explained that he thought the fish was a symbol of baptism, because we are the fish and Jesus is the fisherman, and that baptism is like Jesus catching us with his big net and bring us to him.

Well done Adrian - what a truly lovely idea.

Mrs Chandler



## Celebrating our Catholic Identity

This school year has felt very different for so many reasons. For me, being unable to celebrate our faith in the usual way in school has been very difficult to accept. We have not been able to attend Mass, as a school or visit the Church.

We are however making great strides with our class liturgies. I am so delighted that the staff are supporting the children in developing this important aspect of their faith and worship. I would like to thank the staff for all their hard work in developing this.

R.E. is the most important subject in our school and remains so, regardless of the new measures we have had to put in place, because of Covid.

It was lovely to hear, this week that during parent consultations, parents were supportive of the Gospel Values programme and that they appreciate the difference it is making to their children and the school culture.

Mrs Mitchener



## Mission Together Advent calendar 2020

The season of Advent begins four Sundays before Christmas and is a time of prayerful preparation. During Advent we recall the Israelites' long wait for the Messiah's birth and remember that Jesus was born into the world and will come again. Each year Mission Together produce engaging and fun resources to help children keep Jesus at the heart of this exciting season. Please print the Advent calendar, on the following page and share it with your children, to help prepare your family for the very special celebration of the birth of Christ.



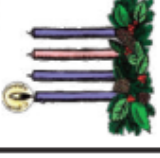























You may want to begin Advent with this prayer:

God of hope, who brought love into this world, be the love that dwells between us.  
God of hope, who brought peace into this world, be the peace that dwells between us.  
God of hope, who brought joy into this world, be the joy that dwells between us.  
God of hope, the rock we stand on, be the foundation of our lives.





# Mission Together Advent Calendar 2020 <sup>+</sup>missio

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1st Sunday of Advent</b> The waiting for Jesus' birth has begun. Pray to be patient this week. <b>29</b> 	<b>Sunday's Gospel</b> was from Mark 13:33-37* Read it as a class. What does it say about being alert? <b>30</b> 	Find out as a class about the Advent wreath and what it means. <b>1</b> 	Make an Advent promise to raise money for Mission Together. Start collecting today! <b>2</b> 	Today is the feast of St Francis Xavier. Discover how he brought God's love to the world.* <b>3</b> 	Create a <i>Star of Hope</i> and think about how you can bring hope to someone who feels hopeless.* <b>4</b> 	Make and deliver a special Christmas card for an elderly relative or neighbour. <b>5</b> 
<b>2nd Sunday of Advent</b> How will you bring God's peace to your family today? <b>6</b> 	<b>Sunday's Gospel</b> was from Mark 1:1-8* Read it as a class. What does it say about being ready? <b>7</b> 	Make a <i>Peace Paper Chain</i> and think about how you can be a peace-maker in school this week.* <b>8</b> 	Make friends with someone who is lonely. Invite them to play. <b>9</b> 	Write a prayer poem for peace in the world. Share it with your family and friends. <b>10</b> 	Say sorry to someone you may have upset this week. Or forgive someone who has upset you. <b>11</b> 	Make a Christmas crib using recycled materials. Put it on display. <b>12</b> 
<b>3rd Sunday of Advent</b> Why is the Advent candle we light today pink? <b>13</b> 	<b>Sunday's Gospel</b> was from John 1:6-8, 19-28* Read it as a class. What does it say about St John the Baptist? <b>14</b> 	Think about how you can spread joy this week. What would make someone else happy? <b>15</b> 	Make a <i>Joyful Angel</i> and think about how you can share the message of God's love today.* <b>16</b> 	Find a quiet place to think about anything you have said or done for which you are sorry. Pray for God's forgiveness. <b>17</b> 	Pray for all children who are upset, sad or lonely. <b>18</b> 	Find a way to help at home today to prepare for Christmas. <b>19</b> 
<b>4th Sunday of Advent</b> How will you bring God's love into the world this Christmas? <b>20</b> 	Imagine you are Mary or Joseph waiting for Jesus. Write a poem about how you feel. <b>21</b> 	Say a prayer for children who will not have enough food to eat today. Ask God to help us share more. <b>22</b> 	Sing your favourite carol. Think about the words. Tell someone what they mean. <b>23</b> 	How can you help at home this Christmas? <b>24</b> 	Remember to thank God for the birth of Jesus and all the special things you have today: family, friends and love. <b>25</b> 	<b>Jesus is born! Happy Christmas!</b> Remember to thank God for the birth of Jesus and all the special things you have today: family, friends and love.

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Asterisks refer to abridged scriptures or accompanying liturgies. These, together with the Assembly on St. Francis Xavier, St Nicholas reflection, Star of Hope, Peace Paper Chain, and Joyful Angels activities are available to download from the Advent resources page of our Mission Together website.

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